

# Arkansas Early Childhood Newsletter

*May-June 2009*

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



## ► Director's Note

Dear Early Care and Education Providers:

In lieu of writing a lengthy letter, I wanted to focus on legislation affecting early care and education from the 2009 Legislative Session. The following are Acts that may have implications in your program. I urge you to review and call the Division if you have any questions.

**Act 28**-Expands members of the AR Early Childhood Commission to meet federal guidelines in the reauthorization of Head Start and aligns AR to better meet the Early Learning Council requirements without creating a new council, commission or board.

**Act 29**-Allows some pre-k students to enroll in kindergarten under certain circumstances.

**Act 187**-Creates a birth through pre-kindergarten teaching credential and endorsement.

**Act 801**-Amends the Emergency Preparedness Act for Child Care Facilities passed in 2007.

**Act 778**-Requires the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education to work with the State Insurance Department to review and make recommendations regarding general liability and transportation insurance coverage for licensed child care centers and licensed and registered family child care homes. The Act also includes a provision for the Division to promulgate rules requiring all drivers of vehicles transporting children, in such facilities, to complete a comprehensive program of driver safety training.

**SB 963**-(The bill passed but is waiting for Governor's signature.) Requires the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission to work with the Department of Workforce Services to promulgate rules to develop an evening child care program with extended hours.

Congratulations to the Arkansas Better Chance-state funded pre-k in Arkansas for being recognized for by the National Institute for Early Education Research! AR was ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation for serving three year olds and 14<sup>th</sup> for serving four year olds. We ranked 11<sup>th</sup> for state resources and 6<sup>th</sup> for all resources. We were also one of nine states to receive a 9/10 for quality standards. Only two states, North Carolina and Alabama received a 10/10! Thanks to all around the state who have made this possible for preschool children in Arkansas!



■ Tonya Russell  
Director, DCCECE

# ATTENTION PROVIDERS

Due to the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Family Support Unit, is pleased to announce that additional funding has been allotted for low income working families. The Division is proposing to serve many additional eligible families under the child care subsidy program. Please encourage your families needing assistance to apply for voucher assistance.

***Please note, services are not guaranteed and are pending the availability of funds.***



Applications can be obtained from our website at [www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare) or by calling the Family Support Unit at 501-682-8947 or 1-800-322-8176.

**You are invited to attend a Public Hearing on the  
Child Care Development Fund State Plan for 2009-2011.**

Thursday, June 4, 2009 @ 10:00 am  
Donaghey Plaza South Building  
7th and Main Street  
First floor conference room A  
Little Rock, AR

The full plan will be available for your review by May 4, 2009 at  
[www.arkansas.gov/childcare/news.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/news.html).

For more information call: 1-800-322-8176.

# Boiler Inspector Division Arkansas Department of Labor

Arkansas State law (ACA 20-23-101 thru 405) requires annual inspections of hot water heaters in certain facilities, including child care centers and child care family homes. An Inspector from the Boiler Inspection Division may visit your home or center to conduct this inspection. The law requires that you allow the inspector full access to conduct the inspection at all reasonable times (during operational hours).

The Inspector should have a State Identification Card and a badge identifying him/her as a Boiler Inspector. He/She will also have a business card and additional printed information explaining the purpose of the visit. If you have any questions or concerns you may contact the Boiler Inspector Division of the Arkansas Department of Labor at 501-682-4513 for clarification.

There is a \$10.00 fee assessed for the inspection and a \$15.00 fee for the certificate of inspection.

## Compliance Unit Reminders

**The Compliance Unit wants to remind the providers that we are here if we are ever needed for anything – even if it is just a question / don't hesitate to call us. Please take note to the following reminders!**

Memorial Day (Monday, May 25, 2009) is one of the allowable holidays that a provider can actually be closed and bill DHS for reimbursement. Please remember that the day will count toward the maximum billed absentee days of seven (7) per month.

### **Maintaining good attendance records and making them available upon request.**

The Child Care Participant Agreement DHS9800 states: "The provider agrees to document and maintain attendance records for the period of five years. Attendance records must include the child's name, dates child was present or absent, time of arrival and departure; signature of parent, guardian or authorized representative verifying accuracy of attendance records (on a daily or weekly basis) and signature of staff person. Attendance records must reconcile with billing records. Provider must use a DHS approved attendance form. The provider will be responsible for making additional copies of the attendance form. No exception will be allowed, except electronic attendance records as approved by DHS. If attendance records with parents, guardian or authorized representative verification are not available, DHS will consider the payment in question to be an overpayment. The approved DHS attendance forms are available on [www.arkansas.gov/childcare/familysupport.html](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/familysupport.html).

### **Caring for children without written notice from the department:**

The provider agrees not to accept a child into care without written approval from an authorized DHS representative or the certificate of authorization. DHS is not obligated to pay for services delivered unless the provider has been notified or received the authorization. If you have difficulty receiving written approval please contact our office for assistance.

**Mike (501)682-8584, Sharron (501) 683-3760, Ray (501) 683-2611, Shannon (501) 682-8872**

## **2009 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM (SFSP)**

**Sponsored by the**

**Department of Human Services - Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
Special Nutrition Programs**

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) is the single, largest Federal resource available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding program with a summer activity program. The USDA's Summer Food Service Program helps fill the hunger gap during the summer months when regular school is out. SFSP provides an opportunity to continue a child's physical and social development while providing nutritious meals during long vacations from school.

### **ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:**

Sites must have at least 50% of the children eligible for free and reduced price school meals or be an enrolled site. (All meals are FREE.) Meals are available to all children regardless of age, color, sex, race, national origin or disability. If you feel you have been discriminated against, contact: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (Voice and TDD). The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Deadline for submitting applications is June 15, 2009.**

**4 For more information, please call 1-800-482-5850 ext 28869 or (501) 682-8869.**

## Arkansas Ranked Second in Access to Early Education

(Little Rock--) The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) released the 2008 State of Preschool Report naming The Arkansas Better Chance Program (ABC) second in the nation in access for 3-year-old children. The report ranks all 50 states on access, quality and state resources dedicated to preschool initiatives. Results of this year's review places Arkansas in an elite group of states that serve a more than 20 percent of children at age 3 in general and special education programs. Other states include Illinois, Vermont, and New Jersey.

"The success of Arkansas' early education system is the result of state and local partnerships dedicated to the development of children," said Tonya Russell, Director of DHS' Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. "It's especially important that during these difficult economic times, we preserve our Pre-K Delivery system. Data shows that investing in early education has a direct impact on families and communities including economic development and health."

According to the NIEER report, enrollment in state funded Pre-K programs has increased by more than 108,000 children. Since 2004, the ABC program has grown from 8,000 children to more than 25,000 in 2009.

"Stronger pre-K programs resonate throughout our education system," Governor Mike Beebe said. "We are thankful for the national recognition, but will not rest on our laurels as we continue to better prepare our children to achieve throughout their educational lives."

In addition to the positive economic and health impact, research conducted by NIEER shows that a high-quality early education environment can improve the long-term educational outcomes significantly reducing other issues such as school drop-out rates, crime, and delinquency. For more information on the ABC program or other DHS services, please visit us on the web at [www.arkansas.gov/dhs](http://www.arkansas.gov/dhs).

SAVE THE DATE  
'Mother Goose on the Loose'



Saturday, September 26, 2009

Twelfth Annual Northcentral Arkansas  
Fall Child Care Conference

# Baby Basics

Submitted by: Kathi Bergman, State Infant and Toddler Specialist for Head Start and Early Head Start.

I have been invited to share information with infant and toddler caregivers in this news letter. What a wonderful opportunity to share practical tips to use with infants and toddlers, upcoming training opportunities and useful information for providers working hands on with babies. If you have a topic or issue that you would like to know more about, contact me and I will be happy to research the information for you. Who knows, your question may end up as an addition to the newsletter.

Contact information:

[kbergamn@zerotothree.org](mailto:kbergamn@zerotothree.org)

(870)892-9445

## Peek-A-Boo

The benefits of playing peek-a-boo:

- Supports social and emotional development
- Develops understanding of "object permanence," the idea that objects and people still exist even when you can't see them
- Encourages problem solving skills
- Provides practice with visual and tactile discrimination



**0-3 Months** - Hide your face, and then reveal it, saying peek-a-boo!" Remember to keep your face close to the baby's face, and watch the baby's response and cues. Look for a happy reaction around 3 months.

**3-6 Months** - Instead of hiding yourself, hide the baby. Put a blanket over him and pretend to look for him, asking, "Where are you?" As you lift up the blanket to reveal the baby, say, "Peek-a-boo, I see you!"

**6-12 Months** - Be more specific about the object in hiding by using the baby's name in the game. Say, "Where is Andie?" or when the parent or caregiver is doing the hiding, ask, "Where is Mommy/Daddy/Caregiver's name?"

Hide the baby's favorite toy and ask, "Where is the bear?" Ask the baby to point to the object. Either you or the baby can reveal the toy.

**1-2 Years** - Play mirror peek-a-boo. Sit in front of a mirror. Put your face in front of and then away from the mirror, saying, "peek-a-boo" when you see a reflection of yourself. Ask the child to follow.

Practice verbal skills. Hide an animal under the blanket and make the appropriate animal noise. Ask the child to guess what animal is hiding under the blanket.

**2-3 Years** - Use objects of various textures (soft or hard) and shapes, hide them under the blanket, and ask the child to reach under the blanket to describe the object and guess what it is.

Play "don't disturb the penguin!" (You could substitute another available stuffed animal.) Show the child that you're hiding a sleeping penguin behind the blanket. Ask the child to sneak up on the penguin quietly. Say, "Shhh, the penguin is sleeping, don't wake him up!" Does the child tiptoe quietly? If so, reveal a sleeping penguin. If the child is loud, reveal the penguin saying, "Oh! He's awake."

**After 3 Years** - The game of peek-a-boo evolves into a more sophisticated game of hide-and-seek. This requires more cognitive and problem solving abilities.

Sources:

<http://www.scholastic.com/earlylearner/timetgether/bandt/peekaboo.htm>

<http://underfives.co.uk/peekaboo.html>

# Blytheville Resident Chosen to Represent Area Parents at National Child Care Conference in Washington, D.C.

## *Resident Met with Policymakers on Capitol Hill to Voice Local Child Care Concerns and Advocate for Improved Child Care Options for Blytheville Parents*

**Blytheville, AR** – Virginia Done, a resident of Blytheville, was chosen to represent area parents at the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies' (NACCRRA) National Policy Symposium, held March 10-14, 2009, in Washington, D.C. At the Symposium, Done learned about national child care issues and had the opportunity to meet with her local senators, representatives and members of Congress on Capitol Hill to share local child care concerns and advocate for more affordable, high-quality child care for Blytheville parents.

"We are extremely pleased that grandparents such as Virginia Done attended NACCRRA's Policy Symposium," said Linda K. Smith, Executive Director of NACCRRA. "By attending the Symposium and voicing her child care concerns to policymakers, she is primed to effect change and improve the quality of care that Blytheville's children receive."

Done is a grandmother who has custody of and is raising three of her grandchildren. As the owner and director of a child care center, she sees first-hand the difficulties parents encounter trying to pay the high cost of child care. In an effort to help more parents pay for care, Done created a program called AFFORD that provides low-income parents, single parents, family members caring for children of incarcerated parents, teen mothers and grandparents the opportunity to place their children in affordable, high-quality settings.

"High-quality, affordable child care can be a reality for all of America's children," said Smith. It is our hope that through Done and other parents, we can finally get this message across to policymakers to not only improve the quality of child care in Blytheville, but across the nation as well."

Today, over 11 million children under age 5 are in some type of child care arrangement every week while their parents work. On average, children of working mothers spend 36 hours every week in child care. Studies repeatedly have shown that high-quality child care - care that provides a loving, safe, stable and age-appropriate stimulating environment - helps children enter school ready to learn. Yet, less than 10 percent of the nation's child care is of high-quality.



Right to left, Debbie Webb, Virginia Done (Arkansas "grandparent" who attended NACCRRA), the Senator, Jo Battle, Kay Henley (Virginia's daughter who traveled with her), and Debbie Mize.

NACCRRA's National Policy Symposium seeks to raise the visibility of child care issues, such as the lack of quality, and advocate for improved conditions. It features numerous sessions on the latest policy, research and practice developments in child care and CCR&R. The Symposium also offers a forum for policy analysis and discussion, examination of latest research, high-quality training, peer networking, visits to legislators and resources dissemination for about 600 attendees from across the country.

The Parents@Symposium program is one of the newest elements of NACCRRA's National Policy Symposium designed to ensure that policymakers hear directly from parents. The program included a series of highly interactive sessions designed specifically to prepare parents to meet with their representatives in Congress and the media. State Networks and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies (CCR&Rs) across the nation were invited to select parents to participate in this initiative. Agencies were invited to select parents who encountered difficulties finding and paying for child care and were willing to share their experience with others. As a result, Done was selected by the Arkansas State University ACQUIRE Program and the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education, Arkansas Department of Human Services to represent Arkansas parents. Jo Battle, Program Manager for the ASU ACQUIRE Program, accompanied Done to Washington, D.C., to assist her at the Symposium.

NACCRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies, is our nation's leading voice for child care. We work with more than 700 state and local Child Care Resource and Referral agencies nationwide. These agencies help ensure that families in 99 percent of all populated ZIP codes in the United States have access to high-quality, affordable child care. To achieve our mission, we lead projects that increase the quality and availability of child care professionals, undertake research, and advocate child care policies that positively impact the lives of children and families. To learn more about NACCRRA and how you can join us in ensuring access to high-quality child care for all families, visit us at

# Keeping Kids Healthy!



Information and facts  
about ARKids First A and B  
Well Child Care

## What does EPSDT or well child care mean?



“EPSDT” is often called “well child care” because it means that you and your child’s doctor are working to keep your child healthy and well.

**E**

**“E” stands for “Early.”**

When your child is born, your child should see the doctor. If the doctor finds health problems “early,” they can be treated faster.

**P**

**“P” stands for “Periodic.”**

Take your child to the doctor at “periodic,” or regular, times. That way, new health problems can be found and treated.

**S**

**“S” stands for “Screening.”**

“Screening” is a simple checkup from your child’s doctor.

**D**

**“D” stands for “Diagnosis.”**

“Diagnosis” is when the doctor finds out if your child has a health problem.

**T**

**“T” stands for “Treatment.”**

“Treatment” is the care your child gets from the doctor. The doctor uses treatments like medicine to prevent, help or cure a health problem.

## What benefits can my child get through ARKids First?

ARKids First A and B offers:

- ✓ EPSDT and Preventive Health Screens
- ✓ free checkups
- ✓ tests to check how well your child sees and hears
- ✓ tests to see if your child's teeth are clean and healthy
- ✓ free laboratory tests

After the doctor is finished, he writes down the results in your child's health record.

## Who can get well child care?

Any child or young adult who is under the age of 21 and already on ARKids First A can get well child care. ARKids First B provides well child care for those 18 years or younger.

## Where do I go to get my child's well child care?

Log on to the Arkansas Medicaid Web site at [www.medicaid.state.ar.us](http://www.medicaid.state.ar.us) and click on "Consumer." Then click on "Find a Medicaid Provider." Or, you can go to your county Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) office. Ask for a list of primary care physicians (PCPs) and dentists. (A PCP is



a doctor who manages your child's health and health care.) From the list, pick a PCP that will be your child's regular doctor and "medical home."

## Why do children and young people need regular checkups?

Children and young people need to see their doctor regularly even when they are not sick. This is called a **well child visit** and it helps them stay well.

## How does my child get health checkups?

Call your doctor's office to make an appointment. Be sure to say that you want to get your child a well child exam. That way the clinic can schedule enough time.

If your child is on ARKids First A and does not have a ride to the doctor, call 1-888-987-1200.

When you go for the appointment, take your child's current ARKids First card. Also take your child's immunization or "shot" record, if you have one.

If you have to cancel the appointment, call the doctor's office as soon as you can. Someone else may be able to see the doctor in your place.

## Recommended Schedule of Well Child Care, ages 6-13

Use the chart on the right to mark when your child receives his or her Well Child Care.

AGE	WELL CHILD VISIT	IMMUNIZATIONS	CARE RECEIVED?
6 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	—	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	—	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	—	<input type="checkbox"/>
11 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	MCV4*, Tdap*	<input type="checkbox"/>
12 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	—	<input type="checkbox"/>
13 Years	✓ + Vision & Hearing screen	—	<input type="checkbox"/>

MCV4: Meningococcal Conjugate • Tdap: Tetanus, Diphtheria and Acellular Pertussis  
\*May be given any time between 11 to 12 years.



Each year, more than 200,000 children go to hospital emergency rooms



with playground-related injuries. Most of the injuries occur



when a child falls from the equipment onto the ground.



Many backyard playsets and some public playsets are placed



on dirt or grass—surfaces that do not protect children when they fall.



#### 4 TIPS FOR A SAFE PLAYGROUND

- ▶ Install and maintain a shock-absorbing surface (wood chips, mulch, sand) around the play equipment.
- ▶ Never attach, or allow children to attach, ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to play equipment—children can strangle on these.
- ▶ Check for sharp points or edges in equipment.
- ▶ Carefully supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.



**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

CPSC hotline: 800-638-2772  
and 800-638-8270 (TTY)



Sign up to receive free NSN safety alerts and posters at

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

# Filling the Afterschool Hours

At a time when more pressure is being placed on schools to demonstrate higher levels of academic achievement, school system administrators along with policy makers are searching high and low for viable solutions to these academic woes. Amongst all the possible options brought to the table, high quality, afterschool programs can offer an approach to learning that builds upon what is taught during the school day, but in a way that is innovative and engaging to youth.

Quality afterschool programs build upon the school day experience, but do not duplicate it. In a September 2007 issue brief issue by the Afterschool Alliance titled *“Expanding Learning Opportunities: It Takes More than Time”* the afterschool approach to learning embraces the following practices:

- Academic instruction is designed to meet the needs, abilities and learning styles of students and provide them with a better chance to succeed;
- Engaging, relevant activities are often project-based, community-based or both, and designed to increase student motivation to learn;
- Linkages are made to the school day, but content is delivered in different ways by applying school day lessons to real world settings;
- Student choice is built into program design;
- Partnerships among schools and community-based organizations are essential because they bring new and diverse learning opportunities;
- Students have opportunities to work both independently and in groups, and to play leadership roles; and
- Communication between families and school-day staff is ongoing.



Those that work in afterschool programs likely have story upon story to tell about how they feel that their program has made a difference in the lives of the youth and families they serve. Whether it involves keeping children safe, inspiring them to learn, helping working families, or even helping youth to acquire the skills they need to be a contributing member to our 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, the stories are endless. Many after school programs however stop short of talking about the academic gains made by the children they serve because many afterschool programs see this not as something that they should be doing but as the role of the school.

As far as linking academics to an afterschool program, there are varying ideologies on how or even IF this should happen. Some advocate that an afterschool experience should be purely recreational and offer enrichment activities with no academic focus because children need a “break” from the traditional school day experiences. Others might suggest that an afterschool program must be focused on academic achievement as more time is needed to help children increase their academic performance in order to attain the necessary skills and knowledge that they need to be successful in life. Is there a way that we can have both? Might the perfect match be to be intentional as we embed academics in fun, engaging, hands-on learning experiences that often do not exist in the traditional school day? It is not a matter of more “schooling” but possibly more “afterschooling”. This means providing afterschool experiences with caring adults and peers that build upon the concepts taught during the school day through real world, hands-on experiences that are fun and engaging. The key part of “afterschooling” is intentionality. This means having a purpose behind all that we do and executing what we do with this purpose in mind. To learn more about how you might be able to embed academics in your afterschool program check out the Afterschool Training Toolkit provided by the SEDL National Center for Quality Afterschool at <http://www.sedl.org/afterschool/>.

To learn about what is happening in Arkansas to strengthen, expand and sustain Arkansas’ school-based and school-linked services to children and youth, ages 5-19, during out of school time visit [www.aosn.org](http://www.aosn.org) or contact Jennifer Harris, Director, Arkansas Out of School Network at [jenharris@astate.edu](mailto:jenharris@astate.edu).



Department of Human Services  
Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
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## Target Early Childhood Reading Grant

### Guidelines

Target will accept grant applications online between March 1 and May 31, 2009, for programs taking place between October 1, 2009, and September 30, 2010. You will receive notification about your request by September 30, 2009. Most grants average between \$1,000 and \$3,000.

*PLEASE TAKE NOTE:* As we near the application deadline of May 31 for our local store grant program, you may experience slower systems due to an increased application volume. Please allow enough time to complete and submit your online grant application prior to the application deadline.

### Apply Online

In addition to completing the application, you will need to provide a current board of director's list, a project budget, and a list of corporate and foundation donors for the current and previous years. Visit the following website to access the online application. <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-031821>

### TARGET DOES NOT AWARD GRANTS TO:

- » Individuals
- » Programs located outside Target communities
- » Educational institutions for regular instructional programs
- » Religious organizations for religious purposes
- » Treatment programs such as substance or alcohol abuse
- » Athletic teams or events
- » Fundraiser or gala events
- » Advocacy or research groups
- » Capital or building construction projects
- » Endowment campaigns



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