

ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF CHILD CARE &
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



Join with others
across the state
and wear your ACW
shirt with pride!
April 21, 2009



In this edition:

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- Peanut Butter Recall
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► Director's Note

THE ARKANSAS EARLY
CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



The Arkansas Early Childhood
Commission
Mike Beebe, Governor
Tonya Russell, Director
Barbara Gilkey, Chairman

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Bruce Cohen
Janice Dancer
Dee Cox
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Richard Nugent
Debbie Malone
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Suellen Ward
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www.arkansas.gov/childcare

The Arkansas Early Childhood
Newsletter is an information
service of the Division of
Child Care and Early Childhood
Education, Department of
Human Services.



Dear Licensed Child Care Provider:

We wanted to make you aware of changes in the cut-off dates for children eligible to attend public kindergarten. Arkansas Act 462 of 2007 changed these dates as follows:

- For the 2009-2010 year, a child must turn five (5) years of age on or before September 1, 2009.
- For the 2010-2011 year, a child must turn five (5) years of age on or before August 15, 2010.
- For the 2011-2012 year, a child must turn five (5) years of age on or before August 1, 2011.

Act 29 of 2009—just signed into law—provides exemptions that will allow a child who turns five (5) years of age on September 2 through September 15 of this year to enroll in public kindergarten if the child attended a Quality Approved prekindergarten program in 2008-2009 for at least 100 days. This exemption only applies to those providers who have Quality Approval Accreditation.

For a list of child care programs that have Quality Approval Accreditation, you can go to the Division's web site at https://dhhs.arkansas.gov/wa_ccli/FacilitySearch.aspx. In addition, a copy of Act 29 can be downloaded or viewed from the Arkansas Legislature web site at <http://www.arkleg.state.ar.us/assembly/2009/R/Acts/Act29.pdf>. With this letter, we have included a chart on page 5 that will assist you in helping parents in this decision process.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 501-682-4891. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tonya Russell
Division Director





Statement for Public Notification On Peanut Corporation of America Recall

On January 28, 2009, the Peanut Corporation of America announced an expansion both of the time frame of their recall and the scope of products affected. With this new development, a limited number of products were identified as being purchased by USDA during the two-year time frame and most of the recalled products already have been consumed. The USDA is working with the small number of affected parties to identify recalled products and remove them from distribution. All USDA nutrition assistance program operators are being asked to check for any product that might have been purchased commercially.

For the latest developments on the FDA investigation, including recalls and advice for consumers, visit FDA's Web page on the *Salmonella* Typhimurium Outbreak at <http://www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/hottopics/salmonellatyph.html>

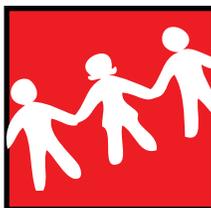
FDA has also created a searchable database for these products, which can be found at <http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>

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Save the Dates!

ASU Family Child
Care Conference
May 8-9

ASU 39th Annual
Early Childhood
Education Conference
August 9-12



For more information contact:
Libby James, Training Program Coordinator
Arkansas State University Childhood Services
P.O. Box 808
State University, AR 72467
870-972-3055
ljames@astate.edu



2009 Arkansas Head Start Institute Registration Instruction/Information

Deadline Date

Visit www.arheadstart.org to access the on-line registration form. All early bird registrations must be received by **March 15, 2009**. All pre registration forms must be received by **April 15, 2009**. **Any forms received after that date will be considered on site registration.** Individuals can register at the on-site registration counter at the institute.

Conference Registration Fees

The early bird registration fee is **\$150** for registration forms received before **March 15, 2009**. The pre-registration fee is **\$175** for registration forms received before **April 15, 2009**. For registrations after **April 15, 2009**, please use the on-site registration fee of **\$200**. Individuals can also register at the on-site registration counter at the institute (we strongly advise you not to bring cash for registration). **Please advise your finance office of the early bird and pre-registration deadline and policy.** If you have questions about registration, please contact the Arkansas Head Start Association at (501) 371-0740.

One Day Registration Fee

A one day registration fee is **\$100**. An option for one day registration is available in the additional information section of the registration form. Click on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday to receive the discount for this option.



Payment

There are two payment options available: pay online through PayPal or mail payments to the Arkansas Head Start Association, 1400 West Markham, Ste 406, Little Rock, AR 72201. No telephone registrations will be accepted.

Confirmations

After processing your registration, a letter of confirmation will be forwarded to you by e-mail. If you do not receive the confirmation, e-mail deanah@arheadstart.org. You must bring this letter of confirmation with you to obtain your registration packets. If you did not receive a confirmation letter, you must go to the on-site registration booth during registration.

Cancellation/Refunds

No refunds will be available. You may make substitutions. If you have substitutions, please contact the Arkansas Head Start Association at (501) 371-0740 or e-mail deanah@arheadstart.org by **May 1, 2009**. **Please do not enter substitutions through the online registration form.**

On-Site Registrations

Please register at the on-site registration area. Please bring agency check, money order, or cashier's check. To increase safety within the registration area, we strongly advise that you do not bring cash for the registration fees.

Registration Packets You may pick up your registration packets for the 2009 Arkansas Head Start at the registration table.

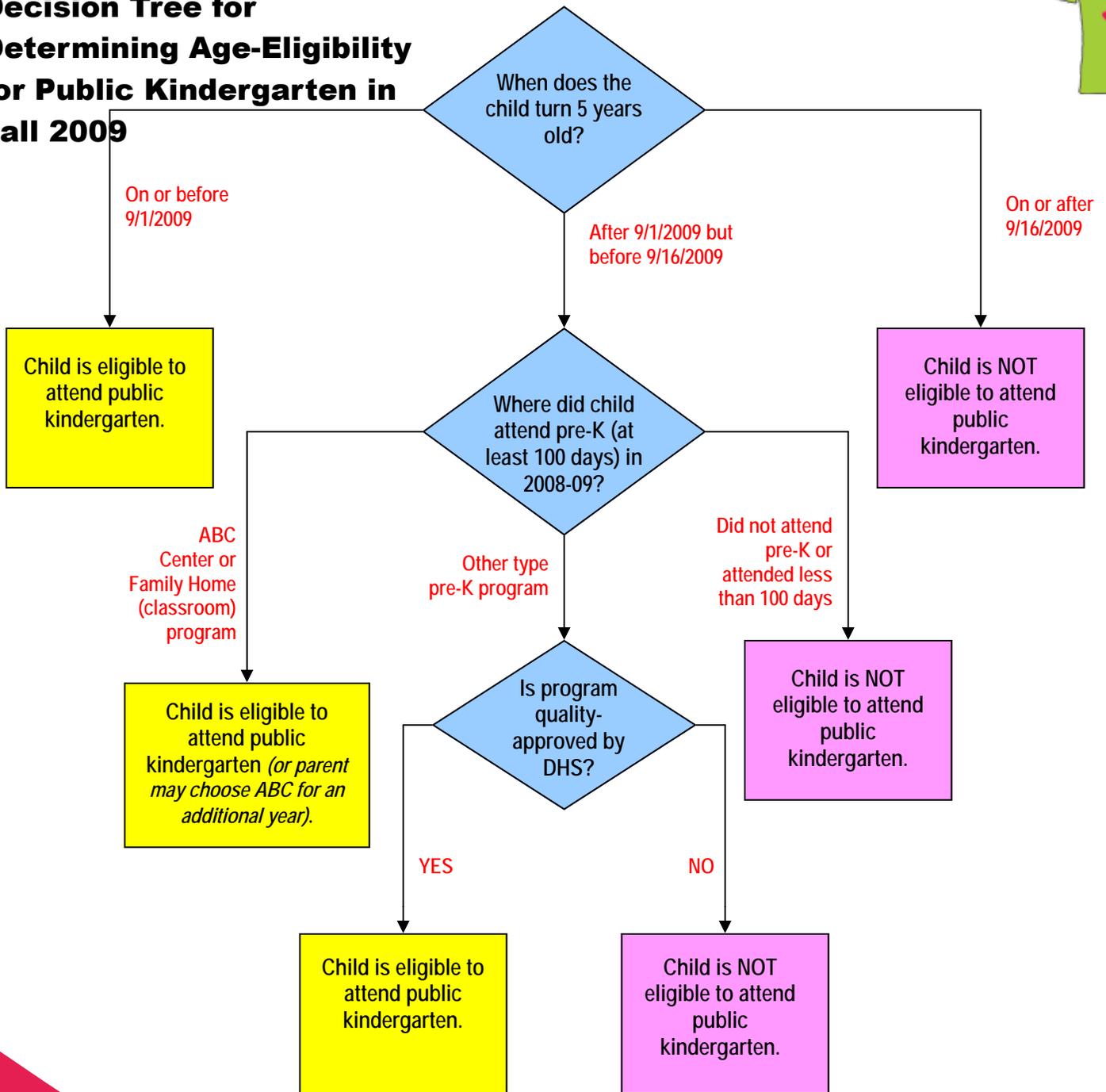
Conference Registration Schedule

Tuesday, May 19 8:00 AM - 4:45 PM
Wednesday, May 20 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

2009 Arkansas Head Start Institute
Holiday Inn
Springdale, Arkansas
May 19-21, 2009



Decision Tree for Determining Age-Eligibility for Public Kindergarten in Fall 2009



The ACW 2009 Planning Toolkit is available from the Division at no cost. Please call 1-800-445-3316 for more information.



Welcome to the Early Childhood Initiatives Center!

You are cordially invited to attend the grand opening of the Early Childhood Initiatives Center on **April 18, 2009**. This drop in event is scheduled from **9 am to 1 pm**. The entire early childhood community is encouraged to see the new facility and learn about the exciting training and resource programs available. The official ribbon cutting is scheduled for 9 am.

Located at the **Helen Walton Children's Enrichment Center, 1701 N. E. Wildcat Way, Bentonville, Arkansas**, the Early Childhood Initiatives Center is designed to be a hub where early childhood professionals can share resources, knowledge, and best practices to benefit young children.

Where Early Childhood Professionals Take Initiative!

Over the next several months, the Early Childhood Initiatives Center will offer several unique programs benefiting primarily Northwest Arkansas child care programs. Many of these are designed as pilot programs with the hope of future expansion across Arkansas. A limited number of trainings however will be available at the State Leadership Conference, AECA Conference, Spring Providers' Conference, and Super Saturday. Be on the look out for more information about training opportunities at these venues.

We are pleased to present a nationally recognized speaker, Barbara Kaiser who will provide a free training to the early childhood community on **Challenging Behavior in Young Children**. This training is scheduled for **April 27, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** at the **Arend Arts Center** in Bentonville, Arkansas and is open to any child care professional in the state. Please contact Rhonda Burch at 479.273.3552 or rburch@hwccenter.com for free ticket information.

In 2009, we will also offer a free series of **Business Development** Trainings. Designed for Early Childhood Directors, these unique trainings address several important areas including: health and safety requirements, business practices, salaries and benefits, risk management, strategic planning, team building and communications, and HR best practices.



These trainings will be offered throughout the state including the Spring Providers' Conference, State Leadership, AECA Conference, and Super Saturday.

We are very excited to announce a **pre-service training** pilot. This **pre-service training** pilot will focus on the major components of child care minimum licensing including health practices, providing a safe physical environment, appropriate supervision, safe transportation, basic health requirements, and positive guidance for newly hired child care workers throughout Northwest Arkansas. Directors throughout Northwest Arkansas will be contacted with more information about this program.

Our **First Aid/CPR training program** continues this year. In addition to trainings at the Early Childhood Initiatives Center, we anticipate offering the training at the Spring Providers' Conference in Springdale, Super Saturday, and the AECA Conference. For more information, please contact Natasha Crosby at ncrosby@hwccenter.com or 479-273-3552.



As a unique pilot project for 2009, we are offering four free **TB test clinics** to the early child care community. The first **TB clinic** will be held at the grand opening of the Early Childhood Initiatives Center on **April 18, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm**. A free **flu clinic** is also planned for Fall 2009. Watch for information about additional dates.

We are thrilled to offer these exciting programs and look forward to working with the early childhood community over the next year to the benefit of young children throughout Arkansas.

Creating partnerships to benefit young children.



From Your Compliance Unit

Dear Provider,

The Division of Childcare and Early Childhood Education's Compliance Unit wants to acknowledge **ALL** of our providers for upholding the guidelines set forth in their DHS9800 Child Care Participant Agreement – we appreciate your participation. We would also like to thank all of the providers for keeping good records, supplying what we request in a timely manner and to offer our assistance in whatever aspect of the program you may have questions about.

Please be reminded that this is the season for inclement weather and your DHS9800 allows providers to bill for those operational days lost due to severe weather conditions; however, the policy may only be applied when public schools in the provider's area have been forced to close or whenever other extraordinary weather related conditions exists. "Extraordinary weather related conditions" exist whenever it can be demonstrated that clients were unable to reach the premises or the Provider could not open due to circumstances beyond the control of the Provider. **THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT A PROVIDER MUST CLOSE WHEN LOCAL SCHOOLS CLOSE.**

SEVERAL AREAS OF THE STATE WERE HARD HIT BY THE INCLEMENT WEATHER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT BILLING OR NEED ASSISTANCE BILLING PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE.

Day Care providers can bill for **Spring Break** if the case head is a full time student who would in the past not receive services for this break in classes. DHS will now key child care for Spring Break for full time students for no more than five (5) days; which will have to be billed as absentee days. DHS will not pay if the day care is closed during that time.

Michael Saxby 501-682-8584 / Ray Jones 501-683-2611 / Sharron Brooks 501-683-3760 / Shannon Selby 501-682-8872

From Your Licensing Unit: The Danger of Leaving Children Unattended in Vehicles

Parents sometimes leave children unattended in vehicles while they pick up or drop off other children at child care centers and homes. Recently a parent's vehicle was stolen from the seemingly secure drive way of a child care center. The parent had just walked the short distance to the door of the facility to pick up a child, leaving a young child in the running vehicle. This incident literally happened in the blink of an eye. Fortunately the authorities located the vehicle a short time later, abandoned, with the unharmed child still inside.

Please alert parents to the dangers of leaving children in vehicles, running or not, even for brief periods. The risks of the child being kidnapped or the vehicle being stolen are very real but are not the only serious consequences that can happen. There have also been numerous instances where children managed to get a vehicle in gear, crashing the vehicle and injuring themselves or others.

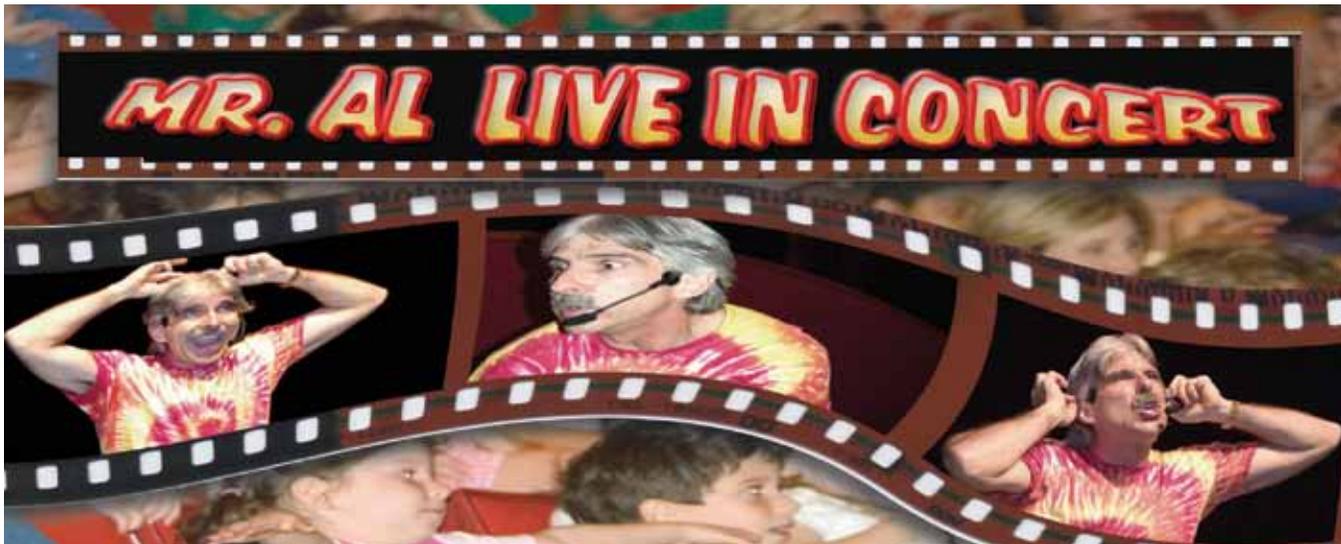
Although we hope that everyone will be motivated to take these precautions in order to keep children safe, there are other important reasons to avoid leaving children unattended in vehicles. If something were to happen to a child left in a vehicle, the parent could face child maltreatment allegations and criminal charges for child endangerment.

Again, please urge parents to avoid leaving children in vehicles when they are at your facility and in other situations, such as grocery store and gas station stops.



Are You Ready For A Field Trip?

Tenth Annual Spring Concert



Music, Movement, Singing, Laughing and More!

Date: **Wednesday, April 29, 2009** Time: **11:30 a.m.**
Length: Approximately 1 hour
Benson Auditorium, Harding University, Searcy, Arkansas

Thursday, April 30, 2009 Time: **9:30 a.m.**
Length: Approximately 1 hour
Independence Hall, UACCB, Batesville, Arkansas

Admission: \$4.00 per person (children and adult)

Grades: Preschool (3-5 years) — Second Grade

Parking: Bus parking available

Reservations: Begin taking reservations January 20th. Reservations may be changed until April 10, 2009. Invoices will be mailed by April 17, 2009.

Seating is limited. For ticket information and reservations call 1-800-737-2237 or in Batesville 870-793-5233.

Sponsored by: Harding University's Family and Consumer Science Department
UACCB Early Childhood Department ~Wal-Mart Foundation
WRPDD's Child Care Food Program and CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas

Registration Form
9800 Childcare Participant Agreement/Billing Training



Name of facility: _____

Mailing Address: _____

TIN Number: and Facility Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name (s) of Attendees:

Please select the training date you would like to attend. Seating will be limited on a first come first serve basis. The training will be held in DHS Conference Room A&B located in the Donaghey Plaza South Building (Downtown 7th and Main Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203). Registration begins from 10:00a.m.-10:30a.m. And training will begin at 10:30 a.m.

March 21, 2009 _____
May 6, 2009 _____

April 22, 2009 _____
June 13, 2009 _____

Mail or Fax to: Voucher Kid Care Billing Program
P O Box 1437, Slot S145
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437
Telephone: 1-800-322-8176, Ext-682-8947
Fax: (501)-683-0034
Attention: Delois Calhoun or Patricia Johnson



Save The date

▶ *Spring Provider
Conference*

When:

Saturday

April 4, 2009

7:45am-4:00pm

Where:

Jones Center for Families

922 E. Emma

Springdale AR, 72764

Contact:

NWA Child Care Resource & Referral

Center, Inc

479-751-3463



Arkansas Children's Week

April 19-25, 2009

LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MARCH 31ST!

Mail Order Form To
M&M PROMOTIONS
P.O. BOX 56698
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72215 6698
 (501) 224-9881
www.mandmpromotions.com

T Shirts for 2009 will be Lime with 3 color logo on front.

Customization is available for \$1.50 per shirt, minimum order is 24 shirts!

T-SHIRT	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
TODDLER SHIRT (6-12 mo) – Lt Green	\$5.00		
YOUTH X-SMALL (2-4)	\$3.50		
YOUTH SMALL (6-8)	\$3.50		
YOUTH MEDIUM (10-12)	\$3.50		
YOUTH LARGE (14-16)	\$3.50		
ADULT SMALL	\$4.00		
ADULT MEDIUM	\$4.00		
ADULT LARGE	\$4.00		
ADULT X-LARGE	\$4.00		
ADULT 2X-LARGE	\$5.00		
ADULT 3X-LARGE	\$5.00		
BIB APRONS (ONE SIZE) – White	\$7.50		
TOTE BAG (ONE SIZE) - Natural	\$4.50		
CINCH BACK PACK – Lime (Color Imprint)	\$3.00		
		SUBTOTAL	(1)\$
SHIPPING/HANDLING:		You <u>must</u> include Shipping OR your order will be <u>delayed!!!</u>	
Add \$9.00 - Orders \$0 - \$36			
Add \$12.00 - Orders \$37 - \$144			
Add \$20.00 - Orders \$145 - \$432			
	TOTAL SHIPPING/HANDLING		(2)\$
i.e. Block (1) + Block (2)	SUBTOTAL + SHIPPING/HANDLING		(3)\$
YOU <u>MUST</u> INCLUDE AR SALES TAX	SALES TAX (7.5%)		(4)\$
i.e. Block (3) * 0.075			
i.e. Block (3) + Block (4)	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED		(5)\$

SHIP TO ADDRESS:

NAME _____ CONTACT _____
 STREET ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____
 PHONE _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: (Make Check Payable to: M&M Promotions)

Please send only 1 check and 1 order form per facility or your order will be delayed!

CHECK # _____ CHECK AMOUNT \$ _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (Visa/ MasterCard/ American Express)

CREDIT CARD #: _____ Exp Date _____ Zip Code: _____



Department of Human Services
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S140
Little Rock, AR 72203-4608

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
LITTLE ROCK
PERMIT NO. 1045

Place address label here.

Arkansas Children's Week 2009

Material Order Form

Name: _____

Program/licensed capacity: _____

Mailing address: _____

City/Zip _____

Item	Number requested
Church Brochure	
Family Fridge Tag: "10 Ways to Appreciate Your Child"	

Return form to: Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
P.O. Box 1437 Slot S 160 (Program Support)
Little Rock, AR 72203

Or fax to (501) 682-4897.