



Child Care Programs

The Department's Child Care programs are designed to promote high quality early childhood programs for Alaskan children and their families. Reliable and affordable child care is a vital element of each community's labor force. The child care services provided by licensed centers and family child care homes represent an important segment of the small business community and local economy.



Childcare program staff: standing: Carolyn Tuovinen, Sharon Bradley, Karen Lopez; seated: ms. Lare

Day Care Assistance Program

This State-funded program subsidizes a portion of the cost of licensed child care for parents with low incomes who are working, in training, or in school. The program is now available in 37 communities which have licensed child care centers and homes. Participating parents select the child care arrangements, and payments are made on their behalf to licensed homes and centers.

Head Start — State Share

The State provides funding to the nine agencies which receive Federal

Head Start Program money. These grantees operate more than 60 programs in urban and rural Alaska. For over 20 years, Head Start has promoted development of the whole child by offering educational, nutritional, medical, and dental services to children; and social services and leadership training to their parents.

Child Care Grants

This program promotes quality child care in licensed homes and centers by partially funding operating expenses such as staff wages, benefits and training; food and toys for the children; and parent education. Some 190 centers and 170 homes participate in this program in Alaska.

Education and Training grants

Education and training grants are awarded on a competitive basis for projects which will train child care practitioners and administrators of licensed homes and centers. This State-funded program provides for 32 grants to 16 communities and statewide projects.

Dependent Care Development Grant

This Federal grant program funds projects for school age child care and also resource and referral for child care services. Funds may not be used for operating expenses and are awarded competitively. The Federal grant runs three years starting in October, 1986.