

ARKANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2009

- Leadership Celebration
- Financing and Fund Raising Strategies
- Fall Training Opportunities
- Important Notes from your Compliance Unit
- “Good Ways and Bad Ways to Use Timeouts”
- Head Start Cluster Training Information
- Smoke Alarm Poster
- Arkansas Optometric Association Poster
- Participate in Lights On Afterschool!
- Getting Ready for QRIS Workshop Training Opportunities
- DCCECE Recognizes Employees with Certificates of Appreciation
- Encourage Vaccination, Not Exemption!



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



► Director's Note

Ready! Set! Go! What do you think about when you hear those three words? A childhood game that brings a lot of fun memories? The start of something new with a sense of urgency to give it your best? Or maybe a little panic that we are not quite ready for whatever it is or wherever we are going? As we start a new school year, the Division is going at a fast pace but trying to build on existing work and efforts that are led by our Early Childhood Commission, local and state partners, as well as federal partners to continue to improve the quality of early care and education in Arkansas.

The Arkansas Early Childhood Commission adopted the following goals at the July meeting:

- To increase the number of infants and toddlers served in quality, licensed centers annually;
- To increase parental involvement in the child's education through research-based models and programs to enhance child outcomes and success;
- State policies should create an integrated system of professional development uniting the early childhood sectors-child care, Head Start, state funded pre-k, public schools, early intervention and special education services. (Adopted from Workforce Designs/A Policy Blueprint for State Early Childhood Professional Development Systems/National Association for the Education of Young Children);
- Support implementation of the Quality Rating Improvement System; and
- Strengthen and expand local and state partnerships with other agencies and organizations for connected action

As I traveled to Washington, D.C. for the State Child Care Administrator's Conference with the Arkansas team, I was proud of the vision and goals as each is a focus of the new Administration. I was also proud of the many accomplishments Arkansas has achieved especially the strong support and continued investment in quality pre-k with the struggling economy which has many states decreasing state investments in early childhood. As I listened to colleagues across the country discuss the challenges to implement and utilize the ARRA funds designated for the Child Care Development Fund, I was proud that Arkansas had already added over 3,500 children and at this writing over 4,000 children of low income working families with the support of the Governor, the Arkansas General Assembly and many early childhood partners. I was also proud of the strong early childhood partnerships that Arkansas has in place as I listened to other states discuss the challenges in their respective states as the federal agenda includes an increasing focus on the importance of coordinating early childhood programs and services.



Tonya Russell
Division Director

The Division looks forward to moving the vision forward with all our many partners in hopes that all children will benefit and experience “an excellent and effective early care and education program”. Much success to all as we begin a new learning year!

Leadership Celebration

The Leadership Celebration is hosted by ASU Childhood Services through funding from the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. This event provides professional development opportunities and recognizes Early Childhood Mentor Endorsement recipients and the Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Certificate/Credential recipients.

Congratulations to all of you for your ongoing commitment to increasing your skills and knowledge! Knowledgeable and skilled leaders are the key to high quality, engaging experiences for children. We hope you will join this elite group of professionals in the coming months.

ACPA Certificate/Credential

The Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Certificate/Credential (ACPAC) are programs of continuing education to assist administrators in increasing their knowledge and competency.

Melanie Acord	Debbie Gooding	Sue Remfrey
Patricia Adams	Regina Hayman	Barbara Richie
Heather Bean	Amy Hendricks	Gigi Schoenstein
Elaine Blowers	Kristen Hinton	Debbie Shallenberg
Roseann Bowlin	Loretta Johnson	Cheryl Stapf
Melissa Brann	Roselyn Laird	Olivia Stocker
Michelle Brewer	Jane Mathias	Janette Strong
Nikki Burns	Jane McBride	Eloise Thompson
Patricia Burris	Sherry Milligan	Clarissa Wallace
Misty Clark	Ophelia Morgan	Ramona Wallace
Lasheba Clary	Emily Nealy	Samantha Warhurst
Gail Edwards	Misty Perkins	Colleen Watkins
Patti Elzey	Nancy Phillips	Consuela Wilson
Larriane Fortson	Shawn Lawrence-Reed	Stormee Wilson

2009 Credential Recipients

Susan Erickson
Shannon Key
Cassandra Matthews

Mentor Endorsement

The Arkansas Early Childhood Mentor Endorsement recognizes development of skill and leadership in working with other adults. Upon completion of 45 clock hours of professional development, an application for the Endorsement is reviewed by the Mentor Advisory Committee.

2009 Mentor Endorsement Recipients

Lynn Bond
Christine Leimberg



THE ARKANSAS EARLY
CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



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

Evelyn Bass
Eleanor Coleman
Marilyn Chambers
Dee Cox
Janice Dancer
Amy Denton
Missy Duke
Gene Gregory
Nickie Hammontree
Jeff Maneth
Debbie Malone
Debbie Mays
Richard Nugent
Jody Veit-Edrington
Suellen Ward

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



"MONEY MATTERS"

Financing and Fund Raising Strategies for Child Care Facilities

2009 FALL Training Schedule

**Staff of White River Planning and Development District (WRPDD) and
CHILDREN of Northcentral Arkansas**

Participants may attend both sessions (Part I or Part II) or they may be taken individually.

Part I: Topics include:

Fundraising Strategies for Child Care Programs – “Where the Bucks Are.” and
Grants Available through the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education.

This session is appropriate for Family Child Care providers and any Center staff member who may be involved in fundraising or grant writing.

Part II: Topics include:

Becoming a Non-Profit – *The Good the Bad and the Ugly*
Fishing for Dollars in Philanthropic Waters
Overview and Tips for Child Care Programs in the Grant Seeking Process

This session is appropriate for any child care program staff member who may be interested in learning more about grant writing techniques and becoming a Non-Profit Entity.

To register for one or more of these workshops, call WRPDD or CHILDREN of Northcentral 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
CONWAY Part I	First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 2400 Prince Street	Tuesday October 13, 2009	6:00—8:00 p.m.
CONWAY Part II	First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall 2400 Prince Street	Wednesday October 14, 2009	8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
MAGNOLIA Part I	Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc. Conference Room 101 Business Park	Tuesday October 20, 2009	6:00—8:00 p.m.
MAGNOLIA Part II	Southwest Arkansas Planning and Development District, Inc. Conference Room 101 Business Park	Wednesday October 21, 2009	8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.



Mark Your Calendars For Fall Training Opportunities!

All modules listed below are part of the Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Credential but are **OPEN TO ALL** who wish to attend. For more information on the ACPA Certificate and Credential, contact Geania Dickey at geaniadickey@aol.com or 501-407-0720.

Training	Description	City	Date
Dollars and Sense	Cover the fundamentals of sound financial business practices specifically as they relate to the child care industry.	Little Rock	Sept. 22 and Sept. 29
		Conway	Oct. 27 and Nov. 3
Managing Change	Enjoy an interactive, multimedia learning program, based on the #1 best-selling business book, "Who Moved My Cheese?"	Little Rock	Oct. 17
Delegation: Developing Responsibility in Others	Explore the skills necessary to accomplish your tasks and achieve your goals. Knowing what to do and being able to do it yourself are not enough. Great supervisors learn to pass along their knowledge and work through others.	Little Rock	Oct. 17
Performance Appraisal (JPRS)	Participants will learn how to effectively use a performance summary tool not only for administering annual evaluations, but also for communication, training, development, and discipline of staff.	Hot Springs	Oct. 29
		North Little Rock	Dec. 1

Register for any of these workshops by calling ASU Childhood Services 1-888-429-1585 or online at <http://chs.astate.edu>



The Compliance Unit would like to recap some important keys to maintaining and staying within the guidelines of being a responsible provider.

- September 7, 2009 (Monday) is Labor Day! One of the allowable holidays that a provider can bill absentee (which will be counted against the seven (7) allowable absentee days per month) and actually be closed.
- PLEASE BILL BASED UPON YOUR ATTENDANCE RECORDS – the provider agrees to document and maintain attendance records for a period of five (5) years. Attendance records must include the child's name, dates child was present or absent, time of arrival and departure; signature of parent, guardian or authorized representative verifying accuracy of attendance records (on a daily or weekly basis) and signature of staff person. ATTENDANCE RECORDS MUST RECONCILE WITH BILLING RECORDS. The approved DHS attendance forms are available on the division web site at www.arkansas.gov/childcare/familysupport.html.
- The provider agrees to notify DHS immediately if there are any changes with the operation and structure of the facility, if a child withdraws from the Child Care Voucher Program, and if any legal controversies with local, state, or federal governmental agency including other agencies within DHS occurs.

For any concerns, doubts, or questions you may have, please call the unit for assistance. It is much easier to catch a potential error before it has been written in stone than to attempt to justify improper billings after the error occurs. We are here to serve you!

Mike Saxby 501-682-8584 / Ray Jones 501-683-2611 / Sharron Brooks 501-683-3760



Good Ways and Bad Ways to Use Timeouts

Submitted by H. Wallace Goddard, Family Life Specialist from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

Timeouts can solve some problems with children - but they can make some other problems worse. Appropriate use of timeouts is one important tool to help caregivers help the children in their care. Don't use timeouts to punish children. When a timeout is used to make children suffer for their mistakes, it just makes them mad. Especially when we make them do things that are humiliating (such as standing in a corner or putting their nose in the corner), they are likely to feel hurt and confused. It doesn't teach them anything and it doesn't prepare them to be taught. In fact when we use timeouts to punish children, they may use the time to plan revenge. That is not the objective of timeouts.

Timeouts are for soothing, calming and comforting. When children are upset, they are not ready to be taught. The ideal use of timeouts is to help everyone get calm and start feeling safe so that the caregiver and child can have a productive discussion. For that reason, effective timeouts may include lovingly holding a child, rocking together in a rocking chair, or reading a book together. They may also include having both caregiver and child go to separate spaces of the room while they settle down.

When caregivers get mad at their children and choose to take timeouts for themselves, they have two choices. They can think about what the child did wrong, how much it bothers them, and all the things the child has done wrong in the past. However, this does not prepare caregivers to be helpful teachers and guides for the children in their care. It only makes them madder. Their second choice is to calm themselves by thinking about how much they love their children, how hard their children try, and how much they as caregivers want to help their children learn and grow.

The best use for timeout may be to help the caregivers calm down so they can be helpful to their children. When caregivers feel mad with their children, they may choose to say something like: "Right now I feel so frustrated I don't know what to do. I need some time to think. Let's separate until we feel like we can talk about this." This allows both child and caregiver time to calm down.

Learning can happen after soothing. Children have limited experience and knowledge so it is important for caregivers to teach them. But there are also important things that the caregiver can learn. As the caregiver listens to the child, the caregiver can learn about the child's fears, confusion, needs, and difficulties. When a caregiver takes time to listen to a child, that caregiver is better able to be helpful to the child.

When a caregiver and child are both feeling peaceful, one of the most helpful things the caregiver can do is help the child understand how his or her behavior affects other people. There is a unit in this series that addresses that issue. It is titled "Helping Children Learn to Respect Other People."

Timeout can be a very useful tool when it is used to help the caregiver and child calm down and work together to solve problems.

Applications:

- What are some situations where timeouts may be helpful for your children?
- For example, when a normally sensible child is upset. Or when a child is tired and hungry and needs some peace and loving.
- What are some situations where timeouts may be helpful for you?
- For example, when you have had a bad day and a child does something that makes you angry. You may choose to go to a quiet place while you relax.
- What are some ways you might make timeouts more effective in your family?
- For example, showing affection to help a child calm down.
- What are some situations where timeouts would not be helpful for your children?
- For example, when a child is very young, afraid, or lonely, it would be cruel to isolate him or her.



IT's



in Arkansas!!!

Temperatures are rising with the announcement of the new Head Start State-Based TTA Team! The new Content Specialist is Jan Cox and Infant/Toddler Specialist is Donna Alliston. Both trainers have years of experience and formal education in the world of Early Childhood Education.



In the first few months, a State-wide Needs Assessment was conducted to assist in the development of a Comprehensive Training Plan for the State of Arkansas.

The heat continues ~ as our Arkansas Head Start State-Based team hits the road to begin Cluster trainings.

So What is HOT? The Cluster trainings are Free and Open to all Early Childhood Professionals!!

Yes! That's right and its gets **HOTTER** ~ trainings will be linked to CEU's and count towards the state training hours.

So, get out of the heat and enjoy a fun and informational training with our **Arkansas HS State-Based Team!** Keep watching for our training dates in your area.



Pam Jenkins, Program Manager



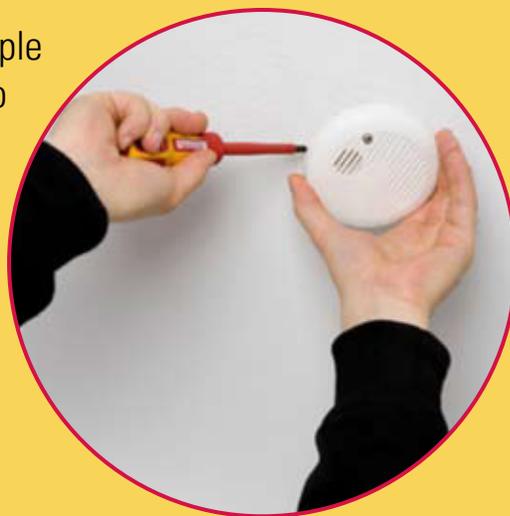
SMOKE ALARMS

Install Them, Test Them, Protect Your Family



You have **about 3 minutes to escape** during a fire. **A working alarm can give you life-saving time** to get the kids and get out of the house safely.

- Smoke alarms **save lives**. People die in fires where there are no alarms in the home.
- **Replace the batteries once a year** and buy new alarms every 10 years.
- **Test all alarms** each month.
- Install alarms on **every floor** and in **every bedroom**.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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



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www.cpsc.gov



A child shouldn't have to fail ...to see

Undiagnosed and untreated vision problems are holding back millions of school kids just when learning and healthy development are the most important.

A small investment in a comprehensive eye exam could change her life forever. Two-thirds of children do not receive preventative vision care before starting school.

Let's help our schools work better for them.

Don't delay scheduling your child's exam. Call your family optometrist for an appointment.



www.AOA.org

Participate in *Lights On Afterschool!*

October 22, 2009

Join 7,500 communities and 1 million Americans in celebrating afterschool programs at the Afterschool Alliance's 10th annual *Lights On Afterschool!* This nationwide event calls attention to the importance of afterschool programs and the resources required to keep the lights on and the doors open. The Arkansas Out of School Network is proud to be a *Lights On Afterschool* National Supporting Organization.

Too many children -- 14.3 million -- are missing out on afterschool opportunities. Participate in *Lights On Afterschool* and help call attention to this important issue.

To learn more about *Lights On Afterschool*, register an event, access Event Planning Tools, or find out what is going on in your area on October 22, visit www.afterschoolalliance.org. Those who register will be receive free posters, and their events will be promoted to media and the public while supplies last! *Lights On Afterschool* is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to afterschool programs.

The Arkansas Out of School Network (AOSN) is one of 38 statewide networks working to put afterschool and summer programs at the top of their state and national agenda. AOSN serves as a vehicle for bringing together policy makers, educators, childcare providers, youth development workers, program developers, advocates, parents and others interested in improving outcomes for children and youth through school-based/school-linked afterschool programs. AOSN provides a means to encourage local and state policy makers to invest additional resources wisely to expand quality afterschool opportunities and address particular needs to improve quality and sustainability. AOSN is committed to creating safe, healthy, and enriching experiences for Arkansas youth during out of school times by helping to strengthen, expand and sustain Arkansas' school-based and school-linked services to children and youth, ages 5-19.

We invite you to become involved in AOSN and help ensure that every Arkansas child and youth has access to high quality afterschool and summer programs. There are opportunities to serve on AOSN's Steering Committee, become active in a Standing Committee, network with other colleagues that are committed to serving the children and youth of Arkansas, and more. To learn more about AOSN visit www.aosn.org or contact Jennifer Harris at jenharris@astate.edu.

Are You Getting Ready for QRIS?

The Arkansas Quality Rating Improvement System will be available to licensed child care programs in July 2010. QRIS is a great way to receive recognition as your program progresses toward higher quality.

If your program is planning to participate in QRIS, you may want to attend a new workshop for administrators, "Getting Ready for QRIS". This 3-hour session will review QRIS requirements, explain the quality assessment procedures, and discuss strategies for achieving your goal.

"Getting Ready for QRIS" is scheduled in the following locations. More information is available on the Training Opportunities page of the TAPP Registry Web site, <http://professionalregistry.astate.edu>.

Batesville
Conway
Fort Smith
Harrison
Hot Springs
Jonesboro
Magnolia
Monticello
North Little Rock
Pine Bluff
Springdale
West Memphis



DCCECE Employee Recognition

The DHS Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education recognized six employees for outstanding service on June 26, including one employee who retired at the end of June. This semi-annual recognition program selected the individuals through a written process with nominations from coworkers throughout the Division. Tonya Russell presented Certificates of Appreciation to each of the six nominees and each selected a gift from the “Appreciation Station.”

The six employees honored were:



Ainslee Brown,
Child Care
Licensing Specialist



Candace Gonzales,
Child Care
Licensing Specialist



Brenda J. Brown,
Administrative
Assistant, SNP



Nancy L. Morris,
Administrative
Assistant II, FSU



Ray A. Jones,
Program Coordinator
Compliance Unit

Mr. Ivory Daniels, Family Support Program Administrator, was also awarded with a Certificate of Appreciation, but was unable to attend.

Brenda Brown not only received special recognition for “outstanding” service to the Division, but she was honored with a retirement celebration for her years of service to the Division by coworkers, family, and friends.

Congratulations!
Thank you for your hard work.





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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Please encourage Vaccination, Not Exemption!

Even though most infants and toddlers have received all recommended vaccines by age 2, many under-immunized children remain, leaving the potential for outbreaks of disease. Unless we can eliminate the disease, it is important to keep immunizing. Even if there are only a few cases of disease today, if we take away the protection given by vaccination, more and more people will be infected and will spread disease to others. Soon we will undo the progress we have made over the years. Diseases that are almost unknown would stage a comeback.



Before long we would see epidemics of diseases that are nearly under control today. More children would get sick and more would die. This information is brought to you by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/default.htm>. Please contact Mary Casey at the immunization section of the Arkansas Department of Health (501) 661-2169 or e-mail her at immunization.section@arkansas.gov for free educational material that you may give to parents to **encourage** them to have their children vaccinated, **not** exempted.