

NATIONAL PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY: May 7, 2010

Child care organizations and parents across the globe are joining together the Friday before Mothers' Day, May 7th, 2010, to celebrate Provider Appreciation Day. Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers, school-age program staff, child care center directors and staff, and all those who work with children in a variety of ways and are responsible for their education and care. It is estimated that there are nearly 2.8 million child care providers in the United States and that nearly 12 million under age 5 are in their care.

Locally, Child Care Resource and Referral and the Child and Adult Care Food Program would like to say thank you to all the providers in our area.

"Every day, child care providers care for children in Lyon, Sioux, Plymouth, Cherokee, Woodbury, and Ida Counties. The children and parents of these counties depend on our child care providers. May 7th is the day to recognize the hard work and dedication of providers, and to acknowledge their contributions to high-quality care."

"By applauding the dedication of child care providers on May 7th, we remind our communities of the importance of high-quality child care, and let providers everywhere know that we recognize and value their important work," said Linda K. Smith, Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA), the lead sponsor of Provider Appreciation Day. "It is important that the care a child receives during the first five years of life be of high-quality because 90 percent of brain development occurs during those years."

In recent years, local governments across the United States have joined many Governors in proclaiming this day of recognition. Around the globe, Department of Defense installations celebrate Provider Appreciation Day by recognizing those who care for the children of military parents living both at home and abroad. The celebrations this year promise to carry on and strengthen Provider Appreciation Day. Efforts are underway to ask child care organizations, public officials, and parents to honor their child care providers for their hard work and commitment to children through events such as luncheons, parades, dedications, and other recognition celebrations.

It takes a special person to work in the child care field and these individuals are often unrecognized. This day offers an opportunity for parents to show their child care providers their appreciation.

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and other educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is



appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. Momentum and support for this event has grown each year and recognition presently includes individuals and government organizations throughout North America, Europe and Asia.

To learn more about Provider Appreciation Day or for ideas on how you can thank your child care provider, you can go to www.providerappreciation.org.