MEDIA RELEASE

**A Calling to Become a Child Care Provider**

In communities throughout Iowa, the need for child care far exceeds the supply, leaving parents with limited options. Concerned community members could look at their own career paths to consider if starting a child care business could be a next step for them.

“There are about 524,201 children under age 12 in Iowa and only 166,232 total child care spaces listed with Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R), leaving thousands of children who may need child care without a place to go. This is why we believe finding more Child Development Home providers is so important for Iowa,” said CCR&R of Northwest Iowa Regional Director, Melissa Juhl.

Starting a Child Development Home is not for the faint of heart, but for a mature, patient person, who has a love for kids, enjoys teaching new skills and great at communicating with others. Ultimately, a child care provider’s role is to ensure children are gaining the social and cognitive skills they need to be ready for school.

“Child care providers play a vital role in building healthy communities and ensuring children are ready to learn when they enter school,” notes Deb Vander Plas, BSN, Community Health Partners, the public health provider in Sioux County. “Child care givers offer nutritious meals, provide opportunities for social interactions, assist in development of language skills and monitor normal growth and development. Reliable, quality child care is an asset to any community.”

Iowa’s CCR&R offers assistance to individuals interested in starting a Child Development Home program. Child Care Consultants are available to work with potential providers to start up their own program. Assistance with the registration process as well as education about rules, regulations and safe environments is available for as long as the program remains in business.

To learn more about becoming a Child Development Home provider, contact Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral at 877-216-8481 or visit the website, [www.iowaccrr.org](http://www.iowaccrr.org). Help us meet Iowa’s vision, “All children, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.”

For questions or additional information, contact:

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