

Holiday Caring Wish List

Each year Coalition for Kids collects donations of toys and clothing for the children and families served by our Child Care program and the Family Resource Center.

Please consider donating an unwrapped gift for a child this year. If your family, church or place of work would like to adopt a family, or a group of children, please call Peggy or Gina Marie at 541-479-1929 and we can provide you with a specific list of wants and needs for that family. Otherwise you can find a list of suggested gifts

on the right. This year we are also including a wish list of toys and supplies for our child care classrooms.

Donations must be received by December 11th in order to be distributed as part of this year's Holiday Caring program. We will sort and wrap presents on December 12th to be distributed before kids are gone for the holiday break.

You can really make the difference in a child's life this holiday season. Thank you for your generosity and support!

Child Care...

(continued from front page)

Luckily she was familiar with Coalition for Kids and its nearly 20 year reputation as a top-notch early childhood program. In addition to offering infant and toddler care, Coalition for Kids was able to provide Jessica and her family with a scholarship to offset the cost of tuition.

Grace is almost two now and is thriving both at school and at home. She has bonded with the children and staff in her classroom at Coalition for Kids and especially loves to dance whenever there is music playing.

Jessica smiles as she picks

her daughter up at the end of the day and says, "As a two parent working household it is nice to know that your child is safe, being properly cared for and having fun at their day care. This is what Coalition for Kids gives to us, a peace of mind while we are at work"

There will still be plenty of challenges for Jessica and her family to face, but she's less nervous these days. And she is grateful to know that for the next 3-4 years Grace will be well-cared for and well-prepared for school. Something that means a lot to the teacher who's finally a mom.



Gift Ideas for Children Ages 0-5 Years Old

- ◆ Stuffed toys (must be brand new)
- ◆ Rattles and sensory toys
- ◆ Cloth books
- ◆ Board books
- ◆ Picture books
- ◆ Puzzles
- ◆ Blocks
- ◆ Cars and trucks
- ◆ Dolls
- ◆ Educational toys
- ◆ Art sets

Coalition for Kids Child Care Classroom Wish List

- ◆ Puzzles
- ◆ Books
- ◆ Board games (I-Spy, Memory, Matching games, etc.)
- ◆ Glitters
- ◆ Beads
- ◆ Educational toys



FALL 2012

"We don't have family or friends who can help us with child care..."

Jessica's story is not unique in our community. Whether you live in a one-parent or two-parent working family, finding affordable, quality child care for the youngest children is often a challenge. Read how they are finding help, thanks to you:

Jessica* was excited to finally be having a child of her own. She was already step-mom to a 10-year old boy, and had plenty of experience with the kids in her school classroom. But Jessica was also nervous. There were going to be a lot of challenges to face as a family once the baby arrived.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for Jessica and her husband was figuring out who would watch baby Grace* while they were at work. "We do not have family or

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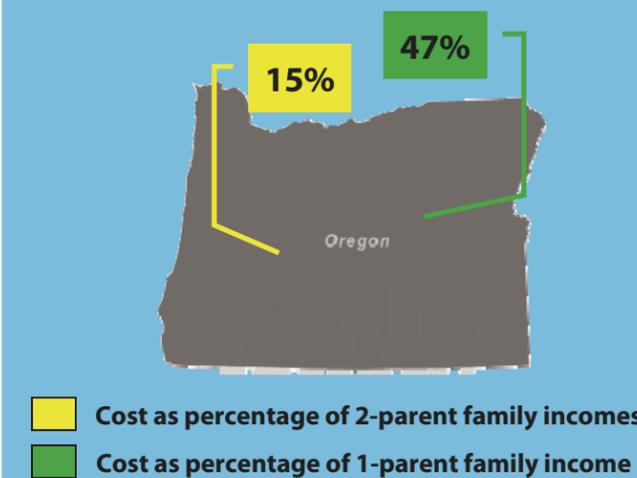
friends in town who are able to help us with child care," Jessica remarked. "[But] my husband and I are unable to work a full time job unless we can have Grace in part time child care."

As a teacher herself, Jessica understands the importance of a quality child care program. One that can help provide the appropriate social and emotional development critical in the first 5 years of a child's life. It wasn't easy to find a program in Grants Pass that would accept an infant, and the cost of even part-time care was high.

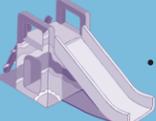
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**The names in this story have been changed out of consideration to the family.*

Oregon is one of the 10 least affordable states for child care, 2011



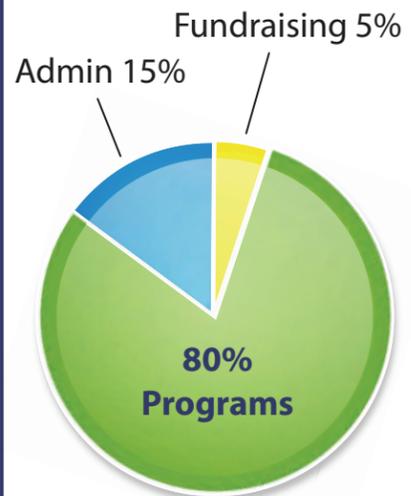
The average annual fees for full-time child care are higher than the annual tuition and fees for public four-year college.

	Infant care	\$10,750
	Preschool	\$8,300
	Public 4-year college	\$7,439

Source: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, Child Care in America State Fact Sheets July 2011



How Your Donations Are Wisely Used:



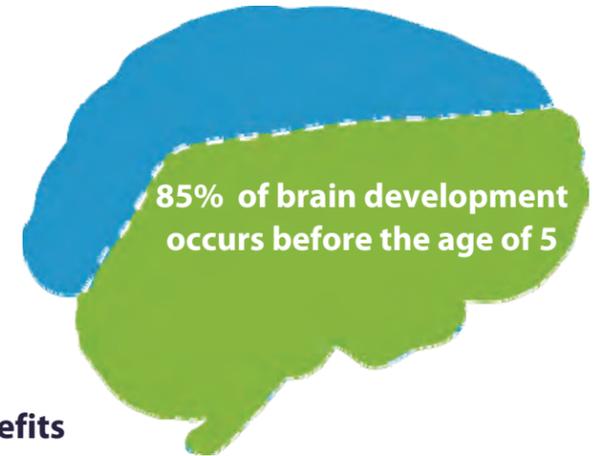
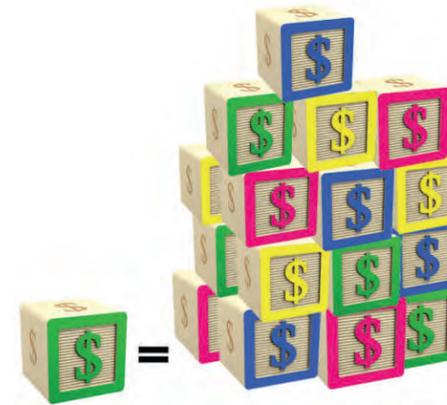
Thank you for caring.

A big Thank You to the RCC Staff for hosting Trick-or-Treat on campus. Our kids had a great time and made out like bandits!



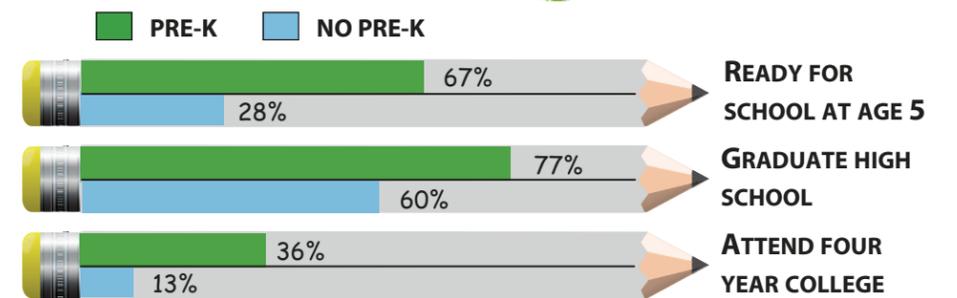
We also had fun dressing up and trick-or-treating at the Family Resource Center!

The Importance of Early Childhood Education



Every \$1 invested in early childhood education can save up to \$16 in the long-term through reduced remedial education, criminal justice and welfare payments.

Academic Benefits



Sources: America's Edge, Zero to Three, Ounce of Prevention.

Welcome Our New \$marties!

Please join us in welcoming Summer Red and Rowan Tanner to Coalition for Kids and the Money \$marts program. They will be continuing the work Lindsey Cotner did last year in expanding Money \$marts. Lindsey is now working at the University of Oregon in Eugene.



Additionally, we want to express our gratitude to the Leightman Maxey Foundation, who is funding our AmeriCorps positions. Thank you for making Money \$marts possible!

Coalition for Kids

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**Website:
www.cfk-gp.org**

**www.facebook.com:
/CoalitionForKids.GP
/MoneySmarts**

many of Oregon's trails as possible.

Rowan Tanner, our new Financial Literacy Specialist, is an AmeriCorps State volunteer from Budapest, Hungary. He hopes to advocate and propagate financial awareness to everyone in Grants Pass and Josephine County.

Summer Red is our new Financial Literacy Coordinator. She is an AmeriCorps VISTA from Montana, and is looking forward to expanding community awareness of the Money \$marts program. She's also planning to hike as



Your Support Helps Parents Go Back To School While Their Kids Get Ready For School!

"I am the mother of two wonderful boys...Being a single parent is hard enough, but managing work and school along with it was even harder...Currently attending school, I have not gained employment and am using TANF to provide for my family. This scholarship will provide extremely needed help to offset the cost of daycare, while I earn my certificate. I aim to provide the best care for my children, and school is a stepping stone on the path to a better future."

- Wren

"This scholarship would help my family and I very much at this time because, right now, I am a single mother of two...My current, and only, income is my TANF grant and my food stamps...I am a full-time student at RCC, going for my Associates in Applied Science, Electronics and Engineering. I am a veteran of the U.S. Air Force...This scholarship would be greatly appreciated by my family and I. Thank you very much."

-Natasha

"I am applying for help with the tuition costs of daycare/preschool while I attend school and continue to do the bookkeeping for our small business. I have a large family with a low income and high living expenses. Financial help with daycare will enable me to afford to go back to school for a graphic web design degree.

I think it is wonderful that these opportunities exist for families to afford childcare. Thank you for your consideration."

- Autumn

