

Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County  
Child Care Resource and Referral  
Project EDU, Spring 2009  
**COMPUTERS PLUS**

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES**

Many child care professionals have busy family and personal lives and are not able to take classes in the evening. They would, however, be able to participate in higher education classes if they were accessible during their workday. The increased availability of on-line courses both at College of the Albemarle and other North Carolina community colleges makes the dream of taking classes or earning a degree a reality for many child care professionals. The Computers Plus component of Project EDU will include access to online classes using loaned laptop computers.

**What is Computers Plus?**

Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County will loan laptop computers to providers who are actively enrolled in and taking internet or internet/hybrid courses in Early Childhood Education(ECE) or general education courses needed for a degree in Early Childhood Education, i.e., English 111 or Psychology. Programs that receive computers will be required to provide internet access but may submit a receipt at the end of the semester to be reimbursed for the actual cost up to \$150 to help pay for internet access.

**Who is eligible to participate?**

Dare County Child Care Providers planning to enroll in at least one internet or hybrid course needed for a degree in ECE are eligible to apply. Verification of enrollment in internet/hybrid courses will be required prior to computers being loaned.

**What are the criteria for participants?**

Child Care Providers who participate in Computers Plus must:

- Be enrolled in at least one internet/hybrid class leading to a degree in Early Childhood Education. Computers will not be loaned until copies of course registration forms are provided showing full enrollment, including payment of tuition and fees.
- Agree to meet with the Professional Development Specialist to complete an Individual Professional Development Plan.
- Arrange for internet access and submit receipts at the end of the semester to be reimbursed for the cost up to \$150 to help pay for internet access. Reimbursement for internet access will only be made if the participant successfully completes coursework with a grade of "C" or higher.
- Have a working knowledge of computers and the internet.

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**What else do I need to know in order to participate?**

- Computers will be loaned for one semester at a time and will be returned to Children & Youth Partnership at the end of each semester for maintenance.
- Priority for renewal of a Computers Plus Contract will be given to programs who have successfully completed their Computers Plus Contract from the prior semester but still demonstrate a need to participate in classes in order to earn at least 5 points in education on the star rated license.
- CYP will be responsible for normal maintenance of laptops covered by the purchased warranty. Recipient will be responsible for replacement due to loss or theft or for repair due to damage not covered under the purchased warranty.

**What are the procedures for participating in Computers Plus?**

- An application provided by Children and Youth Partnership for Dare County must be completed by the Family Child Care Home Professional and must be received by Children and Youth Partnership no later than **5 PM on Monday, November 17, 2008** in order to be considered.
- A selection committee will review all eligible applications to determine how laptops are distributed based on the following criteria ( not necessarily in order of priority):
  1. Program's current education points of the revised star rated license.
  2. Program's current access to computer and internet.
  3. Successful completion of Computers Plus contract from prior semester.
- Failure to enroll in classes may cause the application to be reevaluated. Withdrawal from classes during the semester may require the computer to be returned to Children and Youth Partnership.
- All parties involved will sign an agreement outlining the responsibilities of each party.

**Computers Plus is subject to availability of funds. Program may change as needed.**