



THE ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER



Arkansas Department of
Health and Human Services

November-December 2007 Issue



**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 day care centers and day care family homes. An Inspector from the Boiler Inspection Division may visit your home or center during the next few months 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 Arkansas Department of Labor, Gary Myrick at 501-682-4512 for clarification.

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

If Not Cold Medicine, Then What?

A petition before the Food and Drug Administration could change the way parents are advised to use cold and cough medicines. The nation's leading group of pediatricians said that cough medicines should not be given to children because there is a lack of evidence demonstrating their safety and effectiveness.



Here are their recommendations for simple steps that may help, and surely won't hurt, a sick child:

- Always encourage a child by telling him or her that colds are usually short-lived, and that they will feel better in a few days.
- Products containing acetaminophen, such as Tylenol; or products containing ibuprofen, such as Motrin or Advil, can make a sick child more comfortable, when given in the proper dose.
- Saline nose drops or warm steam from a shower can help ease congestion. Of decongestants and cough medicines on the market, Benjamin says, "There is not anything out there that is effective."
- Ensure the child drinks plenty of fluids.
- If the child is not getting better or is getting worse, reevaluate his or her condition.
- Both doctors emphasize the importance of reassuring the child by providing affection, comfort, and understanding. Benjamin says, "In our household we use a lot of tender loving care."

**THE ARKANSAS
EARLY CHILDHOOD LETTER**



**The Arkansas Early Childhood
Commission**

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Tonya Russell, Director
Debbie Malone, Chairman**

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Laura Sparks
Suellen Ward

PO BOX 1437, SLOT S140
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203-4608
(501) 682-9699
Fax(501) 682-4897
www.arkansas.gov/childcare

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



Obesity Prevention at the Center

<http://childcareexchange.com/>

Early childhood researchers and teachers should rejoice that **The Future of Children** journal, established years ago by The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, continues under the capable aegis of Princeton University and The Brookings Institution. Issues of this publication can be downloaded for free at www.futureofchildren.org.

A recent issue addresses child obesity and devotes a chapter to obesity prevention in child care centers. This chapter discusses, among other strategies, the importance of reducing consumption of sweetened beverages, including juice...

"Several studies indicate that sweetened beverages may contribute to the increased prevalence of obesity among preschool children. One analysis of National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data found a positive link between the consumption of carbonated soft drinks and overweight in all age groups, including two- to five-year-olds... A cross-sectional study in 1997 found that two- to five-year-old children who drank twelve or more ounces of fruit juice a day were more likely (32 percent as against 9 percent) to be obese than those who drank less juice. Not all studies have found a link between juice consumption and overweight, but the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children aged one to six drink no more than four to six ounces of fruit juice a day. Fruit juice and fruit drinks are easily over consumed by toddlers and young children because they taste good. They are also conveniently packaged and can be carried around during the day. Because juice is viewed as nutritious, child care providers or parents may not set limits. Like soda, however, it can contribute to obesity. Whole fruit should be encouraged as an alternative because of the fiber benefit and because whole fruit takes longer to eat."

!NOTICE!



!NOTICE!

Due to budgetary constraints, as of October 1, 2007, CDA Scholarships will be limited to 2 employees per facility per grant year. (July – June). Thank you for your understanding.

Arkansas Early Childhood Mentor Endorsement DIRECT



Mentor Endorsement
Learn • Grow • Lead

The Mentor Endorsement has been revised to meet your professional development needs! Read on to find out if the Mentor Endorsement is the next step on your career ladder.

To earn the Mentor Endorsement, you will complete the two courses listed below. CEU credit (4.5 CEUs) is available after both courses have been completed.

Essentials of Mentoring (24 clock hours) (In process)

This course prepares directors, trainers, consultants, and lead teachers to serve as mentors. Topics include adult development, skills for effective mentoring, and building the mentoring relationship.

Essentials of Leadership in Early Childhood Education (21 clock hours)

Begins January 19, 2008, and concludes March 15, 2008.

Participants will attend a seminar on Saturday, January 19, in Little Rock and then complete online assignments. Topics include foundations of early childhood education, principles of child development, child-centered practices, code of professional ethics, leadership styles and challenges, and advocacy.

To enroll in either of these classes, you must have a minimum of a CDA (or equivalent training), and a minimum of 2 years experience working directly with children in an early childhood setting.

For enrollment information, contact Diana Courson, dianacourson@sbcglobal.net

SAVE THESE DATES!

JULY 31 & AUG 1, 2008

SPECIAL NEEDS IN THE EARLY YEARS

**Special Needs
in the Early
Years Conference.**

Peabody Hotel and
Conference Center
in Little Rock

Sponsored by
KIDS FIRST
UAMS/COM
Dept. of Pediatrics

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Sibyl Cox, MS, RD, LD, CLC Treating Feeding Aversion	Travis Thompson, PhD Autism	Nancy Krebs, MD, FAAP New AMA Obesity Guidelines	Pat Levitt, PhD Early Brain Development
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www.kids-first.cc www.healthierchildren.org

Congratulations to this Year's ACPAC Recipients!

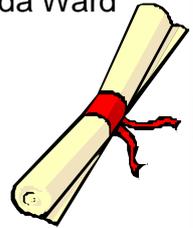
Congratulations to the directors listed below who completed the Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Certificate and Credential in 2007. Knowledgeable and skilled leaders are the key to high quality programs for young children.

2007 Certificate Recipients

Danielle Autry
Tammy Beckham
Sara Hammontree-Boelkens
Johnnie Bridges
Kristy Brown
Toni Burton
Angela Caldarera
Judi Didway
Bobby Dixon
Demetrius Dixon

Georgetta Dollarhide
Helayne Burke-Donohue
Nickie Hammontree
Deborah Harris
Rhonda Hayman
Addie Higgenbotham
Kaye Hoover
Bobetta Jackson
LaTonja Aldridge-Land
Lisa Mardis

Arrena Porter
Jamie Randle
Misti Scales
Beth Smith
Gwendolyn Smith
Melissa Smith
Charity Tovey
Elvada Ward



2007 Credential Recipients

Michelle Stephens Laura Whitmore

The Arkansas Children's Program Administrators Certificate (ACPAC) provides increased professional recognition and growth for both new and experienced administrators. ACPAC is a program designed to assist administrators in increasing their knowledge and competency in areas related to financial, personnel, and program management. For more information contact Geania Dickey at 501-407-0720 or geaniadickey@aol.com

ACPAC Seminar Schedule

November 30 & Dec 1, 2007

March 7 & 8, 2008

April 25 & 26, 2008

October 10 & 11, 2008

December 5 & 6, 2008

Administration

Progression

Coordination

Administration

Progression

Attendance of Director's Orientation (Session A, B, & C) is a prerequisite for attending the ACPAC seminars.

Interagency Coordinating Council Meeting

The Interagency Coordinating Council meeting for Baxter, Independence, Izard, Fulton, Sharp, and Stone Co. will be held on December 6, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The location of the meeting will be at the Southside Early Childhood Center. The meeting room is located to the back of the bus barn (70 Scott Drive, Batesville, AR.)

The goal of the Council is to jointly maximize the services for children birth to age 5, in order that these children will be able to grow to their full potential. This will be accomplished by establishing local cooperation, collaboration and partnerships under guidelines of the Arkansas Department of Human Services/Developmental Disabilities Services and their respective advisory councils. The local ICC will bring together representation from public and private agencies to include parents. The council makes every effort to assist parents and providers of services in identifying appropriate services for children who are at risk for delays or who have disabilities.

The guest speaker for this meeting will be Karen K. Howard, M.S.E. She is with the local education agency support system for the hearing impaired out of the Arkansas School for the Deaf. She will be bringing with her an audiologist from the school for any other additional questions you may have.

This is a very important meeting and we hope to see you there. At the last meeting it was decided that everyone bring one dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie and the recipe to share. Please bring your own drink.

If you have any questions please call Pat Reeves, RN at 870-269-8062.





Influenza Resources for Child Care Providers and Out-of-Home Caregivers

Influenza Guidance

For the recommended childhood immunization schedule and information on the flu vaccine, go to <http://www.aap.org> and <http://www.cispimmunize.org>. See <http://www.cdc.gov/flu> for a variety of relevant resources. Check with <http://www.cispimmunize.org/pro/influenzaguidance.html> for any updates on supply or distribution delays.

Patient Screening form – Do I need any vaccinations today?

Adults need shots, too! It is important that adults at highest risk of serious illness or death from the flu, those in close contact with children, or others in high-risk populations get a flu shot. Review this form to determine if you should get a flu shot: www.immunize.org/catg.d/4036need.pdf.

Child Care Materials

Child care providers can take steps to prevent the spread of infectious diseases like the flu. The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) offers the latest resources in child care to out-of-home child care providers and parents. Available at: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu>

The site also offers an online version of *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care, 2nd Edition*, which provides specific guidelines and recommendations regarding promoting immunization and preventing the spread of disease. Available at: <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/CFOC/index.html>

Healthy Kids, Healthy Care: This Web site is a parent-friendly tool on health and safety issues in child care, created by the NRC based on *Caring for Our Children*. Website: www.healthykids.us. A print version is also available from the National Resource Center and the AAP.

Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide, presents information on preventing, identifying, and responding to infectious disease in child care and schools. To order, visit www.healthychildcare.org

School Materials and Posters

Educators, staff, and parents can help slow the spread of colds and flu. The CDC offers information on preventing the flu, as well as, materials and tools for schools available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/school

For direct questions regarding the flu, or flu vaccine, ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information. Additional resources include calling your local or state health department or contacting the CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit: www.dcd.gov/flu

For additional immunization information visit these AAP Web sites:

Childhood Immunization Support Program
www.cispimmunize.org

Early Education and Child Care Initiatives
www.healthychildcare.org

Payless ShoeSource Inc.



Name of Product: Girls' Boots

Hazard: The guitar-shaped zipper pulls on each boot can interlock while a child is walking, causing the child to trip and fall.

Sold at: Payless ShoeSource stores nationwide and Payless.com from August 2007 through September 2007 for about \$27.

The Gymboree Corp.



Name of Product: Toy Pirate Swords

Hazard: The swords can break, creating a sharp point, which poses a laceration hazard to consumers.

Sold at: Gymboree stores nationwide and its Web site from August 2007 through September 2007 for between \$12 and \$15.

Dunkin' Donuts



Name of Product: Pink and Orange Glow Sticks (free giveaway with donuts)

Hazard: The recalled glow sticks are not properly labeled to warn consumers that the cap and lanyard can detach, posing a choking hazard. Additionally, the lanyard poses a strangulation hazard to young children.

Sold at: Dunkin' Donuts stores nationwide from September 2007 through October 2007. They were a free giveaway with the purchase of donuts.

Guidecraft Inc.



Name of Product: Tabletop Puppet Theaters

Hazard: Surface paints on the puppet theater's wooden panels contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.

Sold at: Specialty toy stores, gift shops, catalogs and Web sites nationwide from June 2006 through August 2007 for about \$35.

Antioch Publishing



Name of Product: Cool Clip and Mini Cool Clip Bookmarks

Hazard: Paint on the clip of the bookmarks contains excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal lead paint standard

Sold at: Book, card and gift stores nationwide from April 2003 through October 2007 for about \$4.

Albert's



Name of Product: Skull Pails Filled With Halloween Candy Mix

Hazard: The surface paint on the eyes, nose, and teeth of the skull contains excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.

Sold at: Retail stores nationwide from September 2007 through October 2007 for \$2.

For more information contact the Office of the Attorney General

323 Center Street, Suite 200

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

1-800-482-8982

<http://www.childproductsafety.com>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/>

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Come join us at the 2008 Welcome the Children – Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference!

Planning sponsors include the Welcome the Children Project - Partners for Inclusive Communities (a program of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences – UAMS), the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services – the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education as well as the Division of Volunteerism; the AR Head Start State Collaboration Office, the University of AR at Little Rock and UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start.

Who should attend? Child care providers, early educators and other professionals who work with young children and families from diverse cultures or who want to learn more about working with diverse families. This conference will help you to:

- Explore your own culture by looking at history and culture
- Promote positive cultural relations
- Understand the impact of socioeconomic factors
- Understand the differences between race / ethnicity and culture
- Network with other professionals and experts on cultural issues

This professional development opportunity will allow you to network with experts on various issues affecting the children that you serve. Conference planners are seeking speakers on Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, White Ethnic, and American Indian/Native American cultures as well as issues of Disability Diversity, Migrant families, Homelessness and Poverty.

The Call for Presenters and Call for Exhibitors have gone out to assure a variety of topics will be covered. If you are interested in presenting or exhibiting, please download the appropriate forms on our website or call the numbers listed below for additional information. Please check our website at www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren frequently for updated conference information and a list of workshop topics, speakers and exhibitors. Or, you may call UAMS Partners for Inclusive Communities and ask for a Welcome the Children staff member at 501-682-9900; 501-682-9902 (TDD); 800-342-2923 (V/TDD) to have conference information faxed or mailed to you.

Low cost professional training!

**Training hours verified through the AR Early Childhood Professional Development System Registry!
Contact hours and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) available!**

Conference Hotel: Please make your hotel reservations directly with the Wyndham Riverfront Little Rock Hotel at 501-371-9000. Please mention the *Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference* when making your reservations to be eligible for the **\$84 per night conference rate** (single or double occupancy). This special rate expires on April 8, 2008, so register early. The hotel is located at #2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR. 72114. Call the hotel directly or check out their website for directions and amenities <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/LITNO/main.wnt>.

Check, money order or purchase order must accompany registration. **Payment should be made to "UAMS Welcome the Children Conference."** We apologize for any inconvenience, but we are unable to accept cash or credit cards.

To Register, please go to our website at:

<http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/>

Two CDA Instructors Reflect on the Academy

In early June, approximately 120 people attended the fourth annual Arkansas CDA Professional Academy. Many in attendance were CDA Instructors and Advisors; most seasoned and experienced and some new to the CDA experience. Here are reflections from two Instructors from each category – one experienced and one new.

Meet *Mindy Shaw*, Early Childhood Development Instructor at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. Mindy truly meets the criteria of an experienced CDA Instructor and Advisor. Eleven years ago Mindy started the CDA program at her institution and has been involved in it ever since.

The program at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville offers a Certificate of Proficiency when students complete the CDA block which is three courses. Students can also receive a one-year Technical Certificate or a two-year Associate of Applied Science which includes thirty-two hours of early childhood classes.

To quote Mindy Shaw, “The CDA Academy is getting better each year.” This year she especially enjoyed the round table sessions and said she received great information from Deborah Jordan, Deputy Director, Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition.

Mindy Shaw feels that it is very important for Instructors to understand that you have to maintain current knowledge of CDA so that you can better serve the student. “Information changes, so we need to keep updated.”

Congratulations to Mindy Show who received the 2007 Arkansas Early Childhood Professional of the year designation.

For *Karen Latch* from Heber Springs, the CDA Academy experience was a new one. As a kindergarten teacher at Heber Springs Elementary School and an early childhood instructor at ASU Beebe – Heber Springs, Karen is knowledgeable about early childhood education. But at the CDA Academy, Karen said she felt like “a fish out of water.” For example, there was the CDA terminology and the CDA process that was all new to her.

Karen Latch said that she came to the Academy looking for basic information about CDA. While she failed to get all of the information she was seeking, she did make contact with people who can answer her questions about CDA. She said she met wonderful people who were willing to share information with her and that the networking was wonderful.

Karen is looking forward to her first CDA class at ASU Beebe – Heber Springs.

CDA Training Hours and Required Training Hours for Licensing

If you are enrolled in CDA and need 10 hours of training to comply with licensing requirements, you may get documentation written on your institution’s letterhead and signed by the instructor stating that you are enrolled in CDA. This is the documentation you will show your licensing specialist to prove that you are getting your required ten hours of training.

THESE HOURS WILL NOT BE REFLECTED IN THE AECPPS REGISTRY BECAUSE THESE HOURS ARE NOT CONSIDERED REGISTERED TRAINING.

However, when you receive your CDA Credential from the Council, you are to send a copy to the AECPPS Registry Office and at that time consideration will be given to moving you to the next level on the SPECTRUM.

At this time the Registry does not need a standardized form to document these hours because they do not go into the registry. Again, these hours are for licensing purposes only.



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Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Debbie Mays, Family Child Care Provider from Siloam Springs and a newly appointed Early Childhood Commissioner! Debbie received the Maggie Reynold/Deltha Sharp Scholarship from the Early Childhood Association to attend the SECA Conference in Northern Kentucky in April of 2008.

Congratulations to Geania Dickey of ASU/Childhood Services, for being named AR Early Childhood Association Outstanding Member of 2007!

If you wish to congratulate them, you may email them at:

debbiehardy66@hotmail.com

Geaniadickey@aol.com