

# **The First Step**

Belvidere, IL

## **Vision**

The First Step strives to be a community-minded child care center, supporting families with parents or legal guardians who are employed or enrolled in educational or vocational training programs. As a nonprofit agency, we work to provide wrap-around services that let children and families know that they are cared for.

## **Mission Statement**

At First Step, our mission is to nurture each child's foundational development through a safe, positive, and enriched environment that encourages exploration, hands-on learning, and the achievement of individual potential.

## **Beliefs**

-We believe that high-quality, affordable child care is essential to our community, and that families should have no-hassle access to available child care resources.

-We believe that a child care environment should further a child's social, emotional, physical, cognitive, and linguistic development through positive challenges and developmentally appropriate curriculum and activities.

-We believe in providing consistent, high-quality care by continuously evaluating center operations.

-We believe in involving parents and guardians in their child's care through visitation, input, and participation.

-We believe in being an active and supportive part of the Belvidere and Boone County community.