

Rainbows United, Inc.
Smart Start of Butler County
2011 Smart Start Grant to Existing Providers
Purpose and Criteria

Purpose: In an effort to increase the quality of early childhood care and education, Butler County has been awarded funding to provide financial support for existing licensed child care homes and centers. This Grant is to be paid to the owner of the child care home/center.

Criteria:

- One application per center or home will be accepted. All requests for funding should not exceed \$300.00 and will be awarded to selected applicants seeking to improve the quality of the services provided in a licensed child care home, group home, or child care center. Funding for this program will end no later than December 31, 2011 when grant funding ends.
- Applicant may apply if they have a child care license and have been in operation for more than one year.
- Applications are due by the second Monday of the month to be considered at that Month's Smart Start Advisory Committee Meeting
- If funded, providers must attend two trainings on Infant/Toddler related topics and are urged to see the list of trainings offered in Butler County on www.butlerkids.org, the Smart Start website that lists all community trainings held by Child Start, The Butler County Health Department, The K-State Research and Extension office, and Rainbows United, Inc./Smart Start. The provider is required to send proof of attendance for two trainings to the Smart Start Coordinator.
- For quality assurance purposes, the project coordinator will conduct one visit within the calendar year.
- Funding will be distributed to selected applicants who demonstrate the need for the requested items and how the purchase enhances the quality of care provided. Awards will be made based upon the availability of funds. Preference will be given to programs that will be purchasing literacy curriculums, items to enhance children's literacy, items to enhance children's social/emotional skills, or items to enhance children's motor skills.
- If funded, the provider will be required to submit receipts for purchased items and include a report of how the item has enhanced the quality of child care they offer.
- If funded, the recipients will sign an agreement to operate their child care business in Butler County for two years, or pay the amount of the grant back to Butler County Smart Start.

Suggested Uses for Funds: Literacy curriculum, children's books, puzzles, puppets, stacking and sorting items, etc.

Funding will **NOT** be given for requests of the following items: Televisions, VCRs, Video or gaming systems, computers, copiers, trampolines, pools, pool equipment, and/or pool toys.

Some criteria may change without notice.

This is a taxable income to child care providers and we encourage providers to check with their tax preparer for additional information and assistance.