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The Bridge

Notes From The Director's Desk....

"Knee High to a Grasshopper"

I was a journalism major for two semesters back in my college days. I had to change my major when it became evident that the English classes I would have to endure to get a journalism degree would be just too much for me. During those two semesters, however, I learned much about graphic lay out and design, and loved my photography classes. Looking back, I see my photography professor actually taught me a little something about child development. He was in the process of collecting photographs for a book of pictures to be titled Knee High to a Grasshopper and enlisted his students to help. Our assignment: go out and bend down, kneel down, sit down and lie down to take pictures of the world around us from a child's vantage point. Things really do look quite different from down there! And you are so much closer to the ground. No wonder children out on a walk stop so often to point out so many things that we overlook!

When we talk about early childhood environments, we also need to look through a child's eyes. Johnna Darragh, in an article titled "The View from the Door", published in Exchange magazine says: "What can be learned from the door, or entryway, as these areas are typically referred to? Environmental design is an important part of supporting children's engagement, motivation, and learning. The view from the door can give important information about what the classroom is all about." What does the child's eye view from your doorway say? From the door does your classroom look warm and inviting? Is your classroom neatly organized or is it chaos? Are materials for children's use on low shelves within easy reach (crayons, scissors, glue, puzzles, fine motor games and toys, etc.) or are they stored up high where children must have adult assistance to access them? Are pictures and children's artwork on the lower half of the wall where they are on eye level for a child?

I encourage each of you to stop, squat down, and take a look around. You may be surprised at what you see. Then try to imagine what it must feel like to be "Knee High to a Grasshopper"!

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Introducing Solid Foods

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As a child care provider you are required to comply with the Meal Patterns for Child Care Standards, but also you want to meet your families' needs. Sometimes these two goals conflict with one another when children begin to eat solid foods. The following are some basic principles that follow the Meal Patterns for Child Care Standards. By using these you and your families can consistently meet the needs of the child and make meal time a rewarding experience.

- Introduce solid food after the family has consulted with the child's pediatrician. Families and child care providers should discuss the child's introduction of solid food before they begin. You want to make sure you are both introducing the same foods and textures at the same time.
- Wait until the baby is showing signs of hunger before feeding. Allow enough time for them to finish the food or bottle.
- When solid foods are first introduced, serve them at only one meal to help the baby gradually adjust to this new method of eating. At first the child will tend to push the food right back out with their tongue.
- Introduce new foods gradually. Realize food acceptance increases with exposure. After repeated tastes and no pressure, babies will often accept foods they initially rejected.
- Never put cereal or other solid foods in a bottle or infant feeder. Solid foods should be fed to babies with a spoon. If the baby is not ready to eat from a spoon they are not ready to eat solid foods, and putting solids in a bottle is a form of force-feeding. Children who begin solid foods with cereal in their bottles don't learn to stop when they are full and tend to have excessive weight gain, both as infants and in later life.
- Hungry babies may become impatient with spoon feeding, so start feeding them before they are over-hungry.
- Never force the baby to finish the serving. Feed until the baby indicates fullness by not opening their mouth, pulling away from the spoon, turning away, or pushing food back out of their mouth. Babies are the best judge of how much food they need.
- Babies will consume less formula or milk when they start eating solid foods. Water in a cup or bottle should be offered to children when they start eating solid foods.
- Talk to the child during their meals and snacks. Mealtime conversations are the perfect opportunity for language expansion as children enjoy the give and take of social interaction.
- Don't forget to wash yours and the child's hands before and after eating.

Author: Barbie Moore, Region 14 Infant Toddler Specialist

Sources: USDA (2002). Feeding Infants: A Guide for Use in the Child Nutrition Programs

[Www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/feeding_infants.html](http://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/Resources/feeding_infants.html)

NC Division of Child Development (2008) Infant-Toddler Foundations: Guidelines for Development and Learning for North Carolina's Infants and Toddlers. http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/providers/pv_infant_toddler_foundations.asp

Inclusion in the Afterschool Environment

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The NC CCR&R Council has been awarded a grant to assess the barriers, perceptions and misconceptions, and access to child care services for youth with or at risk for intellectual or developmental disabilities. This is a very exciting time with the opportunity to impact public policy and changes that will benefit our communities. 14 Regional forums will be held across the state to obtain feedback from parents, community partners, and child care providers. Following the regional forums, a statewide task force will be formed to develop public policy recommendations to be presented to the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities (NCCDD). Specific data analysis indicates that families of school age children with intellectual or developmental delays have the most difficult experiences in locating adequate child care arrangements, especially summer camps. The goal of the grant is ultimately to improve access to quality child care for these families. As we look toward the regional forums, the Lead Agency in each region will be asking for support and input from the child care community, we hope that as child care providers you will be supportive of this project and help us work toward the development of public policy recommendations and increased access to quality child care arrangements for children with or at risk for intellectual or developmental delays. This presents an opportunity to advocate for children and have your voice be heard!

SAVE THE DATE

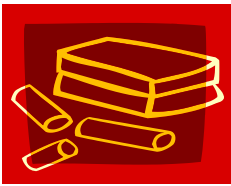
14th Annual Provider Recognition

Banquet

May 26, 2011

Cleveland Community College





What's Happening in Early Childhood Education at Cleveland Community College!

Greetings! Spring Semester is in full swing here at the college. Below you will find important dates to remember and happenings to be on the look out for!

- ◆ March 21st through March 24th has been designated as an advising week for early childhood students. Advising is a time when you can meet one on one prior to registration with someone who can verify your program of study (remember there are multiple early childhood degree options), review with you where you are in your program (classes you have already completed), and help you plan out where you need to go to reach your educational goal (classes you still need to complete). At least one staff member (Debi, Kim, or Marion) will be available in the office (Paksoy Building- Room 3226G) from 9:00am to 8:00pm that week to assist you. **Hint:** To avoid waiting and minimize confusion, call ahead to set up a day and time convenient to you, or let us know that you need advisement and we can go ahead and have your information up to date and ready to review when you arrive.
- ◆ Graduation application deadline is March 9th. If you think you may qualify for graduation, feel free to contact us so that we can complete a graduation analysis and application prior to the deadline.
- ◆ Spring Break is March 14th through March 19th- No classes
- ◆ The Week of the Young Child is April 10th through April 16th. SP-aeyc is planning an event to celebrate this week. Details will be sent out as soon as they are finalized.
- ◆ The Institute for Child Development Professionals is finalizing requirements for developing CEU bearing workshops. Keep your eyes peeled as we hope to begin developing CEU bearing workshops soon. Also, the Institute updates their websites frequently with new rewards you can access if you are certified, a calendar with workshops that offer CEU's and/or training credits, and a host of other information and links that may be of interest to you.
- ◆ As always, if you need a professional development plan for a new staff, updates for current staff, information about resources available to you, contact hour training credit, or anything else we can help you with, please let us know!



www.clevelandcommunitycollege.edu



Rule Change

Starting February 9, 2011 crock-pots are not approved for use as a bottle warmer. Regardless of the method used, bottles must be warmed in an approved child care kitchen or food preparation area. In food preparation areas and kitchens, approved bottle warming methods include:

- Use of equipment manufactured specifically for bottle warming, provided it is used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions.
- Bottles placed under running tap water or in container(s) of warm water
- Other methods approved on a case-by-case basis.

New Crib Information

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled more than 11 million dangerous cribs since 2007. Detaching drop-side rails were associated with at least 32 infant suffocation and strangulation deaths since 2000. Additional deaths have occurred due to faulty or defective hardware. Effective June 28, 2011, cribs manufactured, sold, or leased in the United States must comply with the new federal standards. Effective December 28, 2012, child care facilities, such as family child care homes and infant Head Start centers, and places of public accommodation, such as hotels and motels, must have compliant cribs in their facilities.

There are compliant cribs currently on the market and available for purchase. To ensure the crib purchased meet the new standards providers may request a Certificate of Compliance from the retailer. They can also check the CPSC website for testing sites to confirm the crib was tested by an accredited facility.

Additional details and the new rule are available on the What's New web page at www.ncchildcare.net. At this time the expectation is to share this information with providers. Providers will be expected to be compliant with this law effective December 28, 2012.



New Subsidy Payment

New Attendance Reporting and Payment delivery system in 2011-2012

The Division of Child Development will implement an electronic attendance reporting and payment delivery system in 2011-2012. Subsidized Early Education for Kids (SEEK) will implement in two phases. In Phase I you will receive a POS (Point of Service) machine and parents will swipe in and out using a magnetic stripe card to record attendance. In Phase II payments will be made to you twice a month through direct deposit into your bank account.

Additional information is coming. Check The Division's website at www.ncchild.net



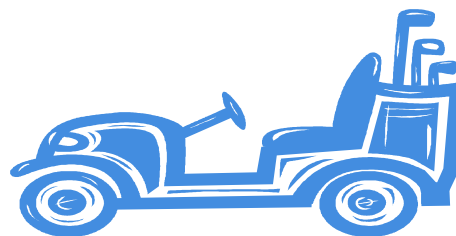
10th Annual Golf Tournament

Child Care Connections' 10th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, April 8, 2011 at Deer Brook Golf Club. A captain's choice tournament, tee off is at 1:00 pm with the cost as follows:

\$200.00 per team or \$50.00 per player

\$100.00 for Hole Sponsor

Child care providers will receive two free tickets to the provider recognition banquet for sponsoring a golf team or 1 ticket for sponsoring a hole. Need more information? Contact Kim Hamilton or Karen Costner at our office.



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www.schoolagenotes.com

Child Care Connections

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Our Mission Statement

*Child Care Connections exists to
connect resources and services for
child care excellence in
Cleveland County*



Education Incentive
Bonus Application
are due by
March 15, 2011

Application Enclosed

