

WCFCCA Newsletter

Winter 2010
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President's Message

What a winter wonderland we have here in Wright County! Wow. It's hard to believe winter doesn't officially start for 3 more weeks, yet we've reached half our average snowfall already! Opportunities abound for taking advantage of the snow and children's natural excitement about it (they squeal at the thought of a few inches as we grumble about shoveling snow). Children can learn about mixing colors by spraying colored water on the snow, guess which animals made tracks, dig tunnels, use a glove inside a Crisco-filled glove to learn how blubber keeps some animals warm, make forts, make snowballs, play ice bowling (freeze water inside a round balloon and milk cartons for the pins, then take the outer layer off when frozen), or freeze objects in water that they have to chisel out. Enjoy the snow while you can and we wish you and your families a joyful and safe holiday season!

Upcoming Events

All trainings are held on Tuesday nights from 7-9PM at the St. Michael Community Education Building. Trainings are FREE for members, \$15 for non-members. RSVP in ADVANCE by calling (763-463-5909) or e-mailing us; non-members must register through CCR&R at 1-877-311-2244.

Tuesday, January 18 - Training *Reclaim the Power & Passion*

Reclaim the Power & Passion of why you work with children! Teaching young children is a special calling. You see exciting potential in each child. Join us as we revitalize our interest in our work, get out of the doldrums and get your groove back!

Monday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. *Provider Party & Childcare Tour* TBA

Join your fellow providers for fun, food, and friends as we tour a childcare home, share ideas, and simply relax with adults (for a change). Please bring an appetizer to share. Members only.

Tuesday, February 22 - Training *Floor Time: Tuning In to Each Child*

Examine the Floor Time model developed by Dr. Stanley Greenspan to 'tune in to' all children in their programs. The workshop will explore the 5-step process that supports the emotional and social development of a child by helping adults be aware of and to build on their intuitive understanding of children's emotional growth while building self-esteem.

Tuesday, March 8, 7:00 p.m. - Banquet *Beef 'O' Brady's, Monticello, MN 55362*

Please join us for our 1st Annual Banquet to celebrate another awesome year! We will honor the 2011 Provider of the Year Nominees, thank our volunteers, and simply enjoy a fun night with each other. Non-alcoholic drinks and appetizers will be provided; you may purchase additional food. Must RSVP by March 4th. Members and POY nominees only ☺

Tuesday, March 22 - Training *Science A - Z*

Do you hit a roadblock as you try to think of something engaging to include in your science area for various themes? This session will cover themes from A to Z and include items and activities to interest your eager little scientists. Hands on experiments will also be included.

Saturday, April 16, 7 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. *Wright County Early Childhood Conference* Monticello Community Center

Earn 6 hours of training and have plenty of time to socialize, shop, and dine with fellow childcare providers! More shopping time, catering by Russell's on the Lake, more vendors, and a larger raffle are some features of this year's conference. Katy Smith is our Keynote Speaker and there are 8 trainings from which to choose. Online registration is available now at

www.wcfcca.org/conference.php



*Whether you're
a childcare
provider
looking to
improve your
program, a
family
searching for
childcare, an
advocate for
better
childcare, or
anyone with a
question, we
are here to
help you.*

Banquet

Our 1st Annual WCFCCA Banquet will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at Beef 'O' Brady's in Monticello (254 West Broadway). Please join your fellow providers for a fun night celebrating another awesome year. We will honor the 2011 Provider of the Year Nominees, thank our volunteers, and relax with non-alcoholic drinks and appetizers. This event is free for members and open to Provider of the Year nominees. You must RSVP by March 4th.

Provider Parties

We'd love to continue our bi-monthly Provider Parties and home tours! They are a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know each other, share ideas, and solicit advice. Attendees bring a small appetizer or dessert to share, so the host/hostess should provide plates, napkins, drinks, and utensils. If you are willing to open your home and childcare to our group for an evening of your choice in January, April, June, August, or October, please let us know.

Board Elections and Volunteer Opportunities

No one has expressed an interest in running for President or Secretary, both of which are now up for re-election. Hollee Saville and Shanna Kuehn are willing to continue in their respective positions, but we still want to have official elections. Please let us know by December 10 if you would like to run. The position of Treasurer is still open. We are looking for someone who is organized and good with finances. Experience with ledger/Quicken software preferred, willing to teach the right candidate.

There are myriad opportunities to volunteer with WCFCCA. If you have a special talent or area of interest, a desire to serve in a leadership or committee role, let us know what you'd like to do!

We welcome help for the conference, such as soliciting raffle donations, setting up on Friday afternoon or cleaning up on Saturday, stuffing conference folders, etc.

Membership Drive Extended!

From now until December 31, you will receive \$5 for every person you refer who becomes a member. For example, you refer Jane to the WCFCCA. She puts your name on the membership application as the referral. When her payment is received, we will send you a check for \$5 at the end of that month (so those of you who make several referrals can receive just one check instead of several each month). Each application can only have one referrer's name on it and applications must be received by December 31. There are 460 licensed providers in Wright County, so let's encourage all of them to become members; with increased membership, there's no limit to the events and trainings we can offer our members!

New Members

We welcome the following new members to WCFCCA:

Kristen Hiltner, St. Michael

Jessica Bjokne, Albertville

New members can join online at <http://www.wcfcca.org/register.php>



“To be a child is to know the joy of living. To love a child is to know the beauty of life.”

T.E.A.C.H. Grants

The T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® Project was developed to upgrade the level of education of those working with young children by making the educational process affordable, increasing wages and reducing turnover. T.E.A.C.H. can pay for college tuition and books, travel, substitute services, and a bonus. T.E.A.C.H. also has a program to offset much of the cost of the CDA (Child Development Associate) assessment fee. (Another program offering financial support and guidance with an advisor to earn the CDA credential is also offered by CCR&R and is called the Minnesota CDA Support Project, call 651-641-6653 for more information). For more information, please visit www.mnchildcare.org/TEACH/index.php.

24th Annual Week of the Family Childcare Provider

The 24th Annual Week of the Family Child Care Provider Conference and Banquet will be held Friday April 29 -May 1, 2011 at Rutgers Sugar Lake Lodge in Grand Rapids, MN. Please visit www.mlfcca.org for more info.

MLFFCA Credential

The MLFFCA Credential supports county associations and networking groups to increase professionalism, promote quality and encourage collaborations with three credentials:

- The MLFFCA Family Child Care Credential supports provider professionalism through quality training, goal setting, networking and community participation.
- The MLFFCA Mentor Credential prepares the provider to competently peer mentor other licensed family child care providers through quality improvement goals and changes to support day to day functioning of the child care business.
- The MLFFCA Leadership Credential encourages professionalism through service in the field of licensed family child care through collaboration and commitment to a group.

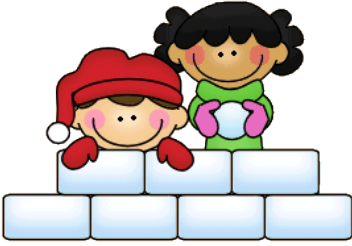
Goals of the MLFFCA Credential program:

- Offer a provider- initiated opportunity for professional development and peer recognition.
- Support local provider associations statewide, strengthening the few networking options available to Family Child Care Providers.
- Maintain the availability of quality Family Child Care for families in Minnesota by offering professional opportunities for providers that encourage retention in the field.
- Promote MLFFCA’s Family Child Care specific training programs of MLFFCA Essential Elements of Family Child Care, MLFFCA Family Child Care Mentor Program, and MLFFCA Family Child Care Association Development.



Recognition at the annual Conference, Provider of the Year Banquet, in the Megaphone, and on the MLFFCA Website.

For more information or to apply for an MLFFCA Credential, please visit www.mlfcca.org or contact Cathy Johnson at 651-636-1989 or cathy.johnson@mlfcca.org.



Flush Those Potty Words Down the Drain!

Potty talk seems to be everywhere these days: on the playground, in the classroom, on TV, and in movies. However, it certainly isn't cute or funny when it's coming from our children's mouths (especially when it happens in public)! In most cases, you're watching a thoughtful experiment on your preschooler's part. He's clearly heard someone else say something with a level of intensity or distaste, and wants to see what happens when he gives it a go. Here are some tips to stop potty talk:

Try to figure out where your child is picking these words up. Make sure you and your spouse aren't using inappropriate language around your child. Young children absorb information from television programs so make sure that she watches shows that are appropriate for her age and, whenever possible, watch the television with your child.

Don't overreact, or you'll just remind him how much power he has to make you quickly pay attention to him. Children feed off your reactions and freaking out would just fuel your child's desire to use potty talk in the future. Calmly let your child know that the word or phrase isn't appropriate, and then let it go. Sometimes your child is just trying out the word to get a reaction from you, something that is extremely satisfying when you're a child; if you don't give an interesting reaction, the word will lose its appeal.

Resist the urge to laugh as it only reinforces the behavior. Try not to act disgusted when you change your child's diaper. Making a point of naming his diaper's contents isn't recommended, either, as he'll learn that naming bodily functions elicits a reaction. It is normal for a child who is potty training to be fascinated with his body and everything that comes out of it.

If it's an insult, tell her that there's no such thing and you don't understand what she's saying. In a clear, matter-of-fact, and disinterested voice, explain name which words are off-limits. Potty talk won't be looked upon kindly anywhere. Explain that these words make people uncomfortable and hurt their feelings. You should also emphasize that it is still not ok, even if other children are using the same language. While preschoolers are still learning to be empathetic, they still need to know that his actions have an effect on them.

Finally, know that it's never too early to teach your child that potty talk is inappropriate and not allowed. Most of the time, children use potty words just because they sound silly; persuade her to use an alternative that sounds more exciting or silly! Think "Abracadabra" or "Zoinks." Dr. Seuss is a terrific source (Zizzer Zazzer Zuzz!) or you can make some up together. Maybe he is having trouble finding appropriate words to express frustration or anger, so you can explain that "I'm angry" would be a better choice.



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Winter Ideas

Hand & Foot Reindeer

Dip the kids' hands and feet in brown paint to make this adorable reindeer. Their pinkies are used to make the red nose. Use this poem for each one (you can modify for different holidays):



This isn't just a reindeer,
As you can plainly see.
I made him with my hands and foot,
Which are a part of me.
He comes with lots of love to say:
"I hope you have a Merry Christmas Day!"

Handprint Wreaths



Dip each child's hands in green paint for the wreath, pinkies in red for berries.
"My hands made the wreath;
My fingers made the berries.
I hope you have a Christmas
That is very merry!"

Circle Candy Canes

Cut out (or each child can cut out) red and white circles from construction paper. Give each child a candy-cane shaped base (heavyweight paper is best), then they glue the circles on in any pattern they choose.



Pine Cone Christmas Trees



Let each child choose a pinecone, and then they can decorate them with poms, glitter glue, sequins, and other small items.

Man in the Moon Santa

Cut out crescent shape moons with a nose. Kids can paint or cut out a red hat, then add cotton balls on the hat and beard, with a googly eye.



Snowball (Tune of "Tiny Tim")

I made myself a snowball just as perfect as could be.
I thought I'd keep it as a pet and let it sleep with me.
I gave it some pajamas and a pillow for its head.
Then, last night it ran away, but first -it wet the bed!

Hand & Foot Angels



This little angel is special, you see,
because he is a part of me.
His wings are my hands,
His body, my feet,
And on the wall he will look very
sweet!

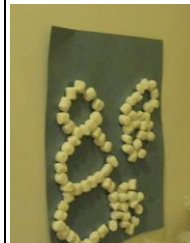
Use yellow or gold for handprint wings, and any color the child chooses for the footprint robe. Add a small headshot of the child at the heel for the head. Add a gold metallic pipe cleaner for a halo.

Cupcake Liner Snowpeople

Give each child at least 3 cupcake liners (or 3 regular and 3 minis). They flatten then glue them onto construction paper; add raisins, chocolate chips, paper carrot noses, buttons, and paper hats to complete them.



Marshmallow Snowpeople



Give each child a bunch of marshmallows and some glue (Glue Pens from Discount School Supply are awesome). It helps to show an example and talk about how snowmen are typically arranged. They can add paper hats, buttons, eyes, "carrot" noses, pretzel stick arms, etc.

Clothespin Polar Bears (or sheep)

Glue 2 clothespins to a craft stick, using one for the "front legs" and one for the "back legs." After they have dried, give one to each child and let them glue cotton balls onto it. They attach googly eyes and ears (foam, paper, or sequins) and voila!



"Dancing Snowflakes" (Tune of "Frere Jacques")

Dancing snowflakes, dancing snowflakes,
Turn around, turn around.
Whirling, twirling snowflakes,
Whirling, twirling snowflakes
Hit the ground, hit the ground (fall to the ground).

"I'm a Little Snowman" (Tune of "I'm a Little Teapot")

I'm a Little Snowman,
Short and fat.
Here is my scarf and here is my hat.
When the snow is falling come and play,
Once the sun comes out I melt away. (*shrink down*)

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Wright County Early Childhood Conference
Saturday, April 16, 2011
Monticello Community Center, Monticello