



CCCC E-Newsletter April, 2005 Issue

Greetings from Community Connection for Child Care! National Provider Appreciation Day is May 6 and is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children everywhere! Provider Appreciation Day is held so everyone can appreciate the number and importance of child care workers. Parents with children in child care are encouraged to take this day to show their child care provider how much they appreciate them. Showing your appreciation to a child care provider need not be an expensive or elaborate gesture. You are sure to warm a caregiver's day simply by taking a moment to remind them how much they mean to you and your child.

It takes a special person to work in this field and their contribution to the quality of family life frequently goes unnoticed. The early childhood profession not only plays a critical role in supporting healthy families and children but is also a key part of our entire national economy. It takes a dedicated and committed individual to become a child care provider. You are committed individuals who not only open your homes and classrooms to care for children, but also share your personal and family time to ensure every child has a warm, secure and safe environment while their parents are at work.

Touching The Future

A Poem by Family Child Care Provider Marti Doyle

I don't wear power suits, make speeches, or drive a fancy sports car.
I've never talked on a car phone, made a big sale, or been elected to the Senate.
I don't "do lunch," have a big impressive office or carry a beeper.
I spend my days wiping away tears, giving hugs, and serving chicken nuggets.
A good day is when I go through a whole day without a temper tantrum, bite mark or a toilet training accident.
My "office" is a room full of brightly colored toys and laughing children.
You may not think that what I do is very important and you may even whisper behind my back "What a waste of a good mind."
But I know better.
I make a difference because I'm changing the world one child at a time.
Everyday I'm getting the once in a lifetime chance to touch the future.
I'm proud to say "I'm a child care provider."

Thank you for taking such good care of the future!

Until next time, our best to you and yours --

The staff of Community Connection for Child Care

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^**THIS MONTH'S FEATURES**^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

KCSOS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

CCCC Resource Library

Community Connection for Child Care has a resource library designed to make your job as a child care provider and early childhood educator a little easier. The facility provides access to our lending library, training videos, laminating service, binding machine, copy machine and the Ellison machine. Each of these tools can help you add pizzazz to your reading, creative projects and interactive programs. We encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful center-as a resource in helping you be the best you can be! Don't forget that Child Care center staff as well as Family Child Care Providers are welcome to check out toys.

We are excited to announce the arrival of new toys, books and equipment to enhance the learning environment of your children! We received a large order of toys for children of all ages from Lakeshore Learning including puppets, dramatic play, gross and fine motor, math and science. We have expanded our collection of toys and games for school age children and infants and toddlers. Please also check out our extensive toy collection specifically for children with special needs! We have also received new Ellison die cuts and a new laminator. Late this month we are expecting a large order of business, tax and marketing books from Redleaf Press designed specifically for family child care home businesses. The Resource Library will be closed April 11-22, 2005 for cleaning, organization and maintenance to be ready to show off all of our new toys and equipment. As always we will be available for referrals. We hope to see you very soon!

The Resource Center has also changed its hours. We will be now open on Friday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please note that we are closed all day on the last Friday of the month. Also, Beginning January 1, 2005, the CCCC Resource Library will no longer be open on Saturdays. We apologize for any inconvenience.

For more information, check out <http://kcsos.kern.org/cccc/resourcelibrary>

***FEATURED QUESTION*:**

We have pets in my daycare. What should I know to make sure my kids are safe and healthy? - Jennifer, Family Child Care Provider

Having a pet to talk to and touch can be a great psychological benefit to children especially to shy youngsters. But there also can be risks involved in keeping pets in a family child care home.

-Furry animals (especially cats) may pick up and transport fungus spores through their coats. A child petting the cat can transfer these spores to her own body. A youngster may get bitten if a pet is mishandled or over stimulated in play, too. The danger is greater in older dogs that are prone to epilepsy because the excitement of play might bring on a seizure.

-Pet turtles can pass on salmonella (an intestinal infection) and are, therefore, not recommended. If you have a bird of the parrot family (a budgie or parakeet,

lovebird, etc.), keep it away from rooms where the children will play or sleep. If infected, these birds can transmit an airborne respiratory illness to humans.

-Litter boxes are a problem too. Young children are apt to put just about anything in their mouths, and cat feces may contain organisms that can be transmitted to humans. Most infections are mild, but if a pregnant woman becomes infected, it can cause birth defects in the unborn child (Toxoplasmosis). The benefits of pets far outweigh the risks in most cases. Reduce possible hazards to children by following these simple precautions:

-If you have pets, make sure that parents know about them before you agree to care for a child. (The parents may know if the youngster is allergic to or afraid of animals.)

-Teach the children to wash their hands after touching the animals. This is especially important before eating.

-Keep your pets clean. Because dogs and cats use their tongues to clean themselves, try to discourage pets from licking the children and vice versa.

-Empty kitty litter boxes daily. If you are pregnant, have someone else do this job.

-Keep sandboxes covered when not in use to prevent cats from adopting it as a litter box.

-Keep your pets free from internal and external parasites. (Fleas can bite children too.) Make sure that pets receive all the needed vaccinations, including distemper and rabies shots (for cats as well as dogs).

-Clean up animal feces in your yard. Infected dogs and cats can transmit roundworms to children through feces.

-Change soiled diapers immediately to avoid any undesirable behavior on the part of pets.

For more tips and information, click this link: <http://kcsos.kern.org/cccc/>

MONTHLY PLANNER

*April is Keep America Beautiful Month. Use this month to show how taking care of our environment is a very important job. Children can play an important role such as setting an example by not littering, helping clean up a spot, and learning about safe ways to handle trash.

<http://www.kab.org/partners.asp?id=305&rid=306>

* April is National Poetry Month Introduce children to different forms of poetry around the world with these poems and classroom activities

http://teacher.scholastic.com/lessonrepro/k_2theme/poetry.htm

*The 35th annual Earth Day is April 22, 2005

Celebrate the Earth Day holiday by learning new ways to protect the environment together.

http://news.fen.com/topic/front/0,1156,64-5882,00.html?wtlAC=grd-k-2_0408,email-t

*Celebrate Arbor Day on April 29. The last Friday in April marks the 133rd anniversary of the Tree-Planting Holiday! Did you know that for every pound of wood it grows, a tree releases more than a pound of oxygen into the atmosphere. Visit the National Arbor Day Foundation for more facts as well as tree planting tips and how you can get 10 free seedlings at <http://www.arborday.org/> .

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KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

Vegetable Pasta Italiano

Makes 6 servings

Ingredients:

- ½ pound lean ground turkey
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and thinly sliced
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 can (14 ½ ounce) crushed tomatoes
- 1 can (14 12 ounce) reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 2 cups uncooked bow-tie pasta
- 2 cups broccoli florets, washed
- 1 cup cauliflower florets, washed

Savory Toppings:

- ½ bunch parsley
- 1/4 cup seasoned dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Crumble ground turkey into a skillet. Brown over medium high heat for 2 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add red pepper strips and paprika, cook for 2 more minutes.

Add crushed tomatoes, chicken broth, and pasta to the skillet. Bring mixture to a boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for 15 minutes.

With adult help, remove the lid and arrange broccoli and cauliflower over the pasta. Replace lid and continue cooking for 10 minutes.

Prepare the savory topping. Pull leaves from parsley stems and combine with bread crumbs and grated cheese; toss. Sprinkle savory topping over vegetables in skillet. Let sit for 3 minutes before serving. Serve with steamed carrots and peas and bread!

KEEPING KIDS BUSY

Spring has sprung and April is National Gardening Month. Gardens and plants make learning engaging and fun, offering forms of hands-on learning that get kids involved on all levels. Children remember information better when they perform tasks and experiments, use more than one style of learning, and have opportunities to share the results of their newfound knowledge with, others. In

addition to active and engaging academic connections to science, math, and literacy, gardening captures kids interest, teaches them nurturing skills, and gives them a sense of pride in their accomplishments.

Project ideas for all ages

<http://www.nationalgardenmonth.org/educators/projects/projects.html>

Celebrate National Garden Month 2005 with your students using our Grow and Give a Garden poster and activities

<http://www.nationalgardenmonth.org/free/poster>

Growing Ideas Classroom Projects

<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/past-issues.htm>

For more activity ideas, visit our CCCC Activity of the Month:

[http://kcsos.kern.org/cccc/stories/storyReader\\$764](http://kcsos.kern.org/cccc/stories/storyReader$764)

BUSINESS RESOURCES

Legal Hypotheticals

by Tom Copeland, Redleaf National Institute

Read these answers to five common questions from family child care providers about their legal responsibilities.

<http://www.redleafinstitute.com/Index.cfm?section=BN&Page=BN53#article1>

Hiring Family Members

by Tom Copeland, Redleaf National Institute

You must keep careful records when you hire your own children to help with your business. Tom Copeland explains.

<http://www.redleafinstitute.com/index.cfm?section=bn&page=bn01#article2.5>

FEATURED QUOTE

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world" - Anne Frank