

Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies

Region 1: The Nurturing Center
146 3rd Avenue West
Kalispell, MT 59901-4428
406-756-1414
800-204-0644
Serving Counties: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln,
Sanders

Region 2: Child Care Resources
105 East Pine, Lower Level
Missoula, MT 59802-7038
406-728-6446
800-728-6446
Serving Counties: Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli

Region 3: Butte 4 C's
101 N Main Street Butte, MT 59701
406-723-4019 800-794-4061
Serving Counties: Beaverhead, Deer Lodge,
Granite, Madison, Powell, Silver Bow

Region 4: Child Care Connections
1143 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 1
Bozeman, Montana 59718
406-587-7786
800-962-0418
Serving Counties: Broadwater, Gallatin,
Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Meagher, Park

Region 5: Family Connections MT
202 2nd Avenue South, Suite 201
Great Falls, MT 59405-3157
406-761-6010
800-696-4503
Serving Counties: Cascade, Chouteau, Fergus,
Glacier, Judith Basin, Petroleum, Pondera,
Teton, Toole

Region 6: Family Connections MT
2229 5th Ave.
Havre, MT 59501-5217
406-265-6743
800-696-4503
Serving Counties: Blaine, Daniels, Dawson,
Garfield, McCone, Hill, Liberty, Phillips, Prairie,
Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley, Wibaux

Region 7: HRDC District 7
7 North 31st Street
Billings, MT 59103-2016
406-247-4732
800-433-1411
Serving Counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter,
Custer, Fallon, Golden Valley, Judith Basin,
Musselshell, Powder River, Rosebud, Stillwater,
Sweet Grass, Treasure, Wheatland, Yellowstone

Resources for Child Care Providers and Families

Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)
800-222-7585 or www.mtpluk.org
Montana's parent training and resource center.

U.S. Department of Justice
800-514-0301 or
www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm
Tax break information and on-line booklet.

Child Care Law Center
(415) 558-8005 or www.childcarelaw.org
Low cost booklets about the ADA and child care.

National Network for Child Care
www.ccrcca.org
Caring for Children with Special Needs: The ADA

The ARC of the United States
www.thearc.org
5-page report explaining the ADA in child care.

NECTAC
Including Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities in
Community Settings: A Resource Packet (\$8)

Child Care plus+: The Center on Inclusion in Early
Childhood
800-235-4122 or www.ccplus.org
Inclusion resources from A to Z.

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This pamphlet was created by the Child Care plus+ Inclusion Services and Coordination Project, funded by the Montana DPHHS, Early Childhood Services Bureau. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the position of DPHHS or the ECS Bureau.

DPHHS-HCS/CC-143
(Rev 04/16)

State of Montana
Department of
Public Health and Human Services

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Child Care



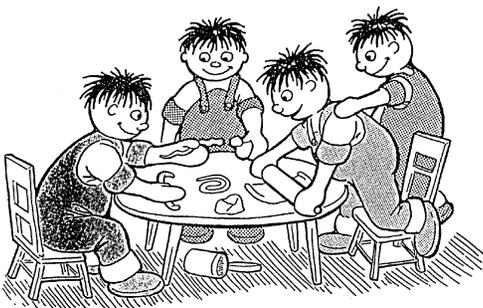
Opportunities and Resources for Montana's Child Care Providers and Families of Young Children with Disabilities



The ADA: It's about opportunity!

The ADA guarantees that children with disabilities cannot be excluded from "public accommodations" simply because of a disability. Many child care providers think this does not apply to them, but as with other public accommodations (like private schools, banks, and restaurants) child care providers **MUST** comply with Title III of the ADA. **Public accommodations include private preschools, private child care settings (both center and home based), and after-school programs.**

The ADA gives child care providers the opportunity to include children with disabilities in their programs, gives families an opportunity to work or go to school as other families do, **AND** gives children with disabilities the opportunity to play and learn side by side with other children.



Basic Requirements of the ADA

- ★ Child care programs **cannot** exclude children with disabilities unless their presence would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others or require a fundamental alteration of the program.
- ★ Child care homes and centers must make **reasonable modifications** to their policies and practices to integrate children with disabilities into their program unless doing so would constitute a fundamental alteration of the program.

Reasonable modifications means changes that can be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

- ★ Centers must provide appropriate **auxiliary aids and services** needed for effective communication unless doing so would constitute an undue burden (changes that would result in significant difficulty or expense.)

Auxiliary aids and services include a range of devices or services that help people communicate, such as sign language or large print books.

Financial assistance for implementing these requirements is available:
Best Beginnings scholarship program - call the Montana Early Childhood Project at 1-800-213-6310 for more information.
Special Needs Subsidy Program - call your local resource and referral agency listed on back of this brochure for more information.

Effective early childhood practices that support compliance with the ADA include:

- using developmentally appropriate practices which emphasize **individual** growth patterns, strengths, interests, and experiences of children to design learning activities and routines.
- asking "how can I meet the needs of this individual child?" Then adapt as needed.
- being creative and flexible!
- eliminating program eligibility standards, such as being toilet-trained.
- asking all parents if there is anything you need to know that would help you care for their child better (such as "she sleeps with a pacifier" or "he wears hearing aids".)
- working closely with parents and other professionals to integrate the child's developmental goals into your daily activities and routines.
- identifying and removing physical barriers to a child's participation.
- spreading added costs of care (if any) among all families, just as you do other expenses. **You cannot charge a higher rate to care for a child with a disability.**