
Emlen, A. C. (1998). AFS provider survey: From child-care providers serving parents who receive child-care assistance. Prepared for Adult and Family Services Division, Oregon Department of Human Resources. Portland, Oregon: Portland State University, Regional Research Institute for Human Services.

In a survey of child care providers offering subsidized care:

- Centers offer a significant amount of drop-in care (35%), but little other care for alternative schedules.
- Family child care providers are more likely to offer drop-in care than relatives.
- Relatives are most likely to provide care when a child is sick.
- Only 10% of centers reported giving care in the evenings whereas 80% of non-relatives reported giving care in the child's home in the evening.
- The percentage of providers who offer evening care increases with the informality of the type of care. Only 6% of centers reported providing weekend care, whereas 46% of family care providers and over 60% of other types of providers provided weekend care.
- Grandparents are an important child care resource. A grandparent was the provider in 69% of care in a relative's home, 73% of care in the child's home by a live-in relative, 67% of care in a child's home, and 27% of family care in a provider's home.

Quality as it relates to systems. In a survey of child care providers in Oregon's subsidized child care system:

- Significant differences exist between the types of child care provided, such as centers and family homes, and their policies regarding charging registration fees, requiring payment in advance, and adjusting rates to accommodate family needs.
- Large numbers of providers discount their fees based on multiple children from one family, on parents' ability to afford the care, or on the need to accommodate AFS families.
- Important differences exist in the training completed by child care providers, with basic health and safety training completed by 74% of center staff, 67% of licensed group home providers, 59% of registered family day care providers, and 23% of all grandparents.
- Licensed center providers were most likely to have had completed child

development training (65%), followed by licensed group home providers (57%) and registered family day care providers (36%). 15% of all grandparents had completed child development training.

■ First-aid training was completed by 80% of center providers, 69% of licensed group homes providers, 58% of registered family day care providers, 43% of non-relative providers in the child's home, and 29% of grandparents.

The evaluation of the AFS billing and payment system varies by the type of provider. Grandparents and other relatives of the child were more likely than licensed providers to report that AFS provided timely payment, had helpful staff, answered provider's questions, and had staff available with whom to speak.