Most of today's children and youth will spend more time in child care and after-school programs than in formal education!

Beaver County Child Care Providers’ Seminar was held on January 12th, 2008. The Marilyn Burns Endowment Fund for Home Based Businesses award contributed $550 toward the implementation of the Seminar. The Seminar reached 25 childcare providers from Northwest Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle; 4 were Hispanic Females.

The Extension Service had the lead in organizing the seminar by contacting and confirming the presenters, creating the program, making building arrangements, taking pre-registrations, and creating advertisements. Lunch and refreshments are provided with the help of Beaver Co. OHCE. The organizational team consists of the OSU Extension Service, the Department of Human Services, Beaver Co. Health Dept. and EMS, Child Care Finders, and Beaver County OHCE.

To be licensed as a child care center, 12 hours of annual training are required for child care staff but only 6 hours of training can be from books or tapes. The rest must be formal classroom training such as this seminar. The subjects covered included: New Daycare Laws, Safety, Immunizations, Toddler Nutrition, Guidance, and Story Boards to Go.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES
- The seminar provided the required 6 hours of formal training.
- Time and money savings were realized. The training was local, with the driving distance of 100 miles or less for most participants. Low registration fees ($5.00 lunch included) allowed caregivers to obtain training very reasonably.
- An increase in the quality of child care as well as income can also ensue. Qualified child care providers and centers can be reimbursed from OKDHS.

Child Care Providers created Take-Along Story Boards as an aid in teaching children to read.