



THE ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER



Arkansas Department of
Health & Human Services

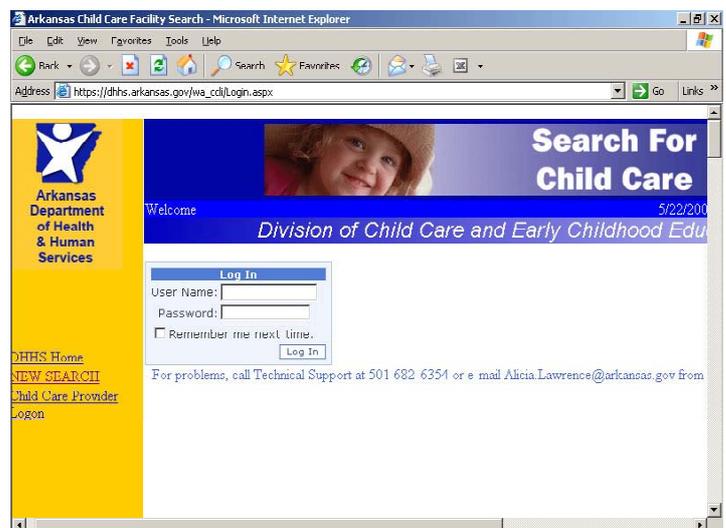
TWO NEW WEBSITES



The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education has two new web sites that list basic facility information for all licensed and registered facilities as well as licensing compliance and the dates of any founded licensing complaints. The first site is available only by password access to child care providers. In addition to the information contained on the public web site, new monitor and complaint information will be listed on this site for a period of 60 days before it is listed on the public web site. This will allow providers an opportunity to discuss listed data

before it is made public. A letter was mailed out to all licensed and registered child care providers during the first week in May informing providers of the provider only web site and giving password instructions. The public web site can be viewed at this address: https://dhhs.arkansas.gov/wa_ccli/FacilitySearch.aspx. Licensing compliance and complaint information listed on the public web site will remain on view for a period of 12 months from the date it is posted. **-Notice- The website address included in the letter to providers was incorrect. The correct address is: https://dhhs.arkansas.gov/wa_ccli/Login.aspx.**

The Division realizes that sharing compliance information with the public is a sensitive and complex issue. Although the majority of information contained in the licensing records is, by law, public information, we understand that how it is presented can effect the perception of the



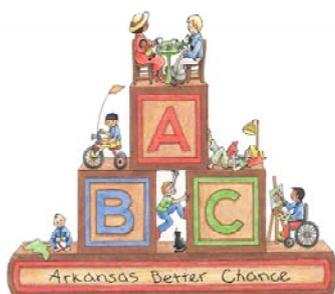
viewer. The Division has worked closely with individual providers, the Arkansas Child Care Providers Association and other provider groups to insure that data listed on these web sites is presented in as fair a manner as possible and that viewers are aware that only a general summary of the monitor information is listed. Input from provider groups and individual providers was instrumental in assisting the Division with creating web sites that present a more accurate complete and balanced view of compliance. Because these sites have a direct link to our computer system, updates are continuous and corrections can be made promptly.

Please contact Alicia Lawrence at 501-682-6354 if you experience any difficulty in accessing the Provider only web site. Please call or email your licensing specialist if you have questions or concerns about any of the data displayed on either of these web sites.

ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNER- SHIP FORUMS

During the months of June and July, early childhood partnership forums will be held in several locations around the state. Tentative dates have been scheduled in Batesville, Hope, Fort Smith, and Harrison. The purpose of the forums is to bring together early care providers including Head Start, Arkansas Better Chance grantees, private providers, faith-based, school-based, family child care, etc. with local organizations/entities that can assist with promoting the overall development of at-risk children. An array of entities, including but not limited to health providers, mental health providers, and community leaders will be presented.

Please visit <http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/abcpro.html> for the latest details. We look forward to working with you to provide the best available comprehensive care to our state's most vulnerable children and families.



CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN AND PUBLIC HEARING

The DCCECE must submit a State plan for using the federal Child Care Development funds bi-annually. The CCDF State Plan for 2007-2009 will be available on the Division website <http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare> on June 1, 2007. This plan outlines the programs to be funded using the CCDF funding and provides specifics on ways the division is working within the state to expand services to children, their families and the early care and education community. A public hearing to accept comments on the CCDF State Plan for 2007-2009 will be held on June 29, 2007 at the Donaghey Plaza-South Building, first floor, conference room A, 7th and Main Streets in Little Rock. The hearing will begin at 10:00 am. You are invited to attend. For additional information, contact DCCECE at 501-682-4891 or 1-800-445-3316.

**THE ARKANSAS
EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER**



**The Arkansas Early Childhood
Commission**

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



Its new, its affordable and its specifically designed for Arkansas small businesses. ARHealthNet is a new insurance program designed to help qualified small businesses with low-income workers provide health benefits to their employees. The program is a partnership between the federal government, the state government and private business to offer health benefits to uninsured workers. Premiums for low-income workers with annual earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level will be subsidized using tobacco settlement funds and existing Medicaid dollars.

Businesses can apply if they have not offered a group health plan in the past 12 months or longer and have two to 500 employees. Only qualified employers can participate. This plan is not available as an individual plan. Spouses of participating employees may also be eligible. For more information, visit the NovaSysHealth web site at www.novasyshealth.com or call 1-800-294-3557.

Daphne Bell, owner/director of Tomorrow's Child in Blytheville has just returned from Seattle where she won first place in the microsoft Tech Makeover contest.

Here's Daphne's message: "Our clinic won the grand prize! We will receive \$100,000 in hardware, software and software design. This will allow our clinic to go completely paperless and have electronic vaulting within the next year. We also received a \$5,000 Response phone system.

She says that her husband was doing a software upgrade and saw information about the contest on the Microsoft web site.

Congratulations Daphne!



THE SECOND SETTING CDA CREDENTIAL

For CDAs who hold one credential and wish to obtain a second credential in a different setting, the Council for Professional Recognition does offer the Second Setting CDA credential. In Arkansas, for example, if ABC or Head Start staff hold an active CDA Credential in Center-based Infant and Toddler and are required to have a Center-Based Preschool endorsement the Council offers a Second Setting Option.

The Second Setting CDA is available to center-based and family day care CDAs who received their credentials under the revised direct assessment procedures on or after January 1, 1993. CDAs who received their credentials under the Local Assessment Team Meeting (LAT) procedures may apply for a second credential by completing the revised direct assessment process.

Brief summaries of the requirements are as follows:

- Second Setting applicants must hold an active CDA credential earned on or before January 1993 in Center-based Preschool, Center-based Infant/Toddler or Family Child Care Home.
- Second Setting Candidates must document a minimum of 45 clock hours of training specific to the second setting. The hours may be part of the original 120 formal training clock hours or additional training.
- The candidate must have a minimum of 60 clock hours of work experience with children of the second/setting/age group. These hours must be accrued over a period of no less than three months within the past five years and be accrued while working as a volunteer or paid staff in a group setting.
- An observation is required by an advisor selected by the candidate, where the candidate is working as a lead caregiver within the second setting/age group.
- A professional Resource file comprised of 17 resource items, six statements of competence and an autobiography, specific to the second setting/age group class.
- Candidates are also required to distribute and collect Parent Opinion Questionnaires from the parents of the children in the second setting/age group class.
 - There will not be a Verification Visit with a Council Representative. The candidate will be required to send all material directly to the council.
 - A Bilingual Second Setting CDA is available for those who obtained their original credential with a Bilingual specialization.
 - The fee for the Second Settings CDA is \$225.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FEE FOR THE SECOND SETTING CDA IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CANDIDATE AND/OR THE PROGRAM IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE WORKS. The Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education does NOT fund a Second Setting CDA Credential. Another Important Note - A Candidate is not attending the Second Setting Credential to renew the first one. Each credential must be maintained and renewed separately. For questions concerning the Second Setting CDA, please contact: Council for Professional Recognition, 2460 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20009. 1-800-424-4310/202-265-9090/Fax: 202-265-9161.



FIELD TRIPS AND OUTINGS

Field trips allow children to experience new sights, places, and activities. Do you worry if your child goes on a field trip or an outing without you? Ask your child's teacher about safety precautions before you allow your child to go on a field trip. Here are some examples:

- ✓ Where will the children go? What will they do there?
- ✓ What time will they leave and return?
- ✓ What transportation will be used? Will each child have a seat belt or car seat?
- ✓ Who will supervise your child? Will there be enough adults to watch the children?
- ✓ What if a child gets sick or injured? Will they have a first aid kit and medical consent forms with them?

Talk with your child before the outing. Discuss where they will go and the fun they will have. Review safety rules such as, stay close to the teacher, buckle-up in the vehicle, and stay where he is if he gets lost. These discussions can help both you and your child to relax and enjoy the outing.



A Resource of Healthy Childcare Magazine

(24-A)

**Congratulations to the 2007
Outstanding Early Childhood
Professionals**



**Sharon Coburn
East Poinsett County School District**

**Christine Meister
Parsons Hills Elementary School**

**Mindy Shaw
U of A Community College at Batesville**

**Lori Payne
Mid-South Community College**

**Dean Pratt
Lavaca Elementary**





SUMMER LEARNING DAY

Summer learning day is a time for communities to celebrate the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people and their families. On July 12, 2007 a wide array of public agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, universities and summer camps across the country will celebrate this importance of summer learning and raise awareness about how summer programs:

- Send young people back to school ready to learn
- Support working families
- Keep children safe and healthy.



JUST A REMINDER

The Division has mailed the Child Care Participant Agreement for the period of July 1, 2007 for review and signature. We will need to process this agreement as soon as possible in order to continue processing authorizations for your facility. The completed agreement in its entirety should be returned to our office. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact DCCECE Family Support Unit at 1-800-322-8176. If you have not received a Child Care Participant Agreement for the period of July 1, 2007 by May 7, 2007 please call Patricia Johnson 501-682-0490 or Delois Calhoun at 501-683-0032 and a copy will be forwarded to you. The Department appreciates your support in meeting the need for child care services in Arkansas.

10th Annual Fall Child Care Conference



Mark your calendars to attend the 10th Annual Northcentral Arkansas Fall Child Care Conference.

We will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the conference on Saturday, September 29, 2007. Featured keynote speaker and early childhood educator will be Beth Butler "Boca Beth" from Tampa, Florida. Save the date, and come join us in a Fiesta celebration of early care and learning and the conference's 10th anniversary! Registrations will be mailed in August. Contact Children of Northcentral Arkansas and White River Planning and Development District Child Care Food Program at 800-737-2237 for additional information.





NEWS from CPSC U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 678-9258
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Various Metal Key Chains Recalled by Dollar General for
Lead Poisoning Hazard

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firm named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: Metal Key Chains

Units: About 396,000

Importer: Dollar General Merchandising, Inc., of Goodlettsville, Tenn.

Hazard: The key chains contain high levels of lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

Incidents/Injuries: None reported.

Description: This recall involves three styles of metal key chains including a flip flop design, dangling charms and a letter. The flip flop charms were sold in purple, yellow and aqua blue and have a flower at the top. Charms on the dangling-style key chain include a cross, flower, shamrock, and a heart that hangs from a short silver chain. The letter-style key chain is a silver metal letter in the English alphabet.

The words "KeyChain" and "Dollar General \$1.25" are printed on the front of the packaging for each style.

Sold at: Dollar General stores nationwide from December 2005 through January 2007 for \$1.25.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take these key chains away from young children and return them to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement product.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Dollar General Corp. at (800) 678-9258 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.dollargeneral.com

To see this recall on CPSC's web site, including pictures of the recalled product, please go to:
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07145.html>

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814
Toll-free hotline: (800) 638-2772

MAGNET ALERT

Back in November 2006, we alerted NSN members to the very serious hazard of children swallowing small, powerful magnets that have separated from toys. If a child swallows more than one tiny magnet or one magnet and a metallic object, the objects can attract to each other inside the intestines. This can cause perforations and/or blockages, which can be fatal if not treated immediately. We have created a special, downloadable Safety Alert for parents and health care workers listing the warning signs to look for and actions to take, if a child swallows magnets: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/magnet.pdf



CPSC also is issuing a warning that nearly 8 million Magnetix magnetic building sets are being recalled (3.8 million were recalled in March 2006 and another four million are being recalled this month). To date, CPSC and the maker of Magnetix are aware of one death, one aspiration and 27 intestinal injuries. Emergency surgical intervention was needed in all but one case. At least 1,500 incidents of magnets separating from the building pieces have been reported. Although the hazard was initially thought to be a problem primarily for children younger than 6, it has since been learned that at least 10 injuries involved children between the ages of 6 and 11 years old. For more information about this recall, please log on to: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07164.html

For general safety information about this critically important issue, log on to: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml07/07163.html

School Breakfast: From Cafeteria to the Classroom and Beyond

A World of School Breakfasts: National School Breakfast Week

School breakfast, traditionally served in the cafeteria, has expanded to the classroom and even to the hallways as schools strive to give students a nutritious start to the day. With more than 9.6 million children participating in the School Breakfast Program every day, the most important meal of the day is increasingly being offered in schools. National School Breakfast Week emphasizes the connection between eating breakfast and improved academic performance. Through the theme “A World of School Breakfasts”, school communities nationwide will highlight what school children around the globe eat.

Today, school breakfast includes whole grains and fruits while meeting federal nutrition guidelines based on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. School breakfasts are required to provide 25 percent of the Recommended Daily Allowances for protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A, vitamin C and calories. The School Nutrition Association (SNA) 2006 Back to School Trend Survey found that 61% of school districts surveyed made significant efforts to offer healthy school breakfasts in the past two years, with an additional 28 percent making an effort to offer healthy breakfast choices.

Five Keys to New Teacher Success

Given the challenge it is to recruit qualified teachers, it pays to invest considerable effort in retaining the good teachers that you do find. Here are five tips for supporting new teachers in the early days from Lynn Howard from her book *Ready for Anything* (New York: Advanced Learning Press, 2006), which, though written about public school teachers, have applicability in early childhood settings:

- 1.** Never let them feel isolated. New teachers want to know that they are not alone as they struggle to learn to manage and organize a classroom. Take time to share refreshments, have discussions, trade your stories of success, and build excitement and energy at every opportunity;
- 2.** Be visible - every day. Many new teachers say that visibility and personal interaction with the principal is the number one factor that would make the difference in their decision to stay or leave a particular school. Visiting classrooms regularly, promoting success, and allowing time for discussion and questions are powerful motivators for beginning teachers;
- 3.** Provide the skills and knowledge needed for their success. All new teachers want help with classroom management, building relationships, strategic planning with lesson design, observations and evaluations and testing. Provide new teachers with step-by-step strategies and activities that build confidence and competence;
- 4.** Allow time for growth and reflection. Knowing what works and what does not allows new teachers to identify areas of growth and strength while determining specific areas that need improvement; and
- 5.** Celebrate! Learning to teach is a long process and celebrating small, incremental steps is one way to recognize growth and achievement. Write positive notes, provide special treats or just say "Thank You" for coming to school. The rewards in teaching are often intrinsic and we must recognize the

Sun Safety



Children can sunburn very quickly. This is painful and can make them very sick.

Put sunblock lotion on all uncovered skin. Use sunblock lotion labeled SPF 15 or higher.

Hats and sunglasses are great!

Let children play indoors or in the shade during the hottest part of the day. Make sure they drink plenty of water and juice.

Seat belt buckles and child car seats get very hot when the car is parked in the sun. It can burn your child.



A Resource of Healthy Childcare Magazine

(23-B)

Copy Hip On Health courtesy of Healthy Childcare. For information on the full 65 topic set, call 877-258-6178.



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<http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/adventuresinlearningcurriculum.htm>

