

QUALITY MATTERS

A Newsletter for Child Care Providers in Georgia

Quality Care for Children Launches Play and Learn

Quality Care for Children is offering a new opportunity for family child care providers, child care centers, churches, recreation centers and parents. Quality Care for Children has launched Play and Learn with funding from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Through Play and Learn, parents, grandparents, other caregivers play and learn with young children ages 0-5 in a relaxed environment. Play and Learn helps children develop and increase their social skills while giving parents and caregivers an opportunity to interact with other parents

and caregivers to make friends, and share experiences. QCC, Early Care and Education Specialists facilitate the group and are on hand to help parents and caregivers discover new ways to support their children's learning.

Play and Learn is a mobile activity and can take place in virtually any safe environment. If you are an Atlanta resident and would like to have a Play and Learn Group in your area, please call Quality Care for Children at 404-479-4230



QCC Play and Learn pictured above

Recognizing Afterschool Day in Georgia

Organizations and communities across the country are pushing for quality, affordable afterschool programs for children. Child care organizations across the state of Georgia joined together to declare May 19th, 2006 to be Afterschool Day In Georgia. Afterschool care is extremely important because the hours afterschool can be a very vulnerable time for children left unsupervised. Quality after school programs keep children safe and provide an environment for children to excel socially and academically.

On May 19, 2006, Georgia celebrated school-age programs by providing state-wide events and activities through a collaboration from Bright From the Start: The Department of Early Care and Learning, the Georgia Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and the Black Child Development Institute. On May 18, 2006, the Atlanta Metro region

The mission of Quality Care for Children is to expand the capacity of parents, child care providers and communities to nurture and educate infants and young children in Georgia.

Child Care Resource & Referral of Metro Atlanta
50 Executive Park South
Suite 5015
Atlanta, GA 30329
(404)479-4240
(404) 404-4166 Fax

www.qualitycareforchildren.org



Pam Runkle, Executive Director of CCR&R Quality Care for Children and Safiyya Gleaton First Place Art Contest winner for ages 11 and up pictured above

held a school-age art contest and reception for contest entrants at Quality Care for Children. The following day, a group of interested child care providers toured an accredited afterschool program. We commend all of the afterschool programs and communities that are working to ensure children receive quality learning experiences after school.

Provider Spotlight: Marsha's Finest Childcare



Marsha Dennis and Ivan-Alexander Nikolov pictured above

Ms. Marsha L. Dennis has dedicated more than 15 years to early care and education. She operates Marsha's Finest Childcare; located in Clarkston. Although Marsha earned a BA in Early Childhood Education she felt she needed more resources to help her succeed in her career. "Even though I had my degree I didn't feel professional", Marsha said. After talking with a friend in the field about her desire to grow professionally, she was referred to

Quality Care for Children's Homes of Quality and Accreditation Programs. Marsha participated in both programs because she wanted to learn all that she could to improve her family child care home. Through the Homes of Quality program, Marsha learned how to arrange her family child care home to create a developmentally appropriate, nurturing and safe environment for the children in her care. "My home looks like a child care center; it now has the different areas of learning for art, science, blocks, music and reading", Marsha said with excitement.

Marsha recently completed the accreditation process, and is awaiting a decision from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) accreditation commission. When Marsha is approved, she will have achieved the highest standard of quality in family child care.

"The programs at Quality Care for Children have taught me a lot. I now know I am not a babysitter. I am a professional. My goal is to learn all that I can so my children will continue to have the opportunity to grow and learn", Marsha said.

Fun in the Summer Time

Now that summer is here, it's time for safe and exciting play outdoors. Include interest centers outside including:

- Active play (climbers, swings, slides and playing with hoops, parachutes, and balls)
- Sand and water (sand box with sand toys and water table with accessories)
- Riding toys
- Dramatic play (play house with accessories and props)
- Quiet play (area for relaxing, looking at books, and listening to stories)
- Science and nature (garden and bird feeders)
- Art (painting)

Activity Ideas:

Active Play: (Toddlers and older). Follow the leader. Materials: children. Start the game with the teacher doing different motions or movements. Once they get the hang of it, let the children be the leaders.

Sand and Water: (Three and older). Drawing in the sand. Materials: sticks, sand combs, natural objects like stones, pine cones, pine needles, etc. Children make shapes, and designs in the sand using the materials. Observe and comment on the patterns and shapes the children draw.

Riding Toys: (Three and older). Musical Start and Stop. Materials: Tape or CD player, music, and riding toys. Turn on the music and children ride around on the path all going one direction. When the music goes, they ride; when it stops, they stop.

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Professional Development Opportunities

| Date | Day | Title | Time |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------|
| June 3, 2006 | Saturday | CPR and First Aid (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 2:30 pm |
| June 10, 2006 | Saturday | Family Child Care Accreditation Support Group Meeting Interested in pursuing FCC Accreditation and want professional development hours? (Call 404-479-4208 for info) | 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| July 12-14, 24, 28-29, 2006 | Wed-Fri. Mon, Friday- Sat. | ABC's of Effective Child Care Leadership Meet your 40-hour director's training requirement (for new center directors) with us! (Call 404-479-4260 for info) | 8:30 am to 4:00 pm |
| June 17, 2006 | Saturday | How to Start a Family Child Care Home (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 3:00 pm |
| June 24, 2006 | Saturday | Child Care Super Saturday (for info call 404-479-4208 for cost and topics) | 8:30 am to 3:30 pm |
| June 27, 2006 | Tuesday | Registration Orientation Meeting (for registration and info call 404-479-4175) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |
| June 29, 2006 | Thursday | Child Care Center Licensing Orientation Meeting (LOM) (for info call 404-656-5957) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |
| July 8, 2006 | Saturday | CPR and First Aid (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 2:30 pm |
| July 15, 2006 | Saturday | How to Start a Family Child Care Home (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 3:00 pm |
| July 22, 2006 | Saturday | Family Child Care Accreditation Support Group Meeting Interested in pursuing FCC Accreditation and want professional development hours? (Call 404-479-4208 for info) | 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| July 25, 2006 | Tuesday | Registration Orientation Meeting (for registration and info call 404-479-4175) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |
| July 27, 2006 | Thursday | Child Care Center Licensing Orientation Meeting (LOM) (for info call 404-656-5957) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |
| August 5, 2006 | Saturday | CPR and First Aid (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 2:30 pm |
| August 12, 2006 | Saturday | Family Child Care Accreditation Support Group Meeting Interested in pursuing FCC Accreditation and want professional development hours? (Call 404-479-4208 for information) | 10:00 am to 2:00 pm |
| August 19, 2006 | Saturday | How to Start a Family Child Care Home (for info call 404-479-4230) | 9:00 am to 3:00 pm |
| August 29, 2006 | Tuesday | Registration Orientation Meeting (for registration and info call 404-479-4175) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |
| August 31, 2006 | Thursday | Child Care Center Licensing Orientation Meeting (LOM) (for info call 404-656-5957) | 9:00 am to 4:30 pm |



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PROVIDER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006

★ **Update Your Profile Now!** ★

There are 2 convenient ways to update your rates, hours and contact information:

1. Online at: www.qualitycareforchildren.org - Click on the link for "Update Your Information" on the homepage.
2. Call us at 404-479-4222 or 404-479-4237.

Summer Fun Activities *continued from page 2*

Dramatic Play: (three years and older). Somebody call the police! Materials: police badge and hat, ticket book, and tricycle with police insignia attached. "Police officer" pretends to give directions, assist with accidents, and arrest speeders. Discuss the role of the police, talk about safety, and teach traffic safety rules.

Quiet area: (6 weeks and older) Make a flutter tree or flutter fence. Materials: things that make interesting sounds in the wind (chimes, foil pie tins, strips of plastic, etc.), string, tree or fence. Tie things that flutter in the wind to the tree/fence and point out the sounds to the children.

Science: (Three and older). Tire Gardens. Materials: old car and truck tires, enriched soil, young plants, seeds or bulbs. Children and teacher place the tire or tires in a spot out of direct play or traffic but where there is plenty of sun. They fill the tires with the soil, plant the seeds, bulbs, or small plants and water regularly.

Art area: (18 months and older) Paint with water. Materials: small pails of water and paint brushes. Let the children paint the house with the water and point out how the wall changes color when wet.