

### Child Care Resource and Referral Programs

Montana's regional programs providing child care information, training, and resources:

#### District VII HRDC

7 North 31st Street \* Billings, MT 59103  
406-247-4732 or 800-433-1411

#### Child Care Connections

317 East Mendenhall, Suite 6 \* Bozeman, MT 59715  
406-587-7786 or 800-962-0418

#### Butte 4C's

101 East Broadway \* Butte, MT 59701  
406-723-4019 or 800-794-4061

#### Hi-Line Home Programs, Inc

605 Third Avenue South \* Glasgow, MT 59230  
406-228-9431 or 800-659-3673

#### DEAP Child Care Resource & Referral

218 West Bell, Suite 209 \* Glendive, MT 59330  
406-377-4909 or 800-578-4909

#### Family Connections

600 Central Plaza, Suite 225 \* Great Falls, MT 59401  
406-761-6010 or 800-696-4503

#### District IV HRDC - Child Care Link

2229 5th Avenue \* Havre, MT 59501  
406-265-6743 or 800-640-6743

#### Child Care Partnerships

901 North Benton \* Helena, MT 59601  
406-443-4608 or 888-244-5368

#### The Nurturing Center

146 Third Avenue West \* Kalispell, MT 59901  
406-756-1414 or 800-204-0644

#### District VI HRDC - Child Care Link

300 First Avenue N, Suite 203 \* Lewistown, MT 59457  
406-538-7488 or 800-766-3018

#### DEAP Child Care

2200 Box Elder, Suite 151 \* Miles City, MT 59301  
406-234-6034 or 800-224-6034

#### Child Care Resources

127 East Main, Suite 314 \* Missoula, MT 59807  
406-728-6446 or 800-728-6446

### Resources for Child Care Providers and Families

Parents Let's Unite for Kids (PLUK)  
800-222-7585 or [www.pluk.org](http://www.pluk.org)  
Montana's parent training and resource center.

U.S. Department of Justice  
800-514-0301 or  
[www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm)  
Tax break information and on-line booklet.

Child Care Law Center  
(415) 394-7144 or [www.childcarelaw.org](http://www.childcarelaw.org)  
Low cost booklets about the ADA and child care.

National Network for Child Care  
[www.nncc.org](http://www.nncc.org)  
*Caring for Children with Special Needs: The ADA*

The ARC of the United States  
[www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)  
5-page report explaining the ADA in child care.

NECTAC  
[www.nectac.org](http://www.nectac.org)  
*Including Preschool-Age Children with Disabilities in Community Settings: A Resource Packet (\$15)*

Child Care plus+: The Center on Inclusion in Early Childhood  
800-235-4122 or [www.ccplus.org](http://www.ccplus.org)  
Inclusion resources from A to Z.



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## The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Child Care



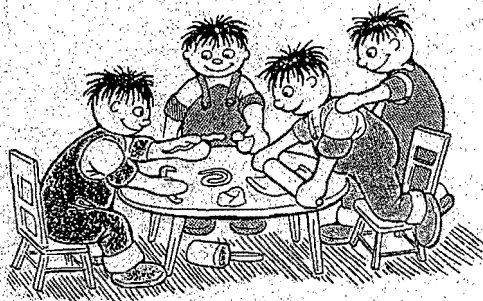
## Opportunities and Resources for Montana's Child Care Providers and Families of Young Children with Disabilities



## The ADA: It's about opportunity!

The ADA guarantees that children with disabilities cannot be excluded from "public accommodations" simply because of a disability. Many child care providers think this does not apply to them, but as with other public accommodations (like private schools, banks, and restaurants) child care providers **MUST** comply with Title III of the ADA. Public accommodations include private preschools, private child care settings (both center and home based), and after-school programs.

The ADA gives child care providers the opportunity to include children with disabilities in their programs, gives families an opportunity to work or go to school as other families do, AND gives children with disabilities the opportunity to play and learn side by side with other children.



## Basic Requirements of the ADA

★ Child care programs **cannot** exclude children with disabilities unless their presence would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others or require a fundamental alteration of the program.

★ Child care homes and centers must make **reasonable modifications** to their policies and practices to integrate children with disabilities into their program unless doing so would constitute a fundamental alteration of the program.

**Reasonable modifications** means changes that can be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

★ Centers must provide appropriate **auxiliary aids and services** needed for effective communication unless doing so would constitute an undue burden (changes that would result in significant difficulty or expense.)

**Auxiliary aids and services** include a range of devices or services that help people communicate, such as sign language or large print books.

**Financial assistance for implementing these requirements is available:**

**Bright Beginnings scholarship program** - call the Montana Early Childhood Project at 1-800-213-6310 for more information.

**Special Needs Subsidy Program** - call your local resource and referral agency listed on back of this brochure for more information.

## Effective early childhood practices that support compliance with the ADA include:

- using developmentally appropriate practices which emphasize individual growth patterns, strengths, interests, and experiences of children to design learning activities and routines.
- asking "how *can* I meet the needs of this individual child?" Then adapt as needed.
- being creative and flexible!
- eliminating program eligibility standards, such as being toilet-trained.
- asking all parents if there is anything you need to know that would help you care for their child better (such as "she sleeps with a pacifier" or "he wears hearing aids".)
- working closely with parents and other professionals to integrate the child's developmental goals into your daily activities and routines.
- identifying and removing physical barriers to a child's participation.
- spreading added costs of care (if any) among all families, just as you do other expenses. **You cannot charge a higher rate to care for a child with a disability.**