



Covering the counties of Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren

Parents and Care Givers, Are You Buying New Toys and Materials for Children?

Play is a child's work! Play is essential to children's healthy development and learning cognitively and socially. Children use this play to build life skills with the knowledge of how to play coming from their experiences. Toys are the tools to learning. Adults have a great responsibility in promoting positive play.

Toys need to be able to:

- * Be used in many ways, not just one way.
- * Allow children to determine how the play will occur.
- * Promote respectful, non-stereotyped, and non-violent interactions among children.

Toys need to be chosen that will be able to promote **dramatic play** (blocks, dress-up clothes, small animals, dolls), **manipulation of materials** (Legos, Lincoln logs, puzzles, peg boards), **creative arts** (paper, crayons, paints, glue, scissors), **physical play** (bikes, balls, giant chalk, climbing), **game playing** (taking turns, sequencing, cooperation), **reading books** (telling, acting out, drawing), and **play with natural materials** (sand, water, mud, rocks, leaves, shells).

Toys have limited play value

when they:

- * Can only be used in one way.
- * Encourage children to play only the way the designer intended.

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CDA Mini-Grant Scholarships are Now Available

Are you currently working on your CDA (Child Development Associate credential)? Will you be ready to apply to the Council for Professional Recognition for the verification visit by March 1, 2001? If so, now is the time to contact Kim McIntyre, the WKU CCR&R Professional Development Coordinator, to apply for the CDA mini-grant that will pay for the \$325 assessment. The deadline for the mini-grants is December 15th.

The mini-grant application date of December 1 means that the verification visit will occur in April, May, or June in 2001; this is after you apply for the mini-grant verification visit by March 1st.

The regular CDA mini-grant is still available. Eligibility is based on the income of the candidate according to income eligibility guidelines. There are also KIDS NOW CDA mini-grants available that are **not based on the income level** of the candidate. Now, all candidates are eligible! Both CDA mini-grants pay for the \$325 assessment fee.

The applications will be accepted from **December 1, 2000 through December 15, 2000.**

Call Kim today to get your mini-grant application if you are ready. Remember, the deadline for applying for the mini-grant is the 15th of December!

Look inside for Training Registration Information for New and Experienced Child Care Employee Training for December and January!

The Child Care Professional

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- * Will probably sit on a shelf after the “new” wears off.
- * Do special actions instead of encouraging the child to explore with his imagination.
- * Lure children to watch the television show the toy is connected to.
- * Promote violence and stereotypes.

Parents and child care provider should avoid toys that make electronic technology the focus of the play, encourages infants and toddlers to watch television or computers, lures young children into pretending to be teenagers, emphasizes violent or sexual images, linked to commercial products and advertisement, takes the creative play out of the toys, and links play to unhealthy foods.

Parents and child care providers should provide interesting activities and materials to encourage positive interests and hobbies in young children. Adults should also play the toy purchases so that the impulse to buy will be avoided. Adults need to provide uninterrupted daily play times with the materials and toys well organized, so that the children can begin and finish their play. Adults are good models and support for each other. Together we can share resources for activities, toys and books, and outings for families as alternatives to activities and materials that do not promote the message we want our young children to receive.

Child care providers have a very important role in educating parents as to the importance of play and how toys and the media affect the play of young children. It is also the responsibility of both parents and providers to work together to promote healthy learning and play such as adequate outdoor time each day.

We all have a great impact on what the children we care for experience in a day. Let's make sure that the experiences that we provide to the children in our care are quality experiences. Together with parents we can accomplish

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Children's Theatre at WKU

The WKU Department of Theatre and Dance has once again opened their Children's Theatre Series. All presentations occur on Fridays at 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays at 3:00 p.m., and admission is \$1.00. The presentations are located on Western's campus in Gordon Wilson Hall, Theatre 100. If you need directions, you may contact WKU or the CCR&R office.

Following is the schedule of presentations:

- * December 1 and 2 *Underdogs* is a revue using song, dance, and comedy to celebrate underdogs and is suitable for all ages.

- * December 9 *International Holiday* is a holiday show that will be performed at the Kentucky Building and will celebrate cultures from around the world. This presentation will only occur on this Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

With these wonderful opportunities to expose children to the world of theatre so close and so inexpensive on the budget, take advantage of the WKU Theatre and

Dance. Please share this information with parents/guardians and encourage them to participate.

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The very important task of making sure the children's play experiences are based on quality guidelines with appropriate toys and materials that will promote cognitive and social learning.

Information gathered from Child Care Information Exchange The Director's Magazine, November/December 2000.

Don't forget to help enroll a child in free health insurance! For more information call 1-877-KCHIP-18.

New Orientation and Experienced Child Care Provider Workshops

The Child Care Resource & Referral will sponsor training for child care providers on Saturday, December 9, 2000 and Saturday, January 20, 2001. The workshops will be worth six clock hours of training. Registration for December has been previously mailed and is due back to the CCR&R office by December 1, 2000. Registration for January is enclosed. Registration fees will only be refunded if cancellation is received in writing prior to December 1, 2000 for the December training and January 5, 2001 for the January training. Although fees will not be refunded after these dates, you are encouraged to send a substitute if the person registered is unable to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the CCR&R office and ask for Lesley.

Upcoming Training Sites

January - Bowling Green and Russellville

February— Bowling Green, Glasgow, and Russellville

Registration Deadline for providers is December 1, 2000 for the December training and January 5, 2001 for the January training

Conference Opportunities

Following is a list of upcoming conference opportunities that will be held in Kentucky and Indiana.

* February 23 and 24, 2001

KEY TRENDS Training West, Module 2: Working with Families of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Pennyrile State Resort Park, Dawson Springs, KY. For more information contact Cathy Howle at 1-888-786-5551.

* February 23 and 24, 2001

Twelfth Annual Kentucky Coalition for School-Age Care Spring Conference, Galt House, Louisville, KY. For more information contact Scott Wells at 859-252-1982 or email at swells@lwol.com

* March 2 and 3, 2001

KEY TRENDS Training West, Module 2: Working with Families of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Jenny Wiley State Resort

Park, Prestonsburg, KY. For more information, contact Sue Spangenberger at 1-800-540-3323.

* April 19 through 21, 2001

13th Annual Conference of the National School-Age Care Alliance, Indianapolis, IN. For more information call 1-800-606-0061 or email at conference@nsaca.org or visit their website at www.nsaca.org

The Child Care Professional

December 2000/January 2001

www.wku.edu/TTAS

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Cooked Play Dough

You will need:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of salt
- 1 tablespoon cream of tartar
- 2 cups of water with food coloring
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

Put everything in a pot. Cook at medium heat, stirring constantly. Mix until it looks like mashed potatoes. Knead when cool to the touch. Store in plastic container or zip-lock bag in the refrigerator.

This is a wonderful play dough that will last a long time if kept properly and is inexpensive and easy to make. Enjoy!

Note: the play dough will be more colorful as the amount of food coloring is increased.

The Child Care Professional

Joy comes along rarely enough.
When it does,
with all its lovely surprised in tow,
you have to be
alert and ready and attentive.
If you don't look up
at just the right minute,
your chance will pass you by.
Tell me.
What's sadder?
The chance you see and miss?
Or the chance you never knew
was there?

Bachelor Brothers' *Bed and Breakfast Pillow Book*, Bill Richardson, St. Martin's Press, 1995

www.wku.edu/TTAS