

Camila's Playhouse

A Provider Success Story from Pima County



Camila's Playhouse

- Opened 2022
- ADES Certified Family Child Care Home
- For ages 0-2 years
- Tucson, Pima County
- Enrollment increased from 1 to 4 children
- \$25,000 Grant

weecare.co/daycare/aranda-family-child-care-tucson

“I really didn't have anything. My backyard was almost pure dirt. I started with the stuff I had from my daughter's baby shower.” — Adriana Aranda

Adriana Aranda's daughter became very ill shortly after she was born. As a single mother of 3, Adriana was very concerned about returning to work while her daughter went somewhere else for child care. With her previous experience in child care and her family's support, Adriana decided to launch her own child care business. Camila's Playhouse opened in 2022 as a certified family child care home in Tucson, serving infants and toddlers ages 0 to 2 years.

Home-based child care providers, like Camila's Playhouse, are a home away from home where children are treated as members of the family, ideal for infants and toddlers.

Adriana's goal is to provide a loving, warm setting to help babies and toddlers thrive, including a culturally diverse learning environment with programs in English and Spanish. While it is amazing to see what she has accomplished in less than two years, a \$25,000 grant to improve her business has helped bring her vision to life.

Adriana used the funding to purchase much-needed equipment, materials, and supplies. The children can now safely play outside on new turf with toys that foster their learning and development. A beautiful shade structure keeps children cool during Arizona's record-breaking heat and a newly raised wall prevents the

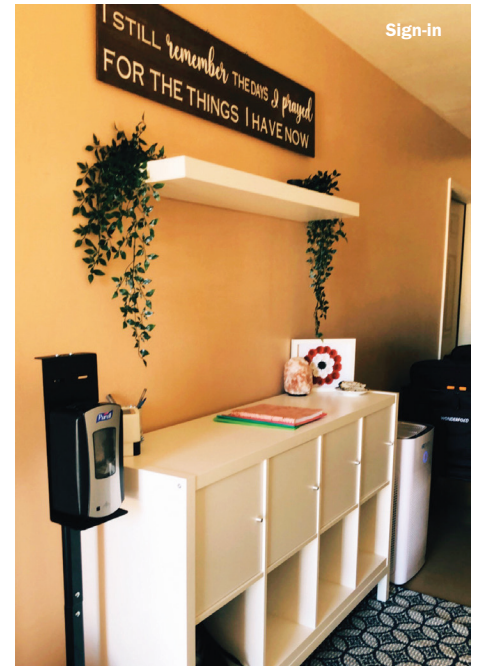
neighbor's dog from jumping into the yard. The outdoor space was wrapped up with a beautiful garden providing fresh fruits and vegetables for the children and a safety gate to separate the play area from the garden.

To keep Camila's Playhouse open and safe for children during the week, she ensured work was completed on the weekends. “As a single mom, I know how hard it is to find care, and if that care closes, it's even harder,” shared Adriana.

Adriana also increased the health and safety of the indoor spaces where she cares for children: she installed safety cameras, magnetic safety locks for cabinets, child-proof outlet covers, and sanitation stations for children and parents. These improvements in safety and quality have enabled her to increase her capacity from one to four children and still care for her daughter.

“The biggest impact for me has been bringing more kids into my care. I'm completely full with interested parents calling!”

Parents are proud their children attend Camila's Playhouse. Family is more than blood relatives: Camila's Playhouse is building a family environment that is loving and caring for the babies and toddlers that bring joy to all of us.



Arizona Child Care Infrastructure Grant

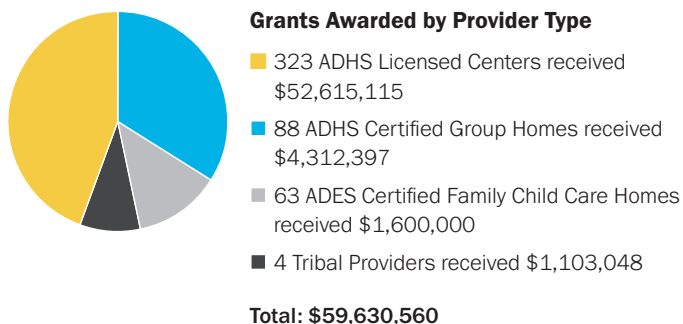
Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is one the country’s largest community development organizations, helping forge vibrant, resilient communities across America. In 2022-23, the Arizona Department of Economic Security (ADES) and First Things First (FTF) awarded \$65 million to LISC Phoenix for child care infrastructure grants, training, and technical assistance. This funding came from the Child Care Stabilization Grants appropriated in the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021. Child care providers received nearly \$60 million to rapidly improve and expand their facilities increasing access to high-quality early childhood learning environments statewide.

The need was substantial: Arizona providers submitted 969 applications requesting more than \$176 million in funding in just two weeks. Providers from 14 of Arizona’s 15 counties applied.

Equity was a focus: Child care providers located in low-to-moderate income areas with limited access to child care were the first priority. Additional priorities included providers caring for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children who receive child care assistance through the ADES, as well as providers with waitlists and those open nights and weekends.

Ultimately, 478 sites received grants with an average award of \$124,750.

Statewide



Pima County

