

WCFCCA Newsletter

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Dear Providers

Welcome Fall! Does anyone else feel like sending bouquets of school supplies to people? OK, it's just me, but I'm sure you are teeming with anticipation for the first day/week of school! For my "graduating" preschoolers, I give a copy of "Oh, the Place You'll Go" by Dr. Seuss, along with a lengthy (tear-stained) dedication on the front cover. \$10 well spent!

Perhaps that anticipation is because you're just waiting for the announcement that registration is officially open for the 2012 WRIGHT COUNTY EARLY CHILDHOOD CONFERENCE! We have another exciting conference planned next year, so please be sure to read the attached information and register soon!

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. 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, September 20, 7:00 p.m. - Training - Character Builders
Becky Thelen

Have we lost something? Teaching children values and respect seems to have become a lost art. The time to teach worthy values is now when they are toddlers and preschoolers. This training will examine and incorporate how to teach worthy values and that in doing so we teach our children what is good and kind and ethical.

Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. - Training - Who's Really Ready for Kindergarten?
Marcia Schlattman

What does it mean for kids to be ready for school? Please believe it's more than a backpack and a bus stop. The buzz word is "School Readiness" and parents and preschool teachers alike are trying to understand what children need to know by the time kids start kindergarten. Participants will get a crash course on what to teach and how to teach it!

Tuesday, November 1, 7:00 p.m. - Training - Day by Day with Toddlers
Sara Fritsch

This training will enhance understanding of toddler development and behavior. Participants will learn strategies for preventing and responding to temper tantrum, aggression and other common behaviors of toddlerhood.

Tuesday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. - Training - Mess Management
Kimberly Giles

The benefits of being organized go far beyond having an uncluttered home or being able to find things. Being organized can add hours to your day giving you more time providing direct care. Come and join us for this fun filled workshop on simple and effective ways to get organized and eliminate clutter.

Please remember to 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.

Keeping Current - Safety Trainings

As a member of WCFCCA, you get free trainings throughout the year to meet your licensing requirements, as well as keep your skills up to date. However, be sure you keep your other training certifications current.

Wright County Licensing trainings:

<http://www.co.wright.mn.us/departments/humanservices/daycare.asp#training>

Car seat safety trainings: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/child-passenger-safety/Pages/childcare-fostercare-classes.aspx>

CPR and First Aid: check with your local Red Cross, American Heart Association, Community Education, or local hospital

WCFCCA free trainings: <http://wcfcca.org/calendar.php>

CCR&R Grant

Applications will be available September 1st and are due by September 25th. This grant is an excellent way to obtain improvements for your childcare in priority areas, such as learning environment, health and safety, and curriculum. CCR&R offers free workshops on how to apply for the grant. For more information, please call Tina at 800-292-5437 or visit <http://www.midwestchildcare.com/grants.html>.

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program

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 <http://www.mnchildcare.org/TEACH/index.php>.

Summer Membership Drive

This space is normally where we list and welcome new members to our association, but it's been an unusually quiet summer. So, we're extending our Membership Drive until September 30!

Until September 30, if a new member joins and tells us/notes on the form that you referred them, you will receive a **\$10.00 referral bonus!** No limit on the number of people you refer, you will receive \$10.00 for each person who joins WCFCCA (checks sent out each month)! Be sure they tell us you referred them! **The person who has the most referrals at the end of September will receive a \$25 Target gift card!**

Our Association offers so many exciting opportunities and friendships to licensed family childcare providers. If you know a provider, especially someone new to the field, please encourage them to join. The more the merrier...and the more opportunities we can offer YOU, such as more trainings, online resources, social events, and ???





“The work can wait while you show the child the rainbow, but the rainbow won't wait while you do the work.”
~ Patricia Clafford

“Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they're going to catch you in next.”
~Franklin P. Jonesmillion

Get Free Training at Our Conference!

There are several opportunities to volunteer with WCFCCA, especially to help plan and prepare for the conference next year. It takes many hours, but, with everyone donating a couple hours, it goes much more smoothly. We need help soliciting and collecting donations, stuffing folders, setting up, working during the conference, and taking down everything afterwards. Any help is appreciated! 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. Volunteers will receive free raffle tickets and can even qualify for free admittance to the conference!

Lending Library

Items include: Portable cribs, easels, high chairs, duo strollers, exersaucers, wagons, curriculum kits, crawl tunnel, parachute, multicultural/multiability dolls, balance beams, and multicultural musical instruments. To reserve or rent library items, contact Crystal at (320)251-5081 or (800)288-8549 or visit <http://www.childcarechoices.net/ResourceReferral/ProviderSupportResources/LendingLibrary.aspx>.

Training No Show or Cancellation Policy

In response to trainer and CCR&R complaints about no-shows for trainings, the fact that we've turned away many people who want to attend trainings as the RSVP list shows them as full, and the trend for people to repeatedly cancel at the last minute or not show up at all, we implemented the following policy this spring:

To keep classes available to those who are interested, there will be a No-Show or Cancellation Fee, effective immediately. If a member has reserved a seat in a class through WCFCCA, any cancellations would need to be submitted at least one week before the class takes place. Any cancellations after that point or any no-shows will be charged a No-Show or Cancellation Fee. Until that fee is paid, no further training reservations will be accepted through WCFCCA for that member. The first time would be a \$5 fee. Any future cancellations would increase the fee by \$5 per time (eg. \$10 fee for the second time, \$15 for the third time, etc).

If the trend continues, we will be required to pay more for these trainings and we would have to pass these increases on to you. We hope this policy will encourage people to follow through on their reservations. Please be mindful and respectful of the fact that trainers prepare materials and handouts based on the numbers we provide and that our trainings typically have waiting lists. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Free Inclusion Training

The Center for Inclusive Child Care has free training for providers online at http://www.inclusivechildcare.org/c_learning.cfm. Learn more about ADHD, asthma, autism, food allergies, and special needs in short info format or in-depth self-study courses.

Tips to Help Children Sleep

Consistent bedtimes and naptimes make a huge difference. Allow children time to settle down and relax before resting. Lowering lighting and playing soothing music can help children learn to calm their bodies. Sleeping is when children's bodies grow, heal, and process what they've experienced into memories and frameworks to better learn in the future.



The Importance of Play

Play is universal - all cultures do it and young animals do too. Although playing may appear to be a waste of time, children are actually learning a lot. They learn science principles such as cause and effect, social skills such as compromising and following rules, imitating adults and older children, working through emotions by role playing doctor visits such as fear at the doctor's office. Play also allows children to practice being in charge as they choose what to play with, how long to focus on one thing, and control how they create a mud pie or build a sand castle or pretend to be royalty. Play enhances motor skills as children interact with large and small items.

Play is so important that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights recognizes "the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts." (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm> Article 31.1). Children have a right to play. In some countries, children work. In America our children do chores and school work, and though we don't have a child workforce, our society is pushing children to learn more and spend less time in child-directed free play. As childcare providers, we can set aside time to ensure children have the chance to develop in free choice play.

PLAY ACTIVITY	WHAT IS LEARNED
Fingerplays	language development, fine-motor skills, counting, coordination, and self-esteem
Circle games	large motor skills, creativity, cooperation, and spatial concepts
Pretend play	social skills (cooperation, turn-taking and sharing) language and vocabulary development imagination, emotional expression
Puzzles	problem solving, abstract reasoning, shapes, and spatial concepts
Block building	a foundation for more advanced science comprehension including gravity, stability, weight, and balance
Sand-box play	measuring, problem solving, and fine motor skills
Cooking	math skills (counting and measuring,) nutrition and science concepts(prediction, cause and effect)
Coloring/Painting	creativity, emotional expression, symbolic representation, fine-motor skills

Sources: <http://www.childcarelounge.com/parent-articles/play-day-care.php>
<http://www.aap.org/pressroom/playFINAL.pdf>
<http://www.child-development-guide.com/importance-of-play.html>

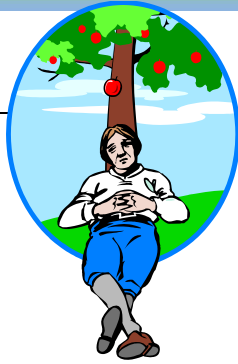
The Importance of Reading with Children

Reading helps infants, toddlers, and children. Even very young babies can benefit from listening to someone read a story to them. They learn the language, vocabulary, how to hold and handle a book, emotionally connecting with the person reading to them, concepts and story line structure, imagination to picture the scene or to predict what might happen next, new information, different ways of communicating such as rhyming or poems, to focus and concentrate on a series of information, have fun listening to a story, reciting or actually reading a story, and creating their own books and stories. Their brains literally create and strengthen neural connections while being read to!

Pick stories you enjoy, and make them fun by varying your reading volume, speed, and voices of the characters. Reading can help settle children down for quiet time, or excite them about a new activity that they will be practicing. Have a variety of books for children of all ages and let them explore!

Sources: <http://www.furtherbeyond.com/articles/read%20to%20kids.htm>
http://www.gerber.com/AllStages/growth_and_development/benefits_of_reading_to_your_child.aspx
<http://www.examiner.com/child-care-in-atlanta/the-importance-of-reading-to-young-children>
<http://www.childcarelounge.com/parent-articles/reading-aloud.php>

Appreciating Autumn



Fall Art

Art Inspired by Nature

Materials:

Natural items such as acorns, leaves, pine cones and needles, gourds, etc.

Ideas:

Glue onto paper to make a collage

Hang on strings as decorations

Dip items in paint to explore textures

Seal inside a large paper bag with a hole big enough for a child to reach through to guess what the item is

Flatten between two sheets of wax paper, place a thin towel on top and iron to melt the wax paper together to make a suncatcher

Garden Stone

Materials:

1 cup of sand

1/2 cup of cornstarch

1 teaspoon powdered alum

3/4 cup of hot water

Food coloring of child's choice

Assortment of items child would like to decorate with.

Plastic pastel butterflies

Colored stones

Directions:

This recipe only makes one stone - adjust as needed.

"We do a chart and ask the children what is their mother's favorite color and then go from there in making the dough.

1. Mix sand, cornstarch, and alum in bowl.
2. Add hot water, stirring vigorously until well blended.
3. Add food coloring and blend.
4. Cook over medium heat until thick, stirring constantly.
5. When cooled, Encourage children to flatten the dough out and make it the shape they prefer. Encourage them to decorate their stone. We had the letters M and O cookie cutters on the table and some of the children put the word "mom" on their stone by pushing the cutters in the dough.
6. Dry pieces in the sunshine for several days.
7. Lay out tissue paper, tape and ribbon, encourage children to wrap their gift for their mom's and if they would like make a card to go with their gift."

From:

<http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/harvest/art.htm>

Find more ideas online!

http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/harvest/harvest.htm

<http://www.dltk-holidays.com/fall/index.html>

http://www.first-school.ws/theme/seasons_autumn.htm

Fall Recipes for Kids

"Pumpkin" Snacks

Spread cream cheese mixed with orange food dye on a bagel or rice cake, then make a jack-o-lantern face with grapes, raisins, and apples slices.

Inspired by http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/harvest/harvest_snacks.htm

Host a Thanksgiving Feast

Have a sign-up sheet for families to bring something for a Thanksgiving or harvest festival. Squash, apples, pumpkins, corn, cranberries can be used as decorations and/or prepared with the children throughout the day for breakfast, lunch or snacks. Talk about how the plants grow, different ways they can be prepared, and taste different varieties.

Make Applesauce

Allow each child to do some part of this recipe (wash apples, pour in an ingredient, etc. and ensure that adequate supervision is given during cooking with young children).

Ingredients:

4 to 5 medium apples (washed, peeled, cored and chopped)

3/4 cup water or apple juice/cider

1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)

1/8 teaspoon ground cloves (optional)

1/2 cup sugar

Directions:

In a 2 quart saucepan over medium heat, combine 6 cups of apples, 3/4 cup water or apple juice/cider, ground cinnamon, and ground cloves.

Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in sugar, and simmer 5 more minutes. Makes about 8 child-size servings

From: <http://www.mommynature.com/apples-Johnny-Appleseed-theme.html>

Pumpkin Fritters Recipe 2

Ingredients:

1 cup cooked, mashed pumpkin

half an egg

5 teaspoons flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

Directions:

1. Mix beaten egg, flour and pumpkin to form soft dough

2. Add baking powder

3. Fry spoonfuls until golden

From: <http://www.shirleys-preschool-activities.com/fall-preschool-recipes.html>

Find more ideas online!

http://www.nickjr.com/recipes/all-shows/seasonal_fall/all-ages/index.jhtml


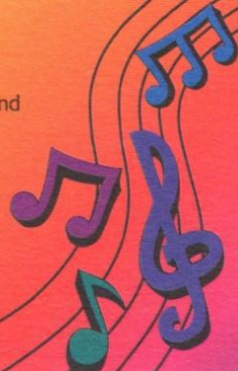
http://nutrition.preschoolrock.com/index.php/recipes_for_preschoolers

<http://familyfun.go.com/autumn/fall-recipes/>

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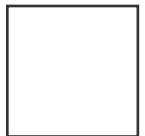
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**4th Annual
Wright County
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Conference
is on Saturday, April
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Monticello
Community Center!**