



Quality Matters

Spring 2008

Bring Georgia Together for Children

Celebrate National Week of the Young Child April 13-19, 2008

As part of the National Week of the Young Child celebrated across the country, we are honoring young children and all those who make a difference in children's lives. All young children need and deserve high-quality early learning experiences that will prepare them for life, and you have a great opportunity to do your part to help young children. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning for all young children, and to bring us together to help give all young children a great start.

Week of the Young Child is an opportunity for early childhood programs across the country, including child care and Head Start programs, preschools and elementary schools, to hold activities to bring awareness to the needs of young children.

Young children and their families depend on high-quality education and care, which helps children get a great start, and brings lasting benefits to Georgia. Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize the importance of early learning and early literacy, and to celebrate the teachers and policies that bring early childhood education to young children.

Week of the Young Child Ideas to Promote Early Literacy

- Create a family story time. Invite families to participate in your story time and other reading activities like becoming a reading partner to a child in the classroom. Some parents may prefer to chaperone a field trip to the library.



- Hold a kick-off breakfast for family and community reading partners. Photograph children with their reading partners (preferably someone who can read with the child more than once a week). Then post the pictures on a sheet of paper. Ask the child-adult partners to write their comments about the books they read under their picture throughout the week.
- Ask businesses or other community partners to help fund a project to create story theme bags with books, games, and suggested family activities to do at home. Plan a kick-off event during Week of the Young Child to demonstrate how the bags can be used and to recognize business and other community partners.
- Have children write or dictate their opinions of classroom books and rate them with stars. Tally the results and post the chart in the classroom. Publish in your parent newsletter a list of the five-star books along with student reviews.

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- Organize a Children's Book Festival to celebrate reading. Children and families can dress as their favorite book characters. Businesses or organizations might provide free books to children; families can participate in a book swap. Local celebrities or public officials can read stories and theater groups can perform puppet shows or skits.

Week of the Young Child Idea to Thank Teachers

- Plan a thank-you breakfast or lunch for the teachers. Ask parents and families to participate. Have the children draw pictures and write notes to their teachers.

Week of the Young Child Idea to Influence Public Policy

- Get families involved. Ask program directors to help recruit families willing to talk about their child care experiences with policy makers and the media.
- Join Children's Champion's an email advocacy alert distributed by NAEYC. Go to <http://www.naeyc.org/policy/> and click on "Join our email list".

Spring Activities

Art: Caterpillars. Place egg cartons cut in half lengthwise in the art center along with materials such as pipe cleaners, markers, and crayons. Allow children to make caterpillars. You may want to put a real picture of a caterpillar in the art center.

Cooking: Lemonade: 1 lemon, 2-3 Tablespoons sugar, 1 ¼ cup water, 2 ice cubes. During free choice time as a small group, have children squeeze lemon juice out of lemon. Help the children to measure and add sugar and water. Stir to dissolve the sugar. (Recipe is for one serving, adjust amounts for number of children in the class).

Dramatic Play: Spring Cleaning: small mops, brooms, feather dusters, and empty pails can be placed in the dramatic play area. A spray bottle filled with blue water, which can be used to wash designated windows, can also be provided.



Spring Activities continued

Gross Motor: Puddles: Construct puddles out of tag board/ cardboard/cardstock and cover with aluminum foil. Place the puddles on the floor. The children can jump from puddle to puddle. A variation would be to do this activity outside, using chalk to mark puddles on the ground.

Math: Insect Seriation: Construct flannel board pieces representing a ladybug, an ant, a caterpillar, a butterfly, etc. The preschool children can arrange them on the flannel board from smallest to largest.

Music: "Signs of Spring" (sung to the tune of "Muffin Man").
Do you see a sign of spring,
a sign of spring, a sign of spring?
Do you see a sign of spring?
Tell us what you see.

Social Studies: Animal babies. Collect pictures of animals and their young. Place the adult animal picture in one basket and the pictures of baby animals in another basket. The children can match adult animals to their offspring.

*Activities from: Creative Resources for the Early Childhood Classroom, 4th Edition. Judy Herr and Yvonne Libby Larson, 2004. Delmar Learning: Clifton Park, NY.



Training Calendar Spring 2008

Date	Event	Fee	Time
February 22, 2008	Director's Roundtable	Free	12:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.
March 3, 2008	A Band Aid A Day Keeps the Doctor Away	Informal providers only	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 4, 2008	How to Lose a Germ in Ten Seconds or Less	Informal providers only	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 4, 2008	How to Lose a Germ in Ten Seconds or Less	\$15.00	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 6, 2008	Kids Count on You: Protecting Children by Strengthening Families	Informal providers only	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 10-15, 2008	The ABC's of Effective Child Care Leadership (Director's 40-hour training)	\$50.00 deposit, \$400.00 balance due 03-10-08	8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
March 11, 2008	Child Abuse Detecting and Reporting	\$15.00	6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
March 15, 2008	Super Saturday I. Sand and Water: Not Just Child's Play2. Outdoor Play3. Intentional Interactions	\$45.00	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
March 18, 2008	A Band Aid a Day Keeps the Doctor Away	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
March 18, 2008	Get Ready to Read	Free to teachers of 3-4 year olds	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
March 20, 2008	Child Care General Information Session with Bright From the Start	Free	9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
April 03, 2008	Let's Talk: Communicating Developmental Concerns to Parents	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 07, 2008	Behavior Battles: Reducing Challenging Behaviors in Early Childhood	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 12, 2008	Super Saturday First Aid CPR Fire Safety	\$45.00(discount for Informal providers)	9:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m.
April 17, 2008	Creating a Literacy Rich Environment	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
April 24, 2008	Director's Roundtable	Free	12:30-2:30

More Training Opportunities

Date	Event	Fee	Time
April 26, 2008	Super Saturday 1. a. Kids Count on You: Protecting Children by Strengthening Families 1. b. A Band Aid a Day Keeps the Doctor Away 1. c. How to Lose a Germ in Ten Seconds or Less 2. a. Developmental Characteristics of School Age Children 2. b. Scheduling a Quality School Age Program 2. c. Eat Healthy, Be Active	\$45.00 per tract	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
May 03, 2008	Super Saturday 1. More than Bottles and Booties: Infant Toddler Development and the Georgia Early Learning Standards 2. From Cooing to Conversing: Language Development for Infants and Toddlers 3. Designing Quality Infant and Toddler Learning Environments	\$45.00	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
May 08, 2008	Developmental Characteristics of a School Age Child	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
May 13, 2008	Eat Healthy, Be Active	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
May 15, 2008	Let the Children Lead	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
May 20, 2008	Transitions are Teaching Times, Too	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
May 20, 2008	Get Ready to Read	Free to teachers of 3-4 year olds	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
June 07, 2008	Super Saturday 1. a. Child Abuse Detecting and Reporting 1. b. A Band Aid a Day Keeps the Doctor Away 1. c. How to Lose a Germ in Ten Seconds 2. a. Identifying Red Flags 2. b. Behavior Battles: Reducing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom 2. c. Adaptive Toys & Lesson Plans	\$45.00 per tract	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
June 10, 2007	Adaptive Toys & Lesson Plans	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
June 12, 2008	Behavior Battles: Reducing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
June 14, 2008	Super Saturday 1. More than ABC's and 123's: Basic Preschool Development 2. Designing a Preschool Learning Environment to be a Co-Teacher 3. Secrets of Scheduling for Preschoolers	\$45.00	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
June 17, 2008	Ready, Set, Create	\$15.00	6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Child Care Provider Appreciation Day

Providing positive early learning experiences for children requires dedication, hard work, creativity, education, flexibility, and a great deal of energy from the owners, directors, administrative personnel, teachers, cooks and volunteers of early childhood programs. These qualities are required for all age groups and all types of child care settings. Quality Care for Children would like to recognize the providers who go above and beyond the basic state requirements to meet the needs of children through professional development and meeting accreditation standards. We would also like to recognize those who give 110% of themselves to their chosen profession. This is your time to shine and our time to let the community know what you are doing to provide quality care for the children and families of Central Georgia. Quality Care for Children would like to hear from you about the achievements that your program and personnel have made this year so we can recognize these achievements at our annual Quality Care for Children Child Care Provider Appreciation Day. We would like to hear about the following achievements for the people in your program [this includes Child Care Centers; GA Pre-K programs; Head Start programs; Group Child Care Homes; Family Child Care Homes; as well as Family, Friend and Neighbor providers (in-home CAPS participants)]:

- People who achieved a degree or credential (CDA, AA, BA, BS, MS, MA, PhD, NAC, etc)
- People who received more than 10, 20, 30+ hours of BFTS approved training
- People who give 110% every day to the children in their care (which includes: positive attitudes, willingness to more than is asked of them, participation in professional organizations or professional associations, keeping abreast of research in the child care profession, etc)
- People who volunteer their time to child care programs on a regular basis
- Program achieved accreditation (NAFCC, NAEYC, SoC, NAA, etc)
- Program achieved 100% compliance (no rule violations for 1 year) on last BFTS monitoring visit
- Programs new to the Central GA area (opened between July 1, 2007 and May 1, 2008)

Quality Care for Children will be contacting programs for this information during the month of March. If you would like to send this information to us in advance, you may do so by mailing the information to:

Quality Care for Children

ATTN: Myrah Kitchens

277 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd

Suite 104

Macon GA 31201

or fax to 478-752-7797 or email to sharlene.abraham@qualitycareforchildrenmacon.org

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



277 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Suite 104
Macon GA 31201

**Child Care Directors, Teachers, Support
Personnel, and Volunteers**

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the

Quality Care for Children
Child Care Resource and Referral Agency of Central Georgia

Provider Appreciation Day

May 9, 2008
at the
Georgia Music Hall of Fame

(further details will be mailed to you soon)