



SOUTHWESTERN
Oregon Community College

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Curry child care business receives grant for safety

Children proudly show their new fleet of riding toys at Sabrina's Family Day Care in Gold Beach.

New riding toys were purchased to replace worn-out equipment for Sabrina Anderson's certified family child care through the Thelma Harms Health and Safety Assessment grant program, sponsored by CARE Connections of Southwestern Oregon Community College.

As a participant in the health and safety assessment program, Sabrina conducted a self-evaluation of her child care business using the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale, Revised Edition by Thelma Harms, Debby Cryer and Richard M. Clifford.

Sabrina and CARE Connections' staff then composed a plan of improvement by following guidelines for quality in the child care rating scale. In addition to the replacement of old riding toys, new children's toothbrush holders and storage units for learning materials were purchased.

A total of \$4500 in grant funding from the **Gordon Elwood Foundation** was awarded to child care programs in Curry County. Child care improvement plans covered a variety of health and safety needs, such as fencing, safety gates, a fire extinguisher, smoke alarm, step stools, child-sized furniture, and new flooring in children's play areas.

Although health and safety were the program's top priorities, eligible providers could include developmentally appropriate toys and learning materials in their individualized improvement plans after health and safety goals.

For more information about licensed child care in Oregon, parent referrals to child care or respite, and/or training for new and established providers, please contact CARE Connections at 541-469-9299 or toll-free, 800-419-1371 ext. 224. All providers are encouraged to conduct regular self-evaluations to sustain and improve the quality of local child care.



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