



# Northern Plains Resource Conservation & Development Council

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## Devils Lake Kids Preschool & Child Care Center

In May 2009, the Devils Lake School Board voted to close Jigsaw Junction, their Preschool/Child Care Center, effective June 30, 2009. The school had been renting the facility from the City of Devils Lake, who owned the building and much of the equipment and furniture. Jigsaw Junction was the only child care center which held a dual license for Child Care and Preschool in the Lake Region. Northern Plains RC&D has been actively working on Preschool Education since November of 2007, through a grant received from the Otto Bremer Foundation. A group of concerned

parents and employees from Jigsaw Junction asked the RC&D Council to step in to assist them in starting a new non-profit child care facility. The City of Devils Lake agreed to rent the 6,400 sq. ft. building, its contents and fenced-in playground to the RC&D Council for \$1 per year. The RC&D received a \$10,000 small business grant from Forward Devils Lake Development Corporation, a public/private non-profit organization that assists businesses in the Devils Lake Area. The RC&D Council spent the month of June working on budgets, securing funding, advertising and filling staff positions, getting required license and insurance in place. The council placed employment ads in the local papers and on Job Service. Four of five Jigsaw Junction staff were retained and one new full-time employee was hired. Jigsaw Junction closed its doors on June 30. Devils Lake Kids opened their doors on July 6, under the direction of the RC&D Council. In October, due to an increased need for infant and toddler care in the Region, the center opened an infant/toddler room hiring two additional staff. A board has been established from members of the community and North Dakota Nonprofit Corporation Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of State. Plans are in the works to split the infant/toddler room in March and add an additional eight slots for infant/toddler care.



*Alysson Groves, DLK Center Director with Day Care/Preschool Center License.*

*It's Pumpkin Carving Time!*

### Project Partners:

- Forward Devils Lake
- City of Devils Lake
- Otto Bremer Foundation
- Northern Plains RC&D



*Pick a number, any number.  
Fun with Fitness!*

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*Devils Lake Kids expanded services in October, opening an Infant and Toddler Care Room.*



*The kids enjoy the state of the art playground equipment at the center's fenced-in play yard.*