

CW: Quality Enhancement Grant Grants in Action Questionnaire

Organization: The Growing Place

Time/Date of visit: 5/18/2011

Purpose: Follow up on the use of Quality Enhancement Grants

Persons Interviewed: Susan Peters

Impressions/Observations of: "Roomscapes"

1. **What led your organization to implement this project or services that the DeKalb County Community Foundation CommunityWorks: Quality Enhancement Grant has funded?**

Coming from a history of being an accredited center self assessments and self study is a good check and balance tool to meet learning standards and improve quality. Involvement with QRS has also allowed for increased staff development; adding in-services for teachers and professional development opportunities.

2. **Has the funded project been implemented yet? At what stage of implementation? Tell us how it is working? Can we see it?**

The first step in deciding on materials to purchase was evaluating safety needs and then finding something that is aesthetically pleasing. "Roomscapes" are currently in use and create a safe and high quality environment for infants and toddlers. "Roomscapes" allow teachers to see the children at all times. They are adaptable and built specifically for childcare. They are a durable item.

3. **Where are you in the QRS process? What are your next steps? What are your current needs?**

The Growing Place is currently rated at a star 3 and is continuously working on QRS and NAEYC accreditation.

4. **What responses (if any) have you received from your clients regarding changes in the facilities?**

Parents have commented that the room looks organized and safer; you can tell that the materials are of a high quality.

5. **What are your next funding priorities related to accreditation and or QRS star levels?**

-The addition of two permanent walls will help with sound absorption and the ability to put up artwork done by children.

-Couches and big pillows

-Replacing cribs to meet with national requirement (currently being implemented; cribs to be purchased with Community Needs Grants have been ordered)



Susan Peters, Executive Director of The Growing Place and Elaine Suarez, Community Initiatives Intern, DCCF

