

WCFCCA Newsletter

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WCFCCA Board Members

President:

Hollee Saville
St. Michael, MN
hollee@wcfcca.org

Vice President:

Justine Folkestad
Albertville, MN
Justine@wcfcca.org

Secretary:

Shanna Kuehn
Otsego, MN
shanna@wcfcca.org

Treasurer: Open

MLFCCA Rep:

Jo Ellen Franke
Hanover, MN
joellen@wcfcca.org

Contact Us

Wright County Family Child
Care Association
10134 44th Court NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
Phone: (763) 463-5909
Email: info@wcfcca.org
www.wcfcca.org



Dear Providers

I look forward to Spring every year for so many reasons, but I always love the first warm day that the kids can play outside without heavy jackets, mittens, and snowpants. Their bright faces are priceless! This Spring, we're starting what we hope will be an ongoing activity: Provider Parties. Every other month, a member will host a get-together and tour in his or her home. Attendees simply bring an appetizer to share. Our conference is on April 24 and we'd love some volunteers to help with set up at 6am (or anytime you're able to help). If you're able to make it, please contact Hollee. Thanks ☺

Upcoming Events

All trainings are held on Tuesday nights from 7-9PM at the St. Michael Community Education Building. Trainings are FREE for members, \$18 for non-members. Reserve space by calling or e-mailing us; non-members must register through CCR&R at 1-877-311-2244.

March 16 Training - Boys and Girls Learn Differently

In Alabama they want to separate girls and boys from one another in classrooms. Studies show that from preschool to high school boys and girls have differences in the way they learn and process information. Join us as we discuss and learn suggestions with real-life examples for teachers & providers to nurture a child's intellectual, emotional & creative development, customized for gender differences. Discussion based on book "Boys and Girls Learn Differently!: A Guide for Teachers and Parents" by Michael Gurian, Terry Trueman (With), Patricia Henley.

Monday, March 22, 7:00 p.m. - Provider Party Childcare Tour

Tanya Woelfel is hosting the first childcare tour at 6616 Oakleaf Court in Monticello! Join your fellow providers for fun, food, and friends as we tour her childcare home, share ideas, and simply relax with adults (for a change). Please bring an appetizer to share. Please RSVP to Hollee at 763-463-5909 or via e-mail at hollee@wcfcca.org.

Saturday, April 24, 7:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. -

WCFCCA's 2010 Early Childhood Conference
Come join fellow providers, educators, and parents for a fun-filled day of learning, networking, shopping, and--of course--delicious food! For more information, visit www.wcfcca.org/conference.php.

Saturday, May 15, 2:00 p.m. - Provider Party Childcare Tour

Shanna Kuehn is hosting a childcare tour at 7439 Kahler Ct NE in Otsego! Join your fellow providers for fun, food, and friends as we tour her childcare home, share ideas, and simply relax with adults (for a change). Please bring an appetizer to share. Please RSVP to Hollee at 763-463-5909 or via e-mail at hollee@wcfcca.org.

May 18 Training - What's with the Lying?

Do you have children that tell "Tall Tales"? Is this lying? Where do children learn to lie? Children lie for a number of different reasons. This workshop will help caregivers determine when lying should or should not be disciplined and how this behavior should be handled.

Please RSVP or
CANCEL in ADVANCE
as trainings fill up
quickly!



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.



Spring Ahead

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour for daylight savings time effective 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 14th. This is a good time to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and replace their backup batteries.

MLFCCA Report

Week of the Family Childcare Conference will be held on Saturday May 1, 2010 at the Ramada Mall of America - Airport in Bloomington, MN. The keynote speaker will be Katy Smith "Caring Providers; the Backbone of a Healthy Community". If interested you can get more information from the website www.mlfcca.org or call 651-636-1989. They also have 25 \$40.00 scholarships available, you would need to send your registration and short letter 50 words or less why you should be considered for one of the scholarships. They will be offering Mentor Training and First Aid/CPR classes on Friday April 30, 2010.

MLFCCA conducted its first online full board meeting in January and was received well by all that attended. If you are a member of MLFCCA they are asking to send their newsletters out via email to save money in postage. Please call MLFCCA office with your email address at 1-800-652-9704 or 651-636-1989.

Summer BBQ

Please join us for a BBQ on Saturday, June 5 from 3:30-5:30 PM at Hollee Saville's home in St. Michael. We'll be grilling, eating, touring the childcare, and enjoying each other's company. Come share your ideas, concerns, and questions with your fellow providers. Please feel free to bring a dish or dessert to share, but we will provide plenty of food regardless. All WCFCCA members are welcome! To make sure we all get to relax, network, and chat, this is an adult-only event ☺

Please RSVP at 763-463-5909 or hollee@wcfcca.org by Friday, May 28.

Open Positions

We are seeking candidates for the position of Treasurer on the WCFCCA Board. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping accurate financial records of the association, making payments when necessary. The time commitment is approximately 2 hours per month, plus any trainings you attend. Please let us know if you or someone you know is interested.

If you would like to volunteer for another position, such as Membership Chair, Member-at-Large, or Training Coordinator for 2-4 trainings/year in Annandale, please let us know. We do need volunteers to work on some aspects of the conference next year, such as soliciting donations for the raffle or working to get vendors. It is too much work for one person but many hands make light work ☺

New Members

We welcome the following new members to WCFCCA:

Sharon Oakvik, Albertville
 Jennifer Hess, Monticello
 Kristina Meintsma, Annandale
 Rebecca Boecker, Buffalo
 Sue Floding, Buffalo
 Beth Konz, Monticello

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

Why Hands On?

I tried to teach my child with books;
He gave me only puzzled looks.
I tried to teach my child with words;
They passed him by often unheard.
Despairingly, I turned aside;
"How shall I teach this child," I
cried.
Into my hand he put the key,
"Come," He said, "Play with me."
-author unknown-



Smiling is Infectious

Smiling is infectious,
You catch it like the flu,
When someone smiled at me today,
I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner
And someone saw my grin.
When he smiled I realized
I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile,
Then I realized its worth.
A single smile, just like mine
Could travel 'round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin,
Don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick,
And get the world infected!

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Preschoolers are learning from their surroundings every day. Some listening problems come from paying attention to something else. Adults can improve their chances for being heard by their children by:

- Waiting until the child is finished with whatever he is doing.
- Giving the child advanced warning.
- Giving choices.
- Turning off the television, radio or other distractions.
- Stopping what you are doing to go to the child. Adults and children alike pretend they can't hear someone who is calling from another room. Ask the child to look at you while you are speaking.
- Gently touch the child's shoulder, rub his back, or stroke his cheek while you are talking.
- Children have short attention spans. Say what's important first.
- Change your voice tone from time to time.

If the talk is negative, threatening, or demanding, the child is likely not to respond because of fear or confusion or rebellion. Sometimes the problem lies in the different viewpoints of the child and parents. A child's perspective of orderly is very different from the parent's notion of what clean is

When parents need the child to help with a task:

- Ask the child to do the task one step at a time.
- Make a game out of the tasks. Use "when" instead of "if."
- Work together.
- Kneel down to your child's level.

As adults, our words are important, but our actions are what really talk to our children. If you want your child to wear a hat outdoors, wear one yourself. If you think your child isn't a good listener, check your own listening habits and make improvements that will benefit everyone. Good listening is a great life skill to know and practice. ☺

Early Childhood Conference

When: Saturday, April 24, 2010; 7:45 am - 3:45 pm

Where: Monticello Community Center

What: the 2nd annual WCFCCA Early Childhood Conference with a keynote and your choice of three classes for a total of six hours of training, and lots of vendor shopping! Cost includes breakfast, lunch, prizes, and a raffle. All trainings meet Wright County licensing requirements as well as CCR&R grant requirements.



Bridging Cultures in Early Care and Education

Info compiled from the recent training



Culture is like an iceberg. Some parts are easily observed, such as language and clothing, but most of culture is not easily seen. How a group interacts and why they do things are often more difficult to understand. For example, most people outside the USA are more collectivistic in the way they interact. Americans tend to be much more individualistic, expecting children to feed themselves, sleep in their own areas, and have independent ownership of objects. There were activities, handouts, personal stories, and statistics that were very helpful in understanding how stressful it is for parents from one culture to put their children in the care of someone from another culture and some of the challenges in understanding a culture very different from your own.

The first step is recognizing that there are different ways of doing things. That seems very simple but it can be very difficult to truly acknowledge that just because someone does something very differently, it isn't necessarily bad or wrong.

It's also important to ask questions when you don't understand something or are unsure. Asking respectful questions lets families know you care about their values and respect their input. Just as you have some differences than the family you grew up in, people in other cultures are not all the same either. It's important to communicate openly and respectfully to find ways to satisfy both the values of the families in your care and your values and environment. Let everyone contribute to a solution that works, even if that means you need to change things. This is an ongoing process, not something that only happens once, so being open and continuing to listen are key to making sure your childcare is welcoming and inclusive.

When Concerns Arise: Identifying and Referring Children with Exceptional Needs

Info compiled from the recent training

There are many special needs children may have, some that are more easily observed than others. With the rising occurrence of disorders such as autism, early childhood professionals such as childcare providers play a bigger role in recognizing special needs and helping parents and children find resources that can help each child develop to his or her full potential.

Early intervention is critically important in getting a child with exceptional needs help. The sooner children received needed help, the less costly it is in the long run, the better the child's self-esteem, the better for the child's success, and the better for the family and other relationships.

This class shared many resources and tips for helping identify special needs, how to meet with parents to discuss concerns, and where to refer parents for the next step.

We appreciate having your current e-mail address and contact info. If you have an e-mail address but have not provided it to us, please know that it allows us to keep you informed of pertinent events, licensing info, and issues that affect all childcare providers.

“Spring” Ideas

Handprint Rainbows

Using a 9x12 or 12x18 piece of white construction paper, the child makes a rainbow with their handprints. Use red for the top arc, then orange, etc. You can also trace their hands onto rainbow construction paper and cut them out to make a rainbow.

Spring Kites

Have the kids decorate kite-shaped construction paper with sequins, markers, paint, etc. Use craft sticks in a cross shape in the back and add streamers or ribbon for the tail.

Spring Lambs

Use a craft stick (body), glue, and 2 clothespins (legs) to make a lamb's body. The kids add cotton balls for wool and wiggle eyes and a black circle for a nose.

Worm Painting

Using gummy worms, the kids can paint different colors on white construction paper.



Snacks

Worms in Dirt or Mud Pies

Chocolate pudding, crushed Oreos, gummy worms

Rainbow Jell-o

In clear cups, layer various colors of gelatin, making sure the bottom layer sets before adding another.

Song

Spring Song (Tune: Are You Sleeping?)

It is springtime
It is springtime
Winter's gone
Winter's gone
Summertime is coming
Summertime is coming
It won't be long
It won't be long

Books

“Mouse’s 1st Spring,” “Diary of a Worm,” “Aunts Go Marching,” “Spring is Here,” “Rainbow of Faces”

“Transportation” Ideas

Tire Tracks

Give each child a 12x18 (or smaller, if not available) piece of white construction paper and allow them to drive cars and trucks with various tire patterns through paint and onto their papers.

Egg Carton Bus

Give each child half of an egg carton (split on the longest side). They paint it yellow, add some red “lights” with construction paper or gems, then add pictures of kids (from magazines or childcare) in the “windows” if the bus.

Boats

Give each child a craft stick, 2 colored construction paper triangles, and a half circle piece of construction paper. Older kids can easily cut these shapes out if you’ve traced them. They glue the pieces together to form a boat.



Snacks

Cracker Cars

Use graham crackers for the body, mini PB or mini cheese crackers for the wheels, cheese slices or frosting for windows, and yogurt or frosting to stick everything together.

Apple & Cheese Boats

Use apple slices for the body, pretzel stick for the mast, and cheese slice triangles for the sails.

Songs

Little Airplane (Tune: Frere Jacques)

Little airplane, little airplane,
In the sky, in the sky,
I can see you soaring,
I can see you soaring,
Up so high,
Up so high.

Twinkle, Twinkle, Traffic Light

Twinkle, twinkle, traffic light
Standing on the corner bright.
Red means stop, green means go
and yellow means go very slow.
Twinkle, twinkle, traffic light,
Standing on the corner bright.



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2885 Country Drive, Suite 165 St Paul MN 55117-2621



Wright County Family Child Care Association
10134 44th Court NE
St. Michael, MN 55376-8499



«Name»

«Business_Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»