

Childcare Ministry Checklist – Iowa District West



Congregation Connections

- ___ Is a child care ministry consistent with the congregation's core values?
- ___ Does the child care ministry grow out of the congregation's vision for ministry to the congregation and community?
- ___ Does the ministry exploration have a broad base of support to build on?
- ___ Has the congregation's insurer been contacted regarding liability coverage?

Community Connections

- ___ Have the needs of the community been surveyed (community demographics; school system statistics; conversations with community leaders; survey of parents, etc.)?
- ___ Is there community support for such a center (beyond the hope that "if we build it they will come")?
- ___ Will the center be competing with other community centers or quality and safe home care settings?

Ministry Center – Facilities

- ___ Will the center meet the Department of Human Services criteria? (What improvements or changes need to be made? How much will the changes cost?)
- ___ Will the center pass the inspection of the fire marshal?
- ___ What effect will the use of congregation facilities have on other congregation ministries? (Will it have impact on Sunday school, midweek, etc.? Can the center support other ministries?)
- ___ Will the center be perceived by the community as a child-friendly and EXCELLENT setting for children?
- ___ Have other centers been visited to begin to envision a local center?

Leadership

___ Are the pastors supportive of the venture, willing to provide pastoral leadership, and be directly involved with the children and families of the center?

___ Is there a core committee willing to develop the vision and share the vision?

___ Who will provide immediate and long-term administrative leadership: ministry center board; Christian education board?

___ Have you begun to identify a leader/administrator who has the certification, skills, ministry heart, vision, etc. to serve as the center's director?

Finances

___ Are there financial resources to support the exploration?

___ Has a financial plan begun to be developed? (Will it be supported by payment for services, grants, congregation, fundraisers, etc.?)

___ What will be the effect on the immediate and long-term budget of the congregation? Has the congregation explored the effect on Concordia Plans and other benefits?

___ Is there an available labor force in the community? Can the center pay a respectable wage to recruit and keep a quality professional staff?

___ Is there a desire to "make money" or to support other ministries through the center's income?

Other

___ Is the exploration supported by prayer?

___ Are we in it "for the long haul"?