

Arkansas

Early Childhood Newsletter



September-October 2010

Important Licensing Notifications

A letter will be coming to your mailbox soon that explains changes to the DCCECE website. The Child Care Licensing Unit has changed over to a new computer system. This system will allow providers to not only see their inspection information, but will also allow them to see when items are due (CPSC, fire inspection, health inspection, fees). This will replace mailing notices. The provider's webpage will also allow them submit alternative compliances and submit self reports. We feel that this will bring a higher level of functionality for providers and specialists. Sign in instructions will be explained in the letter.

While conversion from the old system to the new system is happening, rates will not be able to be changed. Our goal is for the conversion process to be complete by 9/20/2010. If you have further questions, please speak to your licensing specialist.

Did you know that any structure built before 1978, has a good chance that it has lead-based paint? This is true for child care centers or child care family homes. The threat of lead-based paint on toys has been in the spotlight recently, thanks to the Consumer Product Safety Commission warning us to remove these toys or items so children are not affected by this. However, many homes and centers are unaware of the dangers that lurk in the structure of the building. There is a wealth of information available to parents and providers. Some of these links are:

www.leadfreekids.org

www.adeq.state.ar.us

www.epa.gov/lead

The Environmental Protection Agency has several brochures that you can request. If you are concerned that there could be lead in your home or center, you can call the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at 501-682-0718, Monday-Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm.

Better Beginnings Update

On July 1, 2010 the Better Beginnings Quality Rating Improvement System officially began! On that day all facilities that had current Quality Approval status were converted to the Better Beginnings system with a Three Star status. We are off to a good start with new applications steadily coming in. The Better Beginnings Unit is excited to report that since Better Beginnings went into effect on July 1, 2010 there are 680 participants. Here is the breakdown:

- Three Star 665
- Two Star 12
- One Star 3

Providers are important people in the lives of young children. A child's early education is very important to his or her development and future success in school and life. Better Beginnings is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system for licensed child care in Arkansas. It has established quality standards and offers many resources to support child care providers in assessing and improving the level of quality in their programs. These supports include access to technical assistance to help providers look at ways to improve their program, access to professional development opportunities, incentive and professional development grants to assist the provider with maintaining the current level or meeting a higher level of Better Beginnings.

To view the quality standards established by Better Beginnings visit the website at www.arbetterbeginnings.com

Compliance Reminders

Please be reminded that billing for school-aged children will change in a few days because schools will be back in session. School-aged children who currently qualify for full-time billing will probably be eligible for only half-time, or part-time billing after the school year begins. Please notify the child's caseworker IMMEDIATELY if you do not have the correct voucher for a school-aged child who attends your facility. Also please be reminded for those children attending your facility both before and after school will need to be signed in and out in the mornings and again in the afternoons on the attendance records.



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

Evelyn Bass
Dr. Rachel A. Bowman
Marilyn Chambers
Eleanor Coleman
Dee Cox
Janice Dancer
Amy Denton
Missy Duke
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Barbara Gilkey
Gene Gregory
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Debbie Mays
Martha McAnally
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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.



2010 Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals

Arkansas Children's Week: Outstanding Early Childhood Professional 2010 began in 1988 with a purpose of recognizing ones in the early childhood field for their achievements and dedication. Peers nominate fellow professionals or caregivers who they feel have excelled in the child care field. The nominated form is mailed each spring to child care providers in the bi-monthly newsletter (now available online). The completed form is returned to the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education's office. The nomination forms, reference letters, and nominee questionnaires are reviewed and then scored on each applicant. The AECC (Arkansas Early Childhood Commission) reviews the scores and makes the final decision of who will be awarded the title of the Arkansas Outstanding Early Childhood Professional of the Year. The professionals this year that are to be commended on their achievements include: Laura Lantz, Jana Gifford Bays, Elaine Davis, and Sherrie Gillespie. Laura Lantz is the director as well as a caregiver for Happy Days Christian Preschool in Springdale. The program

Laura Lantz

is a Quality Accredited/Arkansas Better Chance family child care home. The program has been quality approved for 6 years and ABC for 3 years. She currently holds a B.S. in Secondary Education for English and is working towards a P-4 certification at an alumni college. Laura is part president of the Northwest Arkansas Family Child Care Association (NWAFFCCA). She volunteers each year to work the Silent Auction or the Northwest Arkansas Spring Child Care Conference and has facilitated the Family Child Care Forum at that conference. Laura organized a group of family child care providers to work on designing and developing the Adventures in Learning Curriculum for their individual programs. In conjunction to the work with the group, she has given workshops on the curriculum to more than one hundred family child care providers. Laura has networked with her community, Head Start, and the Springdale school system. Patty Malone says, "The families served in her program have had needs met because of Laura's willingness to access community resources and help with family issues beyond the scope of child care." Laura took extraordinary efforts to secure a car for one of her families, so they could have transportation for work. Michelle Wynn states that "Laura is consistently on a quest to improve her education and teaching skills that will help her with her children and families that she serves." Jana Gifford Bays is the Early Head Start Director/Assistant Executive Director with Child Development, Inc. in

Jana Gifford

Russellville. Jana holds has a Master of Science in Home Economics in the area of human development and family studies and a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics in the area of family life and child development. Even though she is not currently working with children, Jana has focused her attention on training staff on standards and regulations that put families first as well as assisting staff with furthering their education. She has been a CDA Instructor/Advisor for 23 years. She states that "I've never had a student that didn't obtain their credential." She has provided infant/toddler services to more than 300 children in 16 centers and counties per year from the Early Head Start grants that she has written. Jana has helped develop an Early Childhood Education Associate degree program at ATU along with teaching some of the classes for students who take classes at night or online. Jana's says, "My vision is to have enough infant/toddler care to serve all families who need care." Linda Reasoner has observed Jana conducting training, arranging classrooms, and in coaching of staff. She says, "Jana is able to articulate to caregivers the responsibilities and skills needed to be an early childhood caregiver and teacher." Mary Ann Rollans adds, "She is an excellent instructor, a sensitive and conscientious mentor for the students, and a valuable resource for current and future program development." Carol Amundson Lee says, "Jana Bays has dedicated her professional life to improving the delivery of services to young children in the state of Arkansas." Jana has participated in the development of the Arkansas Early Childhood Frameworks for Infants and Toddlers and the Birth to Five Licensure Workgroup to develop a birth-to-five license certification for degreed childcare providers. She is requested by many to provide training sessions. She challenges not only herself in succeeding professionally and personally but her staff as well.

Elaine Davis

Elaine Davis is the Program Director for JCCSI ChildCare Links (Resource and Referral Agency) in Pine Bluff. She has a M.S. from Henderson State University in Community Counseling and a B.A. from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff in Foreign Languages. Elaine actively serves on numerous committees to help promote parental involvement in children's education. The professional organizations that she is involved with include: JCCSI Head Start Self-Assessment Team; the Arkansas State HIPYPY Advisory Board; Southeast Arkansas College Early Childhood Advisory Council; Center for Effective Parenting/Unwed Birth Prevention Advisory Council; Arkansas State Systems Leader-Parents as Teachers National Center; and the Arkansas Better Chance Financial Advisory Committee. One of Elaine's basic tenets for her personal philosophy is that "The home is the first and most important learning environment." Elaine, when she has time, enjoys helping families develop into stronger units with home visits. She has provided training/technical assistance to other Parents as Teachers programs and parent educators in helping them to achieve or maintain the Quality Standards they are required to have. Elaine encourages those who want to move their lives forward. Elaine truly understands that parents and children benefit when the parents are shown appropriate child developmental skills necessary to teach learning. She has witnessed success stories firsthand. She agrees with Joyce L. Frett in a belief that "We cannot pretend to work for the best interest of children while ignoring the needs of their parents." Elaine fully believes that when parents set goals for their children, they also set goals for themselves. Marilyn Bailey says, "Elaine has been a quiet and graceful moving locomotive in the fight to strengthen community resources and the families who benefit from them." J. Daniel Wessell adds, "Her willingness to be a resource in the field is well known in the community, often providing services and the benefit of her vast knowledge, wisdom, and experience without regard to personal recognition or accolade."

Sherrie Gillespie

Sherrie Gillespie is the owner/director of Head of the Class Childcare and Learning Center in Monticello. Sherrie has an AA in Early Childhood Education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She has served on the Monticello City Council for the past 12 years. Mae Simpson exclaims, "Currently unopposed for the 7th term". Sherrie is fully involved with youth activities and opportunities in her community as well as her church. Mae Simpson adds, "Head of the Class was selected as 2008 Business of the Year and Sherrie was selected as Woman of the Year for 2009 by Monticello/Drew County Chamber of Commerce." Sherrie herself explains, "I must expect and receive, the best from all staff to reach their ultimate goal-success for all students in academics and becoming future productive citizens." Sherrie does not accept to do less than her best. She allows her actions and her deeds to speak for what she says. Head of the Class was chosen to be a part of the Walton Foundation Grant to have her staff trained and mentored with Core Knowledge. At the end of the training, Sherrie chose to continue with Core Knowledge. Susan Smith, the Core Knowledge Preschool Coordinator for the Arkansas Delta Initiative, says, "While Sherrie is an excellent leader, she still manages to be a listener to her staff and supports and encourages them more than any of the over 100 classrooms I had the pleasure of working with."

We commend each of the winners listed above for their commitment and service each one gives to the children and their families of our state. The applicants will be honored with a plaque in the fall of this year at an awards event. If you would like to nominate someone in your community who goes above and beyond their call, nomination forms will be available on our website (www.arkansas.gov/childcare) early next year.

Congratulations to all.

Brinda Burr

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Brinda Burr

Welcome the Children Project

Second Language Development

Cultural Diversity



Call for Presentations

2010 Celebrating Cultural Harmony Institute!

December 1 - 3, 2010; Crowne Plaza Hotel, 201 S. Shackleford, Little Rock, Arkansas

2010 Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Institute is the fifth annual two and a half day training event on culture and diversity sponsored by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Partners for Inclusive Communities. Planning co-sponsors include the Arkansas Department of Human Services – Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education as well as the Division of Volunteerism; UAMS Head Start; and the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office.

The **Welcome the Children – Celebrating Cultural Harmony Institute** will be held **December 1 – 3, 2010, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Little Rock, Arkansas.** This professional development event is targeted to individuals who work with children and families from diverse cultures or who want to learn more about working with diverse families, including:

- Early Childhood Professionals
- K - 12 Educators / Administrators
- Mental Health Professionals
- Disability Service Providers
- Out-of-School Program Staff
- Therapists (Speech, Occupational and Physical)
- Nurses and other Health Care Providers
- Higher Education Faculty and Students
- Community Based Organizations
- Youth Development Workers
- Social Workers
- Public, Private, & Faith-Based, Child Care
- Representatives of National, State and Local Government

The planning committee is seeking proposals for presentations. Workshop time slots are either 90 minutes or 3 hours (180 minutes) in length. Presentations by members of various cultural groups are strongly encouraged.

What to submit: Please complete your proposal using the format under the "Proposal Format" section of this Call for Presentations. You may submit more than one proposal, but each proposal must be submitted separately.

When to submit: Proposals will be accepted through **September 30, 2010.**

Where to submit: You may e-mail your proposal as an attachment to Sabrina Zarco at zarcosabrinae@uams.edu or you may mail your proposal to:

Welcome the Children – Celebrating Cultural Harmony
ATTN: Sabrina Zarco
UAMS Partners for Inclusive Communities
2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Presenters will be notified of their selection by **October 31, 2010.**

The Institute will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 201 South Shackleford, Little Rock, AR. For those planning to spend the night, Please make your room reservations directly with the hotel at 501-223-3000. Please mention the *Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Institute* when making your reservations to be eligible for the **\$109 per night** (plus tax) special rate (same rate for 1-4 people per room). This special hotel rate **expires on November 10, 2010.**

Questions:

If you have questions about presentations, please contact Sabrina Zarco at 501-682-9900 (V); 800-342-2923 (V/TDD); 501-682-9902 (TDD) or you may e-mail your questions to zarcosabrinae@uams.edu.

Call for Presentations sign-up and schedule available on our website at <http://www.arkansas.gov/chldcare/newsandevents/newsletter/2010/septoct/cfp.pdf>

Medication Administration Training



CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas in Batesville hosted a training entitled Medication Administration on August 3, 2010 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The training was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics, and is being offered in collaboration with UAMS. Twenty providers participated in this first time offered training. The training was open for all child care facilities. Child care professionals from public schools, ABC programs, Head Start programs, faith-based programs, private centers, family child care homes, and special needs programs were in attendance. Marilyn Cone from Melbourne and Becky Lamb from Beebe (both Community Health Nurses from the Arkansas Educational Co-Ops) were the presenters. Providers were given form packets, handouts, and parent educational materials that could be utilized in their facilities.

The curriculum objectives of the training include:

1. Identify different types of medication, why medication is given, and how it is given
2. Improve medication storage, preparation, and administration techniques
3. Support good documentation of medication administration
4. Recognize and respond to adverse reactions to medication
5. Develop appropriate policies about medication administration and implement them

The information that is covered in the training includes:

1. Typical and routine medications for short-term use
2. Medications taken on a regular basis for chronic health conditions
3. Emergency medications

CHILDREN has a Health Coordinator that is available to assist child care providers. The other five R&R areas in the state also house a Health Coordinator. If you have additional questions in regards to this training or the other services offered, you can contact them at 1-800-737-2237 or visit them on their website at www.CHILDRENofNCAR.org.



13th Annual Northcentral Arkansas Child Care Conference

Hip! Hip! Hooray!

For Healthy Habits!



With Keynote Speaker "Mr. Al"

Presented by:

CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas

Saturday, September 25, 2010

At UACCB in Batesville

Call 1-800-737-2237 or visit

www.CHILDRENofNCAR.org

For registration information



ARKANSAS PROTECTION FROM SECONDHAND SMOKE FOR CHILDREN ACT (ACT 13) FACT CARD

- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke; even brief exposure can be harmful to children.
- Act 13 prohibits smoking in all vehicles when a child under six years of age and under 60 pounds is secured by a child passenger safety seat.
- Act 13 is a primary offense; a vehicle can be pulled over and the driver may receive a ticket for violating the law.
- Any first offenders may have their fine removed by proving current enrollment into a program to quit using tobacco (tobacco cessation).
- **Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-800-784-8669 for a free program including medication, while supplies last.**

“Our Children Deserve Clean and Healthy Air”

For more information, visit us at: www.stampoutsmoking.com
or www.arcleanair.com





LEY DE ARKANSAS PARA PROTECCIÓN DE LOS NIÑOS AL HUMO DE SEGUNDA MANO (ACTO 13) TARJETA INFORMATIVA

- No hay un nivel seguro de exposición al humo de segunda mano; incluso breves exposiciones pueden ser dañinas para los niños.
- El Acto 13 prohíbe fumar en todos los vehículos cuando un niño menor de seis años de edad y con peso menor de 60 libras se encuentra sujeto a un asiento de seguridad para niños.
- El Acto 13 es una ofensa primaria; es decir, el vehículo puede ser detenido y el conductor multado por violación a esta ley.
- Personas que violen esta ley por primera vez se les puede revocar la multa, si muestran una inscripción actual a un programa para dejar el uso de tabaco.
- **Llame al 1-800-QUIT-NOW ó 1-800-784-8669 para un programa gratis que incluye medicamentos, mientras se encuentran en existencia.**

**“Nuestros Niños Merecen Respirar
un Aire Limpio y Sano”**

Para más información, visítenos: www.stampoutsmoking.com
o www.arcleanair.com

