



## CommunityWorks ACTION! Childcare



### **Quality Rating System Specialist** – The DeKalb County Community

Foundation and McHenry County Community Foundation partnered with 4-C to support this full time position for three years. The QRS Specialist is responsible for assisting child care centers in DeKalb and McHenry Counties to achieve Quality Star Rating. **The Quality Counts: Quality Rating System (QRS)** assists Illinois child care programs in providing quality care for children and their families. For child care centers eligibility for QRS means the program has achieved specific quality indicators. QRS participation can be used as a marketing tool, showing parents/guardians that the program is recognized by the State of Illinois for commitment to providing higher quality care. To date, four child care centers have earned a three star rating, resulting in approximately \$35,000 in increased revenue for DeKalb County centers.



### **Quality Enhancement Grants** - Child Care Quality Enhancement Grants are

intended to assist eligible child care programs in DeKalb County in achieving either accreditation or a specific QRS (Quality Rating System) star level.

**2008** - \$20,000 was available to eligible child care centers for Quality Enhancement Grants. Four child care centers: Children's Learning Center, Kishwaukee College Early Childhood Center, NIU-FCNS Child Development Lab and The Growing Place were granted a combined amount of \$16,913.

**2009** - \$10,000 is available to eligible child care centers for Quality Enhancement Grants.

## .....Coming Attractions.....



### **Resource Development & Strategic Communications** – Training, resources

and one-on-one consultations with centers to formulate plans of action.

Poll child care centers to identify their training needs - **COMPLETED**



### **DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation Roundtable** –

Scheduled for fall 2009 and will coincide with a general marketing campaign roll out for child care centers