

Howard daycare gets \$8,515 USDA grant

By: Staff

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The Children's Care Corner in Howard is the recipient of grant funds which will go toward the purchase of equipment for the facility.

The \$8,515 USDA Rural Development Community Facility Grant will be pooled together with a \$5,000 grant from the state and \$1,967 in local funds to cover the purchase of \$15,000 in equipment.



Children's Care Corner Director Sandi Schmit helps Adam Hoffman and Haley Feldhaus with a reading project.

Some items to be purchased include a fire alarm system, computer, printer, scanner, stove, refrigerator and cribs.

Lynn Jensen, USDA Rural Development state director, said, "This is one of the ways the federal government can partner with others to serve communities. I am pleased our funds will assist in purchasing equipment for the daycare that will allow them to better serve their customers."

The Howard facility includes two wings: a preschool/Head Start wing and a daycare wing.

Director Sandi Schmit said that the facility opened Dec. 2, and the preschool/Head Start area cares for 20 children while the daycare area has nine.

Although the preschool area is currently full, she said, her goal is to have the infant/toddler wing three-fourths full or at capacity.

The infant/toddler wing can hold up to 24 children.

Based on the parents using the facility, Schmit said, she feels it is definitely meeting a need for the Howard area.

"You have to look to the future and what providers there are in the community," she said. "There's definitely a demand for (infant care)."

The 4,000-sq.-ft. facility has seven employees, with one care worker to every five infants/toddlers as well as one care worker to every 10 preschool/Head Start children.

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