

Casey Storm Melson: Putting Resources in the Hands of Families



As the working mother of young children who serves on the Parent Advisory Board of her children's childcare center, a human resources manager for Corporation Service Company (CSC) and proud member of the Commission on Early Education and the Economy, Casey Storm Melson has an acute awareness of the importance of quality early childhood learning.

As a member of the commission, Casey works with other leaders in the state to advocate for quality early education in Delaware and the recognition that there is a connection between quality early education and the economy. Commission members come together regularly to focus on the sustainability of quality early childhood education in Delaware." We've been able to watch the number of Stars programs grow voluntarily to over 75 percent, visit 5-Star programs, educate community leaders and community members on the importance of quality early education and ultimately begin to see the results of so much input to make this critical mission successful."

Casey recently implemented an initiative to ensure employees at CSC were aware of the Delaware Stars program and all the resources available to families. As a human resources manager Casey frequently talks with many parents and soon-to-be parents about their questions and anxieties about finding childcare. The two comments she hears most often are: 1) Where do I start? 2) It's too expensive. That experience, combined with her involvement as a member of the commission, lead her to create an email package for employees that directs them to www.greatstartsdelaware.com to learn what quality early childhood education means, to learn about stars and to connect them with several good resources. Using the Stars data base, families can search for Stars programs within a specific city/zip code/school district and Star level.

The concern about the cost of child care is also a major factor. Casey makes sure that families are aware that through Purchase of Care, which subsidizes childcare costs in Star level 3, 4 or 5 centers, parents may be able to remain at work and have the peace of mind their children are receiving quality care from a licensed childcare provider.

Employees are extremely appreciative of factual, helpful information. It helps to remove the noise and allows families to focus on what is most important to them—finding quality early education options for our children at an affordable cost.

Casey shared the information she put together with other commission members so we can easily get information in the hands of working parents and soon-to-be parents in our state. "It's such a simple step for HR teams to post this information on their company intranet or provide it to soon-to-be parents with their leave of absence paperwork. I don't want to see parents leaving the workforce solely because they aren't aware of the great childcare options in our state or they believe there isn't a way to receiving funding so their child can attend a quality childcare center."

Casey Storm Melson, SPHR, has been an employee of Corporation Service Company (CSC) since 2005 and currently works as a Human Resources Manager. She serves as the company's payroll and benefits manager for the 10 countries the company has employees, is the company's international HR Generalist and leads corporate philanthropy for the company. Prior to working at CSC Casey worked for the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. She's a current fellow in Leadership Delaware, a member of the Parent Advisory Board of her children's childcare center and an active member on the Commission on Early Education and the Economy. Casey lives in Wilmington with her husband and two children, who attend a 5 Star center.