



# The Bridge

## Connecting You with News for the Classroom

Volume 10, Issue 4  
January & February  
2018

### Notes from the Director's Desk:

#### 10 Tips To Keep Children Safe in Cold Weather!

Young children are less likely to recognize when they are cold and more likely to lose body heat quickly due to their smaller size. Here are some tips to protect children when the temperature dips:

1. **Thin Layers.** Put several layers of clothing on your child and make sure their head, neck and hands are covered. Dress babies and young children in one more layer than an adult would wear.
2. **Beware of clothing hazards.** Scarves and hood strings can strangle smaller children so use other clothing to keep them warm.
3. **Check in on warmth.** Tell children to come inside if they get wet or if they're cold. Then keep watching them and checking in. They may prefer to continue playing outside even if they are wet or cold.
4. **Use sunscreen.** Children and adults can still get sunburn in the winter. Sun can reflect off the snow, so apply sunscreen.
5. **Install alarms.** More household fires happen during the winter so make sure you have smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
6. **Get equipped.** Children should always wear helmets when snowboarding, skiing, sledding or playing ice hockey. Any sports equipment should be professionally fitted.
7. **Teach Technique.** It takes time to master fun winter activities like sledging, so make sure children know how to do the activity safely.
8. **Prevent nosebleed.** If your child suffers from minor winter nosebleeds, use a cold air humidifier in their room. Saline nose drops can help keep their nose moist.
9. **Keep them hydrated.** In drier winter air, kids lose more water through their breath. Keep them drinking. Try giving them warm drinks and soup for extra appeal.
10. **Watch for danger signs.** Signs of frostbite are pale, grey or blistered skin on the fingers, ears, nose, or toes. If you think your child has frostbite, bring the child indoors and put the affected area in warm water. Signs of hypothermia are shivering, slurred speech, and unusual clumsiness. If you think your child has hypothermia, call 911 immediately!

*Sources: Save the Children, American Academy of Pediatrics, University of Michigan Health System*

#### Meet the Board

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## Welcome Dr. Pam Merritt

Child Care Connections is pleased to welcome Dr. Pamela Merritt as our new Executive Director. We are so excited to have her join us. Dr. Merritt is a retired elementary principal with over 25 years of experience working with children. She received her Bachelor of Arts from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, her Master of Education and Educational Specialist degrees from Converse College and her Doctor of Education from Gardner-Webb University. Dr. Merritt is a product of the Cleveland County School System and resides in Shelby with her husband. Pam has two children and one grand-daughter.

### Save The Date

Friday, May 4th, 2018  
17th Annual Child Care Connections  
Scholarship Golf Tournament  
Deer Brook Golf Club  
Lunch 12:00/Tee Off 1:00

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For more information contact Leanne Sanders  
(704) 487-7397  
parenthelp@ccchildcareconnections.org

## Education Incentive Bonus

Fall Semester Education Incentive Bonus official transcripts are due by  
Tuesday, January 16, 2018  
Applications for the spring semester (see insert for application & guidelines)  
will be due by  
Thursday, March 15, 2018

## Graduation Award Grant

To qualify you must:

- Be employed in a licensed child care facility in Cleveland County
- Submit a completed Graduation Award application & along with an official transcript showing an Early Childhood Degree, certificates, and/or diploma earned

There is a limit of \$50.00 per project year for those eligible. (pending fund availability)

Deadline for the graduation award is June 15, 2017.

Call or come by our office for an application.

# Professional Development Training Registration

- The form must be filled out completely. Any items left blank will be considered incomplete and you will **not** be signed up for the training.
- Registration and payment must be received together or you will **not** be signed up for the training.
- Please use a separate registration form for each training class.
- **Deliver** completed registration form in person to:  
327 Market Street, Suite A  
Shelby, NC
- **Mail** completed registration form with payment to:  
Child Care Connections of Cleveland County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1739  
Shelby, NC 28151

## Training Policies

- All trainings are \$10.00 unless otherwise noted on the training calendar. You must pre-register and pre-pay for trainings. **Money will not be taken at trainings.**
- Call and cancel if you cannot make it to the training. If Child Care Connections is not contacted Resource Library Members will be charged a \$5.00 no show fee; Non-members will forfeit the training fee.

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## Child Care Connections Training Registration

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Training Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Training Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Training Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name:	Membership #:	Amount Paid:
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Circle One: Cash    Check #: \_\_\_\_\_    Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Completing Registration: \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care Connections Use Only:

Received On: \_\_\_\_\_ Recorded By: \_\_\_\_\_

## **R-E-S-P-E-C-T and Infant-Toddler Care**

Lanier DeGrella, Ph.D., Manager, NC Infant Toddler Quality Enhancement Project

(Permission from NCAEYC to reprint.)

"For children and for society as a whole, there is no more important work than caring for infants and toddlers." (*Infant-Toddler Foundations*)

The professionals who teach and care for infants, toddlers and twos in group care settings have challenges to be sure, but those who do this well deserve our *respect*. Since 2004, as a result of the support of the Division of Child Development and Early Learning, North Carolina's team of Infant Toddler Specialists has provided training and technical assistance services to many of them as they strive to achieve and maintain high quality programs. And while there are many indicators of quality and some are costly, this article focuses on one that doesn't cost a dime!

In high quality infant-toddler programs teacher behaviors that reflect *respect* for the individual children in care are evident. Here's what this looks like:

**R** - Responding sensitively and promptly to a child's distress or need for adult interaction

**E** - Engaging with families to support each child's relationships with all of the important adults in their lives

**S** - Scheduling enough time for children's uninterrupted play and for adult's observation of children to better

understand their individual needs

**P** - Providing an environment that is safe, challenging, accessible, and nurturing

**E** - Establishing clearly defined limits and expectations and guiding children's behavior in culturally sensitive ways

**C** - Considering how culture, home language, and disability influences development and learning when planning to meet individual needs

**T** - Taking time to build emotional connections and engage in "serve and return" conversations with each child

Unfortunately, some infant-toddler programs still have work to do in this area. Directors should look for *red flags\** of *disrespect* including:

an environment that is arranged in a way that prevents children from engaging with materials, toys and/or activities

adults do not refer to children by name

adults who do not speak to and/or engage children

children who are distressed and left unattended

routines that are not predictable

adults who speak harshly to children

adults who are more likely to tell children what **not** to do than what **to** do

\*from *The Pyramid Infant Toddler Observation Scale* (TPITOS)

# News for the Classroom



## Recalls!

Fisher Price Soothing Motion Seats because the motor housing can over-heat, posing fire and burn hazards.

Preferred wind-up musical plush toys because the metal post and/or handle of the wind-up mechanism can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. The recall involves the following brands: Carter's®, Child of Mine®, Guess How Much I Love You® and One You®.

Plan Toys Inc. recalls its baby gyms with hanging mobiles sold at Diapers.com, Target.com and other websites because infants can strangle on the side rope crossbars.

Target recalls Room Essentials leather pouf ottomans because children can open the zippers on the ottomans and suffocate or choke on the polystyrene filling beads.

Kidde recalls 134 models of fire extinguishers with plastic handles manufactured between January 1, 1973 to August 15, 2017 because they can become clogged or require excessive force to discharge. Thus, they can fail to activate during a fire emergency.

Oshkosh recalls Baby B'gosh gray and pink quilted jackets because snaps can fall off and a child can swallow them, posing a choking hazard.

## From Cleveland Community College

Spring semester begins January 8th at Cleveland Community College. Online classes begin January 23rd. If you need help registering for courses or applying for financial aid, please let us know.

We will be offering EDU summer classes-2018. Please note that if you receive any financial aid you will need to keep money out to pay for your summer courses. Financial aid is currently not available for summer courses. More to come on courses being offered this summer.

You can contact Kay McWhirter or Emily McGinnis with any questions or concerns.

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## Safe Sleep Practices

Revisions to the safe sleep policy to include no wedges or other positioners, pillow-like toys, bumper pads, quilts, loose bedding, towels, wash cloths, and other objects being allowed in the sleep space. Prohibiting swaddling of infants. Pacifiers attached to infant clothing not allowed in the sleep space. Prohibiting infants from sleeping in sitting devices (car seats/swings/strollers) and infants that fall asleep in a sitting device must be moved to appropriate sleep space. Visually check a sleeping infant at least every 15 minutes. [Rule .0606]



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[www.ccchildcareconnections.org](http://www.ccchildcareconnections.org)



### ***Our Mission Statement***

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

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## Make 2018 Your Family's Best Year Yet

1. Keep your family healthy
  2. Be a better parenting team.
  3. Become cleaner eaters.
  4. Boost your kids' self-esteem
  5. Live in the moment, not for the Instagram post.
  6. Go on a healthy family diet.
  7. Don't judge other parents
  8. Erase the mom guilt.
  9. Be in the picture, literally
  10. Reinstate the family dinner.
  11. Break the common bad parenting habits.
  12. Be positive
  13. Simplify: Remove things from your life that you do not need.
  14. Save on the small things, so you can do the big things.
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