

## Community Partner Success Story:

**Child Care Aware** delivers high quality early education program and basic essential life assistance to families and individuals in need, which targets the Education and Self-Sufficiency goals of our community.



Becky Vickers opened Just Kidding Day Care Home in Eudora, KS when her youngest daughter was 3 because she was not satisfied with the care her daughter was receiving. When her daughter began attending public school in Eudora, Becky did not return to her office management position. She realized she enjoyed teaching young children and wanted to make this her new career. Her next step was to increase her knowledge about **early care and education through in-service training** at the local Child Care Resource & Referral office (Child Care Aware), Douglas County Health Department, and DCCDA.

Becky enrolled in a Child Care Aware program called KQRIS (Kansas Quality Rating Improvement System) to **improve her program quality**. Although her early ratings were low, Becky received coaching from a Child Care Aware KQRIS

coach on topics that included the **in/outdoor learning environments, family partnerships, and adult-child ratios**. Participation in this program allowed her to apply for grant funding to assist with quality improvement and also provided access to **financial assistance for higher education**. She is now enrolled in Kansas City Community College and on her way to earning an Associate's degree in Early Childhood Education.

With the high-quality early education and care that Becky now provides, *Just Kidding Day Care Home* supports the growth and development of young children and is a support system for families and the Eudora community.

*For more information about ChildCare Aware of NE & NC Kansas please call 785-865-0669.*

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