



ChildCareGroup

RELATIONSHIP-CENTERED CHILD CARE

ChildCareGroup (CCG), a Dallas-based nonprofit organization founded in 1901 and a recognized innovator in the field of child care, developed **Relationship-Centered Child Care® (RC³™)** to focus attention on relationship building for the emotional well-being of very young children in care outside the home. Since introducing **Relationship-Centered Child Care** in the mid 1970s, ChildCareGroup has been practicing **RC³** in its own child care centers with excellent results. The method is continuously refined as it is practiced.

Take a young child in need of child care, put him/her in an institutional setting for long hours every day, treat that child like a number, and he/she will become a statistic. Yet put that child in a place that feels like home—a secure, family-like setting with a primary, nurturing caregiver—and watch him/her thrive.

This is the breakthrough idea behind Relationship-Centered Child Care.

Focus on Relationships

Relationship-Centered Child Care is designed to develop and maintain meaningful relationships between infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and their primary caregivers in the context of superior child development programs. In addition to incorporating the basics of good child development: low child-to-staff ratios, small group size, caregivers with child development training and education, and a program *individually* designed to promote each child's development, **RC³** has at its core an added, critical ingredient—attention to *relationship development and maintenance*.

ChildCareGroup's approach, practiced by child development center caregivers, creates "family groups" in which children are cared for in mixed-age groups by a constant caregiver. Infants and toddlers are cared for together in family groups of four with only two under the age of 18 months. Preschoolers are blended from age three to five, in family groups of nine.

Family grouping allows each child and the caregiver to remain together for the years the child is in the infant/toddler or preschool group. Children and caregivers are together over a period of time sufficient to experience the depth of relationship necessary to assure the positive developmental achievements too often at risk in child care. **Relationship-Centered Child Care** promotes and maintains continuity in relationship, which is essential in assuring the quality of emotional investment and attachment required for healthy development and growth.

Proven Results

Relationship-Centered Child Care has proven results. Initial findings of a recent outcome study conducted by the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) indicate children in CCG centers

- display better social behavior than non-CCG children;
- experience less incidence of detachment from caregiver and activities;
- receive greater caregiver sensitivity to their needs; and
- show higher cognitive stimulation.

In past follow-up studies through 8th grade, CCG "graduates" scored higher on standardized reading and language tests than their public school peers and were less frequently retained in grade.

These findings, past and present, signify that support of relationships in a child's early development have long-term implications for success in later years.