

A few weeks ago, the Journal-Times featured an article about former employees of Alloc, Inc. The employees had gathered at the Racine County Workforce Development Center (WDC) a week after being downsized to learn about the many services that the WDC offers. Those services include, among others, job search assistance, interviewing skill improvement and resume development. All of these services are free.

The WDC offers its services in several different formats. Perhaps the quickest and easiest one for people to access is the [Workshop series](#). Workshops are interactive presentations led by knowledgeable staff and guest subject-matter experts. Every three months, the WDC offers more than 60 different free workshops, many of which are offered more than once. Some of the workshop topics are: learning how to conduct a more effective job search, managing finances and dealing with the stress associated with looking for a job. Some workshops are pretty general, such as *Workforce Development Center Orientation*, while others are very specific, such as *Taxes and IRAs*.

Starting early next year, the WDC will be offering a new series of free workshops targeted at young people. Our youth “pre-employment” workshops will address general work skills, such as employer expectations, workplace etiquette, the application process, and job interviewing. Other workshops will address specific training for traditional youth job opportunities in food service, retail, care giving, and community service. Young people are also always welcome to take advantage of individual job and career counseling in the WDC Resource Room. In addition, school and youth groups can receive targeted workshops in our Career Discovery Room or out in the community.

It’s not unusual for people who want to come to the WDC to have children with them. To accommodate these people, there is a free on-site child care facility for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years old. This service is available to parents who are in the building brushing up on their computer or math skills, attending a professional development workshop or meeting with one of our many helpful professional staff members. The only restriction is that customers who are using the child care facility must remain in the building at all times. Also, children between the ages of 6 years and 12 years old may only use the facility during non-school hours. Non-school hours include days when school is not in session as well as before and after school.

The child care facility is staffed by certified teachers who plan daily age-appropriate and developmentally-appropriate activities, prepare healthy snacks and provide a safe, caring environment for the children. The facility is open Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. While parents are in the Employment Resource Room, Career Development Area, Career Discovery Center, Academic Improvement Center or attending one of the many helpful workshops, their children are safe, busy and well cared-for.

For further information about Workforce Development Center services go to <http://www.wdc.racineco.com/> or call 262-638-6312. The Workforce Development Center is located at 1717 Taylor Avenue, Racine and 380 McCanna Parkway, Burlington.