



2025 State Employee Child Care Centers Annual Report

**January 1, 2025 –
December 31, 2025**

In Accordance with 30 ILCS 590 Sec. 3, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services submits the following report to the General Assembly on or before December 31st.

Raven A. DeVaughn
Acting Director

2025 Annual Report on State Employee Child Care Centers

Overview of the Act

Pursuant to 30 ILCS 590, known as the State Agency Employees Child Care Services Act, the Department of Central Management Services (CMS) may authorize state agencies to contract for the provision of childcare services for their employees. To that end, the State of Illinois presently operates two on-site childcare centers, one located in Chicago and one in Springfield, as evidence of its commitment to provide a valuable service and benefit to state employees.

Childcare Center Annual Report

I. State of Illinois Child Development Center

The State of Illinois Child Development Center, located in the Michael A. Bilandic Building, provides high-quality early childhood education and care for State employees and the downtown Chicago community.



The Center was previously managed by Early Child Care Services, Inc. under the direction of Stacy Olszewski from 1997 through July 2023. Beginning August 1, 2023, the Center has been managed by First Steps Learning Centers of Illinois, Inc.

The current representative and Center Operations Director is Bema Yusupova, who has over six years of experience in early education, holds a B.S. in Finance and Administration, and is a certified teacher and director in early childhood education.

Candace King serves as the Co-Director and has been part of the State of Illinois Child Development Center since 2013, providing long-standing leadership and operational support.

The Center previously achieved a Gold Circle of Quality through ExceleRate Illinois, a statewide quality rating and improvement system designed to support continuous quality advancement among early learning and development programs.

Licensing and Program Information

The Center is licensed to care for children ages two through twelve years, with plans to expand services to include children under age two in the future.

Operating hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, aligned with the schedules of most State offices. The Center currently operates five preschool classrooms year-round and a school-age summer group.

Enrollment and Community Updates

Between May and July 2025, the Center experienced a temporary decline in enrollment as several children transitioned to Chicago Public Schools preschool programs. However, since

August 2025, enrollment has steadily increased as more downtown offices have reopened, and families are returning to in-person work.

The Center continues to offer year-round enrollment and are competing with public school programs by emphasizing our key advantages:

- No long academic breaks open year-round except when the building itself is closed.
- Flexible scheduling options, including drop-in care.
- A consistent, nurturing environment with small classroom sizes and personalized attention.

The Center is currently seeing an increase in new enrollments, particularly among State employees and staff from neighboring private companies returning to office-based work.

To further strengthen outreach and visibility, they are requesting support from the MABB Facilities Management team to:

- Continue sending monthly notices to State agencies promoting our childcare services.
- Assist with building signage or visible indicators within the Bilandic Building to help families easily locate the center, as there is currently limited on-site visibility.

The Center continues to prioritize enrollment for children of State employees and maintain our drop-in care options for flexibility and convenience.

Parking accessibility remains a challenge; assistance in allowing short-term parking access or nearby side-street parking for parents during drop-off and pick-up would be greatly appreciated.

Tuition Rates (Effective May 2025)

Classroom Group	Age Range	Weekly Rate
Yellow Group	2 years old	\$295/week
Red Group	3–4 years old	\$295/week
Purple Group	3–4 years old	\$285/week
Blue Group	4–5 years old	\$285/week
Orange Group	Kindergarten	\$285/week
Green Group	Summer Program (6–10 years)	Rate TBD

Staff and Curriculum

The Center maintains a low teacher turnover rate, with an average tenure of eight years. All lead teachers hold coursework or degrees in Early Childhood Education.

Their program offers spacious classrooms, a large indoor motor-play area, and outdoor playground located on the 21st floor of the Bilandic Building renovated in October 2012.

The curriculum is developmentally appropriate and play-based, designed to nurture social,

emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. It integrates literacy, math, science, social studies, art, music, and movement, supporting well-rounded development for every child.

Next Steps and Ongoing Goals

The Center's management remains committed to quality, consistency, and service to State families. Our focus continues to be:

- Strengthening marketing and outreach partnerships within the Bilandic Building.
- Maintaining high standards in education and care.
- Ensuring continued accessibility for State employees through prioritized enrollment and flexible scheduling.

II. Capital City Learning Center, Department of Revenue



Capital City learning Center has been open for 10 years. The center is a sister company to Kountry Kids Learning Center in New Berlin and Rushville, Il. Owned by Kris and Stephanie Neuman, the center provides professional quality childcare to the Springfield area with the emphasis on learning. The Neumans bring years of experience in the field of early childhood

learning, as well as business administration to the city of Springfield.

The Center cares for children from ages 6 weeks through 5 years old. The hours of operation are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to align with most operational hours of State offices. The average full-time enrollment is 34 children, with a capacity of 43. About 15 of those children are dependents of State employees. There is a wait list for enrollment comprised of approximately 70 children, of which 53 are dependents of the State.

There is a yearly \$35 registration fee. The 2025 rates for full-time are listed below:

Full - Time Rates (based on age of birth)	
6 weeks - 15 months old	\$319/week
15 months - 24 months old	\$309/week
2 years old	\$299/week
3 - 5 years old	\$289/week

The Center's Director is Lori Rice. Ms. Rice holds a bachelor's degree in Infant Toddler Studies and has over 22 years of early childhood education experience.

The educational program is based on Creative Curriculum and Teaching Strategies Gold Standards. Capital City Learning Center has received the Gold Circle of Quality and Accreditation through the National Accreditation Commission. As of October 2024, the Center

has renewed and maintained their Gold status. They have worked hard to achieve this goal and continue to strive each day to keep improving our quality of care to our families.

Capital City Learning Center strives to meet the needs of children and their families each day while at the same time building solid, positive relationships. The Center is still temporarily located in the lottery space located at the front of the Illinois Department of Revenue building in due to the parking lot and playground being renovated.

Capital City Learning Center takes annual field trips in the fall. The Center will be going to the Pumpkin Creek Farms, visiting with the fire department, Ergadoozy, the Illinois State Museum and Isles Park, and then ending with a train ride to Bloomington to the Children's Museum. The Center will be hosting the annual Halloween parade in the Illinois Department of Revenue building on October 31. The Center is looking forward to finishing out the year with lots of learning and fun!

Dependent Care Assistance Program

Both Centers accommodate State of Illinois employees by accepting payments through the flexible spending program. The flexible spending program allows for employees to set aside up to \$5,000 tax-free, per year through payroll deduction to pay for dependent care expenses.

The Illinois Department of Central Management Services reports strong employee participation since the program's inception in 1987. In calendar year 2025, an average of 2,270 employees statewide participated in the flex-spending program with contributions totaling \$8,006,396.00.