



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

04/01/08 Register by 03/18/08	Child Abuse Patricia Lumpkin	Northwest Georgia Christian Academy 1301 Dews Pond Road Calhoun, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$7.00
04/05/08 Register by 03/28/08	Outdoor Play Patricia Lumpkin	Kid's Station Christian Learning Center 14237 Alabama Highway Rock Spring, GA 9:00am-11:00am	\$7.00
04/05/08 Register by 03/28/08	Sand and Water: It's Not Just for Play Patricia Lumpkin	Kid's Station Christian Learning Center 14237 Alabama Highway Rock Spring, GA 12:00pm-2:00pm	\$7.00
04/05/08 Register by 03/28/08	Intentional Interactions with Young Children Patricia Lumpkin	Kid's Station Christian Learning Center 14237 Alabama Highway Rock Spring, GA 2:15pm-4:15pm	\$7.00
04/12/08 Register by 04/05/08	CPR/First Aid Adrienne McDonald	Reflections Learning Academy 4330 Ridge Road Douglasville, GA 9:00am-4:00pm	\$30.00
04/12/08 Register by 04/05/08	Get Ready to Read Camey Washington	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 9:00am-11:00am	\$7.00
04/16/08 Register by 04/09/08	A Bandaid a Day Patricia Lumpkin	Brighter Tomorrows 197 Professional Court Calhoun, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$7.00
04/17/08 Register by 04/10/08	Registration Orientation Meeting Ruby Phillips	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 9:00am-4:00pm	\$5.00
04/19/08 Register by 04/11/08	Super Supervision Sheila Lewis	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 9:00am-12:00pm	\$15.00
04/22/08 Register by 04/15/08	Steps to Inclusion Carol Daniel	Tallatoona Head Start 1 Goodyear Avenue Cartersville, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$7.00
04/23/08 Register by 04/16/08	Infectious Disease Patricia Lumpkin	Brighter Tomorrows 197 Professional Court Calhoun, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$7.00
04/24/08 Register by 04/17/08	Standards of Care Director's Orientation	The Resource Center 1 North Gilmer Street Cartersville, GA 8:30am-12:00pm	Free
04/24/08 Register by 04/17/08	BFTS General Information Session	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 9:00am-10:30am	Free
04/29/08 Register by 04/22/08	SIDS Allison Glover	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 7:00pm-9:00pm	\$10.00

More Training Opportunities

04/29/08 Register by 04/22/08	Transitions Ruby Phillips	Northwest Georgia Christian Academy 1301 Dews Pond Road Calhoun, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$7.00
05/02/08 Register by 04/25/08	Infectious Disease	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 8:00am-10:00am	\$7.00
05/02/08 Register by 04/25/08	A Bandaid a Day	Quality Care for Children9 13 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 10:15am-12:15pm	\$7.00
05/02/08 Register by 04/25/08	Child Abuse	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 1:15pm-3:15pm	\$7.00
05/10/08 Register by 05/02/08	CPR/First Aid Adrienne McDonald	Westminster Christian Academy 1941 Shorter Avenue Rome, GA 9:00am-4:00pm	\$30.00
05/05/08 Register by 04/28/08	Nutrition I Sheila Lewis	Kid's Station Christian Learning Center 14237 Alabama Highway Rock Spring, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$20.00
05/06/08 Register by 04/29/08	Nutrition II Sheila Lewis	Kid's Station Christian Learning Center 14237 Alabama Highway Rock Spring, GA 6:30pm-8:30pm	\$20.00
05/17/08 Register by 04/18/08	First Annual Provider Conference	CrossPointe Christian Center 2681 Underwood Street Dalton, GA 7:45am-4:45pm	\$38.00 lunch included (6 hours training)
05/20/08 Register by 05/13/08	Registration Orientation Meeting Ruby Phillips	Quality Care for Children 913 N Tennessee Street Cartersville, GA 9:00am-4:00pm	\$5.00

Welcome New Bright from the Start Commissioner

We would like to introduce Holly A. Robinson, Ed.D., the new Commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Commissioner Robinson took office December 1, 2007. She currently chairs the Best Practices committee of the Governor's Education Finance Task Force. Commissioner Robinson also serves on Georgia's Charter Advisory Committee; the Board of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; and the Tech High Foundation.

The Commissioner has a wealth of experience and knowledge in the education field and from 1996-1999, she worked at the Georgia Department of Education as the deputy state superintendent for policy, public information, and legislation. She also worked with the Georgia Department of Education to develop Georgia's new K-12 curriculum. For more information about the Commissioner, please visit: <http://www.decal.state.ga.us/>

Provider Appreciation Banquet

Quality Care for Children will be hosting a weekend of celebrating you and all that you do as a child care provider. You are cordially invited to participate in “A Knight to Shine”: Provider Appreciation Banquet on Friday, May 16, 2008 from 7:00pm-9:00pm at CrossPointe Christian Centre (2681 Underwood St, Dalton, GA). The event will consist of dinner, door prizes, awards of recognition, and Shawn Brown as the keynote speaker.

Child care centers are eligible for two free tickets to the banquet. Family and group child care providers are eligible for one free ticket. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$15 per ticket.

Admission to the banquet is limited therefore pre-registration is required to attend. If you are purchasing additional tickets, payment must be included with the registration. Registration forms will be accepted until close of business on April 18, 2008.

In addition, there will be a Training Conference held on Saturday, May 17, 2008 with BFTS approved classes taught by Shawn Brown, Tom Copeland, Bob Lancer, and many others. More information regarding the conference will be mailed at a later date.

For questions, please call Alice Ceresoli at 678-792-3504 or Andrea Cline at 678-792-3511.

April is the Month of the Young Child

April 13-19, 2008 will be the Week of the Young Child. Child care programs will be asked to participate in upcoming activities to promote the theme “Bring Communities Together For Children-Children Bring Communities Together.” Stay tuned for more detailed information regarding the activities that will occur.

Marketing Tips for Family Child Care Providers

Family child care providers must promote themselves in order to expand their businesses. Here are some suggestions to help you sell yourself and your program to prospective parents.

- Make a brochure (one page of paper folded over) that includes your schedule, philosophy, goals, programs, etc.
- Tell everyone you know that you are providing child care.
- Create a flyer and distribute it in public places.
- Carry business cards with you at all times.
- Hold an open house, coffee, or Family Child Care Home Tour.
- Maintain the outside of your home as well as the inside in order to attract parents.

Remember that you are running a business and every business has to advertise in order to get customers.

Become a Mentor

Are you an existing provider with the desire and initiative to mentor new providers? Do you feel like you have a wealth of knowledge to share in regards to family child care? Are you willing to attend a monthly support meeting? The Quality Improvement Project is currently seeking family child care providers who are interested in becoming a mentors. Please contact Ruby Phillips at 678-792-3512 for more information about this opportunity.

Congrats!

Creative Kids and Susan O’Neal achieved 100% Compliance from BFTS for having full compliance with state rules and regulations for the past year.

If you are a program that has achieved Center of Distinction, Center of Recognition, Home of Merit, Home of Recognition, or has received NAFCC, NAEYC or other Accreditation, please call Megan Byrd at 678-792-3503 so that we may recognize your achievement at the Provider Appreciation Banquet.



913 N. Tennessee Street
Suite 202
Cartersville GA 30120

Family Child Care Providers and Taxes

Tax time is fast approaching. Family child care providers can have tax related questions answered by going to Redleaf National Institute at <http://www.redleafinstitute.org/index.cfm>

This website will provide a variety of resources related to taxes, marketing and many other business issues including obtaining a taxpayer identification number (EIN).

Tom Copeland, director of Redleaf National Institute will be conducting three workshops at our conference on May 17, 2008. These workshops are Contracts and Policies, Record Keeping and Taxes, and Marketing Your Family Child Care Business.

If you would like more information about this opportunity call: (770) 387-0828