

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) with funding from [Kankakee United Way](#) works with Child Care Programs to make improvement in childhood social/emotional practices.

This project involves our trained Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant conducting presentations for Child Care Center Directors and Family Child Care Providers on strategies to encourage social-emotional development in their programs and help to prevent the onset of most typical behavioral problems. CCR&R also distributes kits that contain a wide array of information on social-emotional development, social emotional curriculums and behavioral management for the providers and the parents they serve. CCR&R also provides each program with a children's book oriented to social-emotional development.

Currently the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant presents information on the effectiveness of using the "Ages and Stages" Questionnaires and explains how this particular screening instrument can help the child care providers improve the quality of their programs as well as enhance the child's capacity to improve their development and ultimately be in a greater state of readiness for school and life.

It informs them of the value of doing a regular screening program with children both to help them identify children who may have developmental problems and to help guide their curriculum and overall programming.

This program begins to ensure that child care center staff and family child care providers know how to utilize the system both to identify children who need referral for additional services and to adjust their programming so that they can better meet the needs of their children as they begin to understand their individual needs.