

March - April 2008

# ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



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



## In this edition:

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- Free Dental!
- Earned Income Tax Credit
- AT&T Scholarship and Professional Accreditation Program
- CPSC Information
- WTC Conference Info

Join with others  
across the state  
and wear your ACW  
shirt with pride!  
April 15, 2008



THE ARKANSAS EARLY  
CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



The Arkansas Early Childhood  
Commission

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Debbie Malone, Chairman

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Debbie Mays

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[www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare)

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



Arkansas Early Childhood Commissioners COMING AND GOING! Pictured above from left to right are Hallie Sanford, Karen Massey, Tonya Russell, and Karen Marshall. Hallie, Karen and Karen have served the Commission well and were honored at the AECC meeting in January. Also at the January meeting, we welcomed three new Commissioners. Pictured are Evelyn Bass, Missy Duke and Eleanor Coleman. These dedicated persons are appointed by the Governor for three year terms.

# FREE DENTAL SERVICES



Statehouse Convention Center

Next door to the Peabody Hotel in downtown Little Rock

## May 2-3, 2008

No Eligibility or Income Requirements

**No Appointments - First Come, First Served  
Children and Adults**

Services Include:

Fillings  
Extractions

**Doors Open  
at 7 AM**

**CLEANINGS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**

Paid parking is available in the River Market parking deck at 500 East 2nd Street and the Robinson Center Parking deck beneath the Doubletree Hotel. Other parking may be available in the River Market area. Patients can ride the trolley from the River Market area for a small fee.

# Grant Writing for Child Care Facilities

2008 Spring/Summer Training Schedule

## Staff of White River Planning and Development District (WRPDD) and CHILDREN of North Central Arkansas

**Module 1—Beginning:** Writing successful Grant Requests and Basic Grant Writing Tips (includes the Enhancement Grant and other Division Grants). Module 1 is appropriate for Family Child Care providers and any Center staff member who may be involved in grant writing.

**Modules 2 & 3—Intermediate and Advanced Grant Writing:** These sessions (combined) will include ABC proposals, other State Grant Options, Foundations that Fund Various Child Care Program Needs (such as equipment, learning environments and subsidizing slots), and Federal Grant Applications. Modules 2 & 3 are appropriate for any child care facility staff member who may be interested in advanced grant writing techniques.

To register for one or more of these workshops, call WRPDD or CHILDREN of North Central Arkansas staff at 800-737-2237 or 870-793-5233. Seating is limited in some locations: please call early to register as workshops will be offered on a first-come-first-served basis.

City	Location	Date	Time
Harrison Module 1	First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall 1100 W. Bower Harrison	Monday March 10, 2008	6:00—8:00 p m.
Harrison Modules 2 & 3		Tuesday March 11, 2008	8:30 a m.—1:00 p.m.
Bryant Module 1	1st Pentecostal Church Fellowship Hall 4212 Hwy 5 N Bryant	Monday March 17, 2008	6:00—8:00 p m.
Bryant Modules 2 & 3		Tuesday March 18, 2008	8:30 a m.—1:00 p.m.
Ft. Smith Module 1	Central Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 2901 Rogers Ft. Smith	Tuesday April 22, 2008	6:00—8:00 p m.
Ft. Smith Modules 2 & 3		Wednesday April 23, 2008	8:30 a m.—1:00 p.m.
Hot Springs Module 1	First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 2350 Central Ave. Hot Springs	Tuesday May 13, 2008	6:00—8:00 p m.
Hot Springs Modules 2 & 3		Wednesday May 14, 2008	8:30 a m.—1:00 p.m.
Hope Module 1	Bank Corp South Community Room 200 South Elm Hope	Monday May 19, 2008	6:00—8:00 p m.
Hope Modules 2 & 3		Tuesday May 20, 2008	8:30 a m.—1:00 p.m.
West Helena Module 1	Phillips Co. Community College Hendrix Gallery— Fine Arts Center 100 Campus Dr. West Helena	Monday June 16, 2008	6:00—8:00 p.m.
West Helena Modules 2 & 3		Tuesday June 17, 2008	8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Pine Bluff Module 1	SE Arkansas Economic Development District The Meeting Room 721 S. Walnut Pine Bluff	Monday June 23, 2008	6:00—8:00 p.m.
Pine Bluff Modules 2 & 3		Tuesday June 24, 2008	8:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

# QRS

Have you heard about it yet?

QRS stands for quality rating system. This new system will replace the current Arkansas Quality Approval accreditation beginning July 1, 2009. The proposed system consists of three levels. Each level outlines indicators that recognize a program's accomplishments and the quality of services to children and families.

Want to know more? Plan to attend one of the information meetings that will be scheduled around the state. All licensed/registered child care facilities will receive details of these meetings in the coming weeks.

## Spring 2008 Information Meetings:

April 10	Batesville, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
April 17	Pine Bluff, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
April 21	Camden, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
April 22	Harrison, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
April 24	Little Rock, 6:00-8:00 p.m.
May 1	West Helena, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
May 2	Hot Springs, 12:00-2:00 p.m.
May 6	Crossett, 5:00-7:00 p.m.



## Look for QRS information sessions at upcoming conferences:

April 12	NWA Spring Provider Conference, Springdale
April 19	Fort Smith Provider Conference, Fort Smith
May 3	ASU Childhood Services Super Saturday Conference, Little Rock
July 28	WEE Workshop, Fort Smith
July 31	WEE Workshop, Little Rock
Aug. 4-6	ASU Early Childhood Conference, Jonesboro

A tool kit will be available to assist programs as they seek to reach higher levels of quality. Instructions and resources in the tool kit will offer guidance and suggestions for each indicator in the QRS.

The QRS has been in development for more than two years. Much of the QRS has been designed by a work group that is part of the Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Initiative. During the process more than 150 stakeholders provided input. The Arkansas QRS will include indicators for centers, for family child care, and for school-age programs.

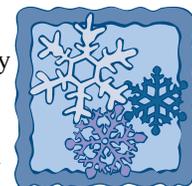
Summer and fall information meetings will be scheduled in the cities listed below. Dates and times will be announced soon.

Arkadelphia	Forrest City	Osceola
Benton	Jonesboro	Paragould
Bentonville	Lake Village	Russellville
Conway	Little Rock	Searcy
El Dorado	Lonoke	Texarkana
Fayetteville	Mountain Home	Van Buren
Fort Smith	Nashville	West Memphis

For more information, contact Diana Courson, [dianacourson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dianacourson@sbcglobal.net), or Geania Dickey, [geaniadickey@aol.com](mailto:geaniadickey@aol.com).

# Compliance Billing Tips

**Inclement weather:** If the facility is forced to close due to inclement weather. DHS inclement weather policy allows providers to bill for those operational days lost due to severe weather conditions; however, the policy may only be applied when public schools in the provider's area have been forced to close or whenever other extraordinary weather related conditions exist. "Extraordinary weather related conditions" exist whenever it can be demonstrated that clients were unable to reach the premises or the provider could not open due to circumstances beyond the control of the provider. This does not mean that a provider must close when local schools close.



**Spring break:** Spring break voucher assistance is available to eligible clients where the case head is a full time student who would in the past not have received assistance for this break in classes. DHS will now key child care for spring break for full time students for no more than five (5) days. Bill regular attendance for those children for which care is provided, however, provider's must bill absentee days (not to exceed 7 per month) when care is not provided.

**REMINDER!** Reimbursement is only authorized when the facility is open; billing is not authorized when the daycare is closed for spring break.

**Drop Periods:** The provider agrees to notify the DHS authorized representative by telephone when a child withdraws from the Child Care Voucher Program. Notice, in the form of fax, telephone or electronic mail shall be provided not later than the next working day after the child withdraws. The provider agrees that DHS does not provide pre-notification of withdrawal from the child care voucher program. The facility shall de-enroll a child immediately upon notice of withdrawal from the client or DHS representative and the provider understands and agrees that DHS or clients are not responsible for a drop period, regardless of the provider's policy concerning a drop notice. ABSENTEE billing to cover a drop period is a violation of your Child Care System Participant Agreement.

Please contact Michael Saxby at 501-682-8584, Ray Anthony Jones at 501-683-2611 or Sharron Brooks at 683-3760, with any questions or concerns.

## Northwest Arkansas Family Child Care Providers Collaborate on Adventures in Learning Curriculum

In August 2007, fourteen family child care providers collaborated to organize the curriculum, **Adventures in Learning**, into their daily program. The curriculum is available from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education either on their website ([www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare)) or in hard copy. The idea behind the collaboration was to have the curriculum incorporated into an easier "ready to use" format and to collaborate on ideas for resources.

The providers combined their talents to add a personal touch to the curriculum and to enhance the child's learning experience in the classroom. Each provider volunteered to be responsible for a particular area which includes: math, science, transitions, parent letters, music, file folder games, cooking, crafts, art (including 3-D art) and magnetic / felt board storytelling patterns. Many of the storytelling figures are available from the Story a Month project which is also available on the Division's website. ([www.arkansas.gov/childcare](http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare))

Here is an example of how the collaborative effort works. The provider responsible for the area of magnetic stories colored the storytelling figures by using a computer paint program and distributed a CD containing all of the colored figures. This enabled all of the other providers to print out a colored copy of the story, cut it out and laminate it.

The providers also use the NWA Family Home web site [www.nwafamilychildcare.com](http://www.nwafamilychildcare.com) to further discuss ideas as they come up. Providers work together on each topic of study and share their insights into what might be an easier way to complete a task in the curriculum or various materials to use and resources that are available. Alternative books are also reviewed over the web and the daily / weekly contact allows great support for the providers who are collaborating.

The providers appreciate the NWA Resource and Referral for opening their doors for their collaboration meetings and for the free access to copiers. The collaboration meetings resulted in exchanging curriculum materials for September through December. The providers will meet again in January to exchange their materials for January through March and then meet again in March to exchange materials for April and May.

A session at the Fall Training Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Family Child Care Association featured the providers who collaborated on the curriculum and gave them an opportunity to share the **Adventures in Learning** curriculum and what they did to enhance it in their own classroom. The collaborative group encouraged the approximately forty providers who came to the session to request the curriculum from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education and possibly form their own collaboration group.

The providers who collaborated want to also recognize and thank the developers of Adventures in Learning for the hard work and thoroughness they achieved with the curriculum.

Laura Lantz  
North West AR Family Child Care Association



# Child Care

## SAFETY CHECKLIST FOR PARENTS AND CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

### CRIBS

Make sure cribs meet current national safety standards and are in good condition. Look for a certification safety seal. Older cribs may not meet current standards. Crib slats should be no more than 2 3/8" apart, and mattresses should fit snugly.

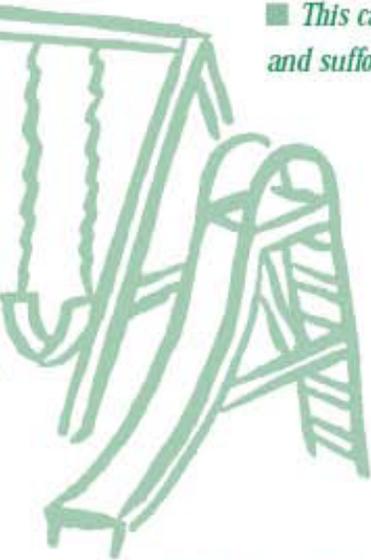
■ *This can prevent strangulation and suffocation associated with older cribs and mattresses that are too small.*



### SOFT BEDDING

Be sure that no pillows, soft bedding, or comforters are used when you put babies to sleep. Babies should be put to sleep on their backs in a crib with a firm, flat mattress.

■ *This can help reduce Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and suffocation related to soft bedding.*



### PLAYGROUND SURFACING

Look for safe surfacing on outdoor playgrounds – at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

■ *This helps protect against injuries from falls, especially head injuries.*

### PLAYGROUND MAINTENANCE

Check playground surfacing and equipment regularly to make sure they are maintained in good condition.

■ *This can help prevent injuries, especially from falls.*

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about children's safety and recalls of children's toys and products, contact:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Washington, DC 20207

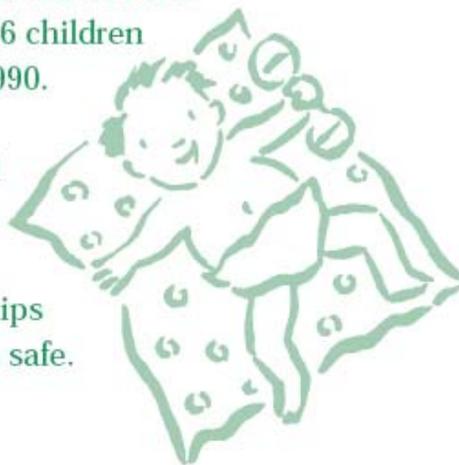


Toll-free hotline: 1-800-638-2772  
Website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

# BE SURE YOUR CHILDCARE SETTING IS AS SAFE AS IT CAN BE

About 31,000 children, 4 years old and younger, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries at child care/school settings in 1997. CPSC is aware of at least 56 children who have died in child care settings since 1990.

In a recent national study, CPSC staff visited a number of child care settings and found that two-thirds of them had one or more potentially serious hazards. Use the safety tips in this checklist to help keep young children safe.



## SAFETY GATES

Be sure that safety gates are used to keep children away from potentially dangerous areas, especially stairs.

■ *Safety gates can protect against many hazards, especially falls.*

## WINDOW BLIND AND CURTAIN CORDS

Be sure miniblinds and venetian blinds do not have looped cords. Check that vertical blinds, continuous looped blinds, and drapery cords have tension or tie-down devices to hold cords tight. Check that inner cord stops have been installed.

*These safety devices can prevent strangulation in loops of window blind & curtain cords. See [windowcoverings.org](http://windowcoverings.org) for more safety info.*



## CLOTHING DRAWSTRINGS

Be sure there are no drawstrings around the hood and neck of children's outerwear clothing. Other types of clothing fasteners, like snaps, zippers, or hook and loop fasteners (such as Velcro), should be used.

■ *Drawstrings can catch on playground and other equipment and can strangle young children.*

## RECALLED PRODUCTS

Check that no recalled products are being used and that a current list of recalled children's products is readily visible.

■ *Recalled products pose a threat of injury or death. Displaying a list of recalled products will remind caretakers and parents to remove or repair potentially dangerous children's toys and products.*



## the Parenting Journey



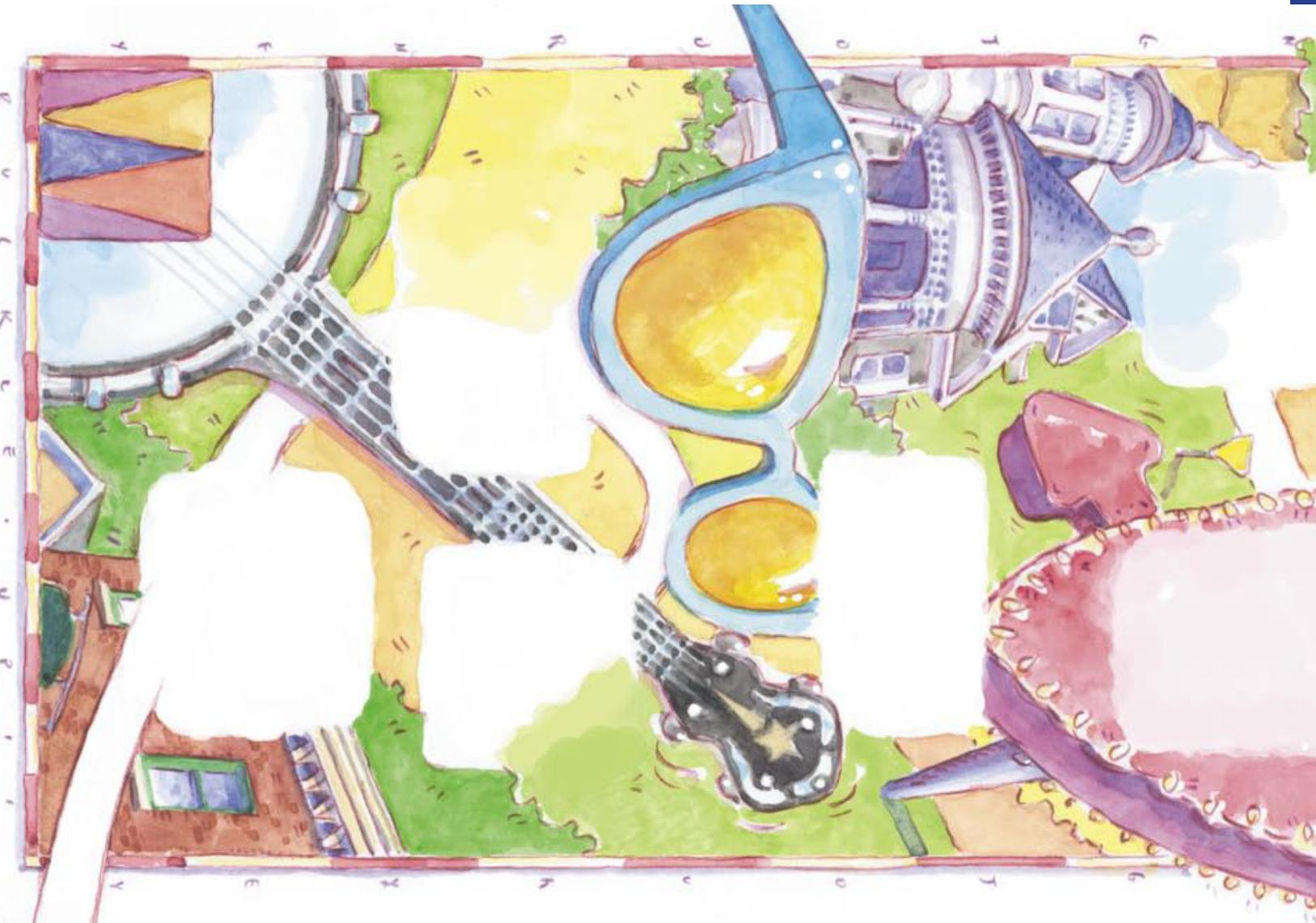
# Need Some Help for

When you are looking for information on early childhood, parenting, and family relationships, you might not think of Cooperative Extension Service right away. That may soon change.

“It is our job to deliver to the people of Arkansas the very best research-based information on development and relationships,” according to Dr. Wally Goddard, Professor of Family Life with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service. “We have programs on child care, parenting, marriage, and personal well-being.”

One of the most popular Extension family programs is The Parenting Journey. The centerpiece of this program is a large format, full color, illustrated “map” that summarizes the key elements of parenting in only 1,000 words. The 19 tips for parents included in the map are organized into six “communities” based on the National Extension Parent Education Model. The journey takes early childhood professionals and parents through the communities of Wellness, Loveland, Insight, Character Heights, Discovery Point and Reunion Springs.

For each of the six essential areas of parenting there is a Travel Guide, which is really a miniature workbook, to help each user figure out how to be more effective in that area of parenting or childcare. The Travel Guides are accompanied by colorful stickers that help the users mark their progress along the journey.



# Your Work with Children?

The Parenting Journey materials are the center of a network of extraordinary resources that includes the Marriage Garden, The Personal Journey, and a new program on dealing with children’s developmental challenges. The new program will be available summer 2008.

“All these resources provide practical guides for both parents and providers,” according to Dr. James Marshall, assistant professor with the Extension Service. “One of the advantages of Extension programs is that most materials are free to citizens of the state.”

There is another advantage. An early childhood professional can get eight hours of verified professional development through the Registry by studying the Parenting Journey materials and completing simple learning checks. “The system is simple,” according to Lindsey Smith who coordinates the program. “All materials can be picked up at the county Extension office.” Every county in Arkansas has an office that can be located in the county phone listings or by going to [www.uaex.edu](http://www.uaex.edu).

A trainer who has studied the Parenting Journey materials can also get publications to give to parents who are likely to appreciate the help with their parenting challenges. In fact, each center can create their own collection of Parenting Journey resources to give to parents free of charge.

Any Arkansan can get The Parenting Journey and other family programs free by contacting their local county agent. Many additional Extension family resources can be found at [www.arfamilies.org](http://www.arfamilies.org).



Welcome to Wellness

**1. Be healthy.** When we take good care of ourselves, we can be better parents and set a good example for our children. We should try our best to eat well, get plenty of rest, and exercise regularly. We should also make time in our lives for things we love to do.

**3. Build strong relationships.** We are strengthened by our friends and family. In addition, when our children see us forming and nurturing healthy relationships with good people, it teaches them lessons about the importance of relationships.

Raising a child is an exciting journey. But like any journey, it presents many challenges. We get tired. We lose our direction. Yet there are things we can do to make the journey more successful.

**2. Keep learning and growing.** Continuing to learn and explore enriches our lives and shows our children the value of life-long learning. Let's be on the lookout for something new to learn.

Live in Loveland

**4. Show love effectively.** Loving is the most impor-

**5. Listen with your heart.** Listening is an important way to show love. Children like it when we listen to them and try to under-





## THE AWARD GOES TO...

The Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association has received the Marian B. Hamilton award, which is in the amount of \$250, is presented each year in a designated state to support a local affiliate or chapter in developing and implementing a project that will assist in meeting affiliate / chapter goals. The award will be presented at the SECA conference in March.

The Northwest Arkansas Early Childhood Association will purchase books for the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. The books will be placed in their Reading Railroad that will be opening soon. We will encourage our NWAECA board and membership to volunteer time to read and local providers can check out books for their classroom. The Botanical Garden of the Ozarks offers activities for the community and the child care providers teaching the children to stay connected with reading and planting, providing more hands on approach. If you live in North West Arkansas and want to volunteer call 479-751-3463.

## Promoting School Readiness in Family Child Care

Below are some tips for family child care providers to use in helping children be more ready for school.

- Make reading a part of each child's day. Have a selection of board and other children's books readily available for the children to read and look at.
- Do math, science or social studies activities several times during the week. Ask the librarian for books that include simple-to-do science, math and social studies activities. Display rocks, feathers, vegetables, and other natural materials of interest to young minds.
- Provide space and time for older children to do their homework. After a nutritious snack and some down time, school-agers can be encouraged to finish their homework. Provide table or desk space, good lighting, and a quiet area.
- Let parents know you are concerned about their child's preparation for school and that your program will help them prepare for this important step in their lives. Let parents know you are familiar with the state education standards. Also let them know that you are offering activities such as daily reading, to help their child achieve the standards.



Adapted from Exchange Every Day, 1/22/08

## Do you care for a family member of an AT&T employee?

Apply for an AT&T Accreditation Support Scholarship, and submit it online or via mail. If approved, you will be reimbursed for the expenses you incur in the process of accreditation upon presentation of your expense receipts. The accreditation process typically takes three years, and while AT&T hopes to support you through the duration, it is not guaranteed. At each stage of the process, where an expense is incurred, you must submit an application for support, requiring that you care for a family member of an AT&T employee. For more information visit: [www.youradvocate.com/AT&T/default.asp](http://www.youradvocate.com/AT&T/default.asp)

## Quality Accreditation Update

The Quality Accreditation program has started using the revised edition of the Family Child Care Rating Scale. It is called the Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised Edition by Harms, Cryer & Clifford.

Copies are available in the Resource Library for check-out or can be ordered through Teachers College Press.

For further information, please visit the Environment Rating Scales website: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~ecers>

# Welcome the Children Project

Second Language Development

Cultural Diversity | Second Language Development and Assessment in Early Childhood



## Register Now for the Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference! April 30 - May 2, 2008; Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, Arkansas

The **2008 Welcome the Children - Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference** is an annual conference on culture sponsored by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Partners for Inclusive Communities. Conference 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; the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, UAMS Head Start/Early Head Start, and the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office.

### Where is the conference being held?

The Welcome the Children - Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference is being held at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, which is located on the north bank of the Arkansas River, in the heart of downtown North Little Rock. Their convenient location puts you in the center of the action - just one mile from the downtown Little Rock business district, seven miles from Little Rock National Airport, across the river from the Clinton Presidential Library and the Stat house Convention Center, and just a few blocks from Alltel Arena. Check out their website for amenities and local attractions. <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/LITNO/main.wnt>

Please make your room reservations directly with the 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 and \$10 each additional person up to 4 people). This special rate **expires on April 8, 2008**, so register early.

The conference hotel is located at #2 Riverfront Place, North Little Rock, AR. 72114

### What does it cost to attend?

The majority of the conference cost is being supported by the Welcome the Children project to allow low registration fees for participants. Registration for the entire two and a half day conference ranges from \$60 for early registration to \$90 for late registration. Registration includes two meals and breaks.

### Who should attend?

This conference 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
- Higher Education Faculty and Students
- Community Based Organizations/Disability Service Providers
- Mental Health Professionals
- Social Workers
- Faith Based, private and public childhood programs
- Therapists (Speech, Occupational and Physical)
- Health Care Providers
- Representatives of national, state and local government

### What if I need more information?

Please contact a **Welcome the Children staff person**: Brenda Reynolds [reynoldsbrendak@uams.edu](mailto:reynoldsbrendak@uams.edu); Darlene Kurtz, [kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu](mailto:kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu); Sabrina Zarco, [zarcosabrinae@uams.edu](mailto:zarcosabrinae@uams.edu); or Tanya Miller [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu); 501-682-9900 (V); 1-800-342-2923 (V/TDD); 501-682-9902 (TDD).

### How do I register?

Download a registration form from [www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren). Each participant should complete a separate registration form. We accept checks, money orders and purchase orders. Checks and money orders should be made payable to: **UAMS Welcome the Children Conference**. If needed, our Federal Tax ID number is 1716046242. We apologize for any inconvenience, but we are unable to accept cash or credit cards.

#### **Mail Completed Registration Form and Payment To:**

Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference  
ATTN: Barbara Whitehead  
Partners for Inclusive Communities  
2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300  
North Little Rock, AR 72114

Note: If you prefer, you may register online at [www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren).

# Celebrating Over 100 Years of Montessori Education

Written by: Elvada Ward

On January 31st, Governor Mike Beebe signed a proclamation designating the week of February 24 through March 1 to be Montessori Education Week. While it has been over 100 years ago that the first Montessori school was opened in Rome, the method is still as innovative today as it was then.

Maria Montessori, the first female physician in Italy, approached education as a scientist, researching the works of Itard and Seguin, and based her approach on observation and experimentation. Her research, and the studies she inspired, helped change the course of education. She motivated those who studied under her (Anna Freud, Jean Piaget, Alfred Adler, Erik Erickson) to make their own contributions to education and child psychology). Today educators in Europe and North America have begun to recognize the consistency between the Montessori approach and what has been learned from research into child development. Over the last century Dr. Montessori has also had a profound and growing influence on education. She has been credited with open classrooms, individualized education, manipulative learning materials, learning centers, and child-sized furniture.

While the terminology may not be exactly the same, many of the current ideas and concepts used in Early Childhood classrooms today are also found in Montessori schools. The classrooms are commonly referred to as a “prepared environment”. This name reflects the care and attention that is given to creating a learning environment that will reinforce the children’s independence and intellectual development. The Montessori classroom is organized into several curriculum areas, usually Language (sandpaper letters, movable alphabet, pre-reading, early reading, creative writing, handwriting), Practical Life (daily living skills, grace and courtesy, care of self and environment), Sensorial (sensory awareness including sorting, sequencing, and size discrimination), Math (concrete manipulatives for numerals and quantities), Geography, History, Science, Art, Music and Movement. Each area is made up of shelf units, cabinets, and tables, with a wide variety of materials on display and ready for use as the children select them. The materials are designed to draw attention to the sensory properties of objects within

the environment: size, shape, color, texture, weight, smell, sound, etc. The Montessori materials are not the method itself. They are simply tools used to stimulate the child into logical thought and discovery. Each material isolates and teaches one concept or skill at a time. Children touch and manipulate everything in their environment. Children learn by doing and this requires movement and spontaneous investigation.

The children are typically scattered around the room, working with others or individually. They learn through hands on experience, investigation, and research. It may take a moment to spot the teachers within the environment. They

will normally be working with one or two children at a time, presenting new lessons, advising, or quietly observing the class at work. The teacher has had extensive training that has prepared him/her for the responsibility of planning and arranging a classroom learning environment that fosters a deep respect for the child, supports social, emotional, and intellectual development, encourages and honors self-directed learning, allows for recognition and addresses different learning styles, instills higher level thinking skills, and works consciously to teach children to be kind and peaceful. Most schools require their teachers to take Montessori

Training from a MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) approved course and then intern under an approved, certified teacher for one year before taking a class of their own.

Montessori education is not just the classroom, the materials, or the teacher. It is a philosophy that recognizes and respects each child as a unique individual. They are our promise and hope for the future. As in Early Childhood programs, there is tremendous diversity within the community of Montessori schools. Despite the impression that all Montessori schools are the same, they are not. Each school reflects its own blend of facilities, programs, personalities, and interpretation of Dr. Montessori’s vision. We encourage you to make arrangements to visit the local Montessori schools in your area and see a classroom in action. For more information, read “The Secret of Childhood”, “The Absorbent Mind”, “The Montessori Method”, or google both Maria Montessori and The Montessori Method on the web.





# YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD— GET THE CREDIT YOU DESERVE.

*Families in Arkansas:  
You could get up to thousands of  
dollars in tax credits.*

Whether or not you owe income tax, if you  
work and have children you could qualify for:



Up to **\$2,100** from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit  
and up to **\$420** from the Arkansas Child Care Tax Credit;



Up to **\$4,716** from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit; and



Up to **\$1,000** per child from the federal Child Tax Credit.

*To get these credits, you must file a tax return.*

Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free  
at (800) TAX-1040 or (800) 829-1040. Or go to [www.irs.gov/individuals/topic](http://www.irs.gov/individuals/topic).  
You can also contact the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration  
toll-free at (800) 882-9275.

# Arkansas Children's Week

## April 13-19, 2008

### I'm not just playing - I'm learning!

As children play, they are learning about the world. They are learning how to think, how to create, how to read and write, and how to live with others. Celebrate play and learning during Arkansas Children's Week (ACW), April 13-19!

**Register for one of the ACW workshops**, which will be conducted at 21 sites throughout the state. To register for a workshop in your area, call ASU Childhood Services, 888-429-1585, or register online at <http://professionalregistry.astate.edu>.

Ten regions in Arkansas are hosting **Family Play Day** events during April. These activities are designed to engage children and families in play activities and to provide information on local resources for families.

- Batesville, April 5, 9:00-1:00, Riverside Park
- Harrison, April 12, 10:00-12:00, Minnie Harris City Park
- Hope, April 16, 10:00-5:00, Experiment Station / Harvest Farm in Fulton
- Hot Springs, April 19, 10:00-2:00, First United Methodist Church Christian Life Center
- Little Rock, April 19, Arkansas Children's Hospital
- Magnolia, April 19, 2:00-4:00, First United Methodist Church
- Monticello, TBA, 10:00-1:00, City Park
- Paragould, April 5, Community Center
- Pine Bluff, TBA
- Springdale, TBA

Use the Planning Toolkit to conduct a Family Play Day within your program and to publicize Arkansas Children's Week in your community. The Toolkit includes ideas for hosting a Family Play Day, a sample press release, a mayor's proclamation, radio announcements, a t-shirt order form, and more to help you plan your celebration. Download the Planning Toolkit from <http://www.arkansas.gov/childcare/acw/acw.html>.

**Free ACW materials** are available upon request for use in your program and community. Use the order form on the back page.

Brochure for parents, "Join Me as I Play"  
Church Bulletin Insert  
ACW Bookmark, "I'm not just playing—I'm learning"

Celebrate Arkansas Children's Week by participating in a one-day workshop on "Teaching and Enhancing Learning Through Music & Movement" to be held in Little Rock on April 16th and April 17th, sponsored by the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office and Head Start Association.

Al Stewart, the Early Learning & Literacy Content Specialist with Region 6 Head Start Training & Technical Assistance Network, will be facilitating this interactive session which will allow teachers in Head Start, Pre-K and Child Care an opportunity to experience developmentally appropriate activities that may be used in the classroom for young children ages 3 – 5 years. A number of ideas and suggestions will be shared for introducing new concepts and enhancing learning objectives in the following developmental areas: language, literacy, mathematics, social/emotional, science and motor. Participants should wear comfortable clothes and shoes and be ready to take part in all of the activities shared during the session.

Class size is limited to 50 participants each day. For additional information, please contact the Arkansas Head Start State Collaboration Office at 866-371-0740 (toll-free) or email [ann@arheadstart.org](mailto:ann@arheadstart.org).

For more information, please call:  
1-800-445-3316 or 1-501-682-9699

**Arkansas Children's Week**  
**April 13 - 19, 2008**  
**LAST DAY TO ORDER IS MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>!**

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

T-Shirts for 2008 will be Red with a Royal Blue logo on front.

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

T-SHIRT	PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
<b>TODDLER SHIRT (6-12 mo, white)</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>		
<b>YOUTH X-SMALL (2-4)</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>		
<b>YOUTH SMALL (6-8)</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>		
<b>YOUTH MEDIUM (10-12)</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>		
<b>YOUTH LARGE (14-16)</b>	<b>\$3.25</b>		
<b>ADULT SMALL</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		
<b>ADULT MEDIUM</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		
<b>ADULT LARGE</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		
<b>ADULT X-LARGE</b>	<b>\$4.00</b>		
<b>ADULT 2X-LARGE</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>		
<b>ADULT 3X-LARGE</b>	<b>\$5.00</b>		
<b>BIB APRONS (ONE SIZE) – White</b>	<b>\$7.50</b>		
<b>TOTE BAG (ONE SIZE) - Natural</b>	<b>\$4.50</b>		
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>(1)\$</b>
<u>SHIPPING/HANDLING:</u>		You <u>must</u> Include Shipping OR _____ your order will be <u>delayed!!!</u>	
Add \$9.00 - Orders \$0 - \$36			
Add \$12.00 - Orders \$37 - \$144			
Add \$20.00 - Orders \$145 - \$432			
	<b>TOTAL SHIPPING/HANDLING</b>		<b>(2)\$</b>
i.e. Block (1) + Block (2)	<b>SUBTOTAL + SHIPPING/HANDLING</b>		<b>(3)\$</b>
<b>***YOU MUST INCLUDE AR SALES TAX***</b>		<b>SALES TAX (7.5%)</b>	
i.e. Block (3) x 0.075			<b>(4)\$</b>
i.e. Block (3) + Block (4)	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>		<b>(5)\$</b>

SHIP TO ADDRESS:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ CHECK AMOUNT \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (Visa/ MasterCard/ American Express)

CREDIT CARD #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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Place address label here.

Arkansas Children's Week 2008  
 Material Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Program/licensed capacity: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Item	Number requested
Brochure - Join Me as I Play	
Church Bulletin Insert	
Bookmark - "I'm not just playing - I'm learning" (Order in multiples of 4)	

Return form to:

or fax to: (501) 682-4897

Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education  
 Box 1437 Slot S 160 (Program Support)  
 Little Rock, AR 72201