

The Child Care Professional

The Newsletter of the WKU Child Care Resource & Referral

Holiday Cheer & Curriculum

Connie Jo Smith, CCR&R Specialist

During this time of the year early childhood programs are faced with the decision of what to do about celebrating holidays. Holidays can be an excellent way for children to learn about customs and traditions. There is the opportunity to help children learn about family beliefs and values that mean so much to people. However the question is, "Whose beliefs and values do you celebrate?"

Celebrating holidays in early childhood programs may result in parents becoming upset because the holidays that the teacher, or center, want to celebrate are not the same ones their family celebrates. Children may feel left out if the festivities are not ones they are familiar with or if they are not supposed to participate. Children who do not participate may be made fun of and be excluded from play. Sometimes children will become confused when beliefs are different at school than at home.

So what is the answer? The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) encourages us to communicate with the families of the children we have enrolled to determine what they would like to see happen regarding holidays. Offering experiences that will be respectful of all families and meaningful to children can be accomplished with some planning. When children can relate to some of the activities it provides a model of inclusion and allows everyone to learn from each other.

As a guide NAEYC tells us

to ask these three questions about any activity: Is it meaningful to the children? Are children's needs and interests being met? And Is the activity a valuable use of their time?

Sometimes we plan activities because they are cute or we have done them before without thinking about how children will feel about them or what they will learn from them. Check out the NAEYC web page for more information about celebrating holidays and providing a respectful classroom: <http://www.naeyc.org/>.

Books About Respecting Differences

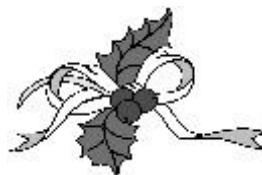
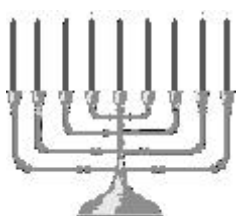
Alike and Different: Exploring Our Humanity With Young Children (Rev. ed.), Editor: Bonnie Neugebauer

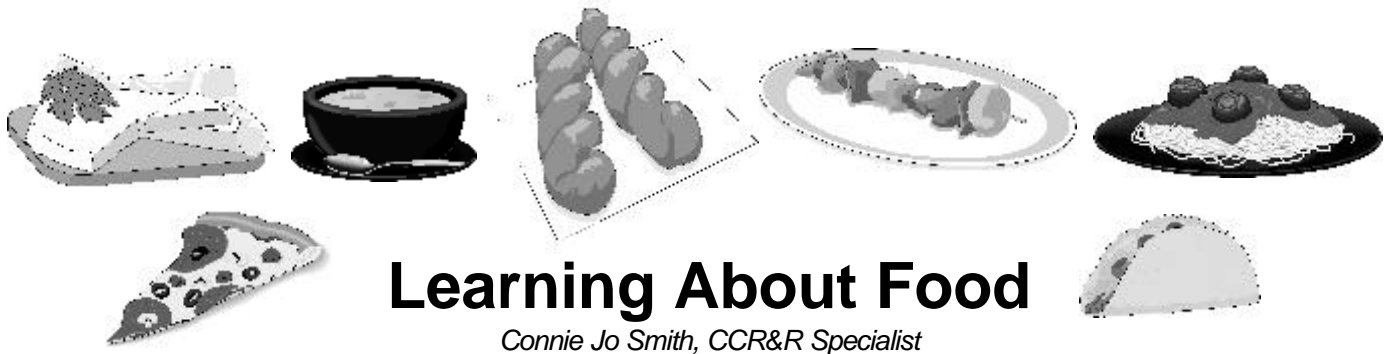
Anti-Bias Curriculum: Tools for Empowering Young Children, Authors: Louise Derman-Sparks and A.B.C. Task Force

How to Generate Values in Young Children, Author: S. Riley

Roots and Wings, Author: Stacey York

Valuing Diversity: The Primary Years, Author: Janet McCracken





Learning About Food

Connie Jo Smith, CCR&R Specialist

Food is a large part of many celebrations, and with Thanksgiving nearing many early childhood classrooms will be focusing on food. What food is prepared, how it is prepared, who prepares it, and the rituals surrounding the meal time are all largely determined by the family culture and values. Involving families in planning activities about food is an ideal way to expose children to a wide variety of interesting foods.

Parents can be invited to send in their favorite recipes, empty spice containers, food labels, empty food cans, and empty food boxes for the classroom. Children can compare and discuss the differences and similarities of the food they each eat at home. The containers can also be used in a dramatic play learning center.

It may be a good time of year to add other food props to the dramatic play area. Some ideas include: pot holders, recipe books, a grill, restaurant menus, chef hat, aprons, pots, pans, seed catalogs, grocery coupons, grocery store advertisements, seed collections, and a picnic basket.

Introducing new vocabulary words related to

food can be a learning activity for young children. Here are a few words to teach children: harvest, vegetarian, cafeteria, cuisine, condiments, chef, wok, recipes, flavors, spices, and seasonings. You can introduce new words to children by using the words frequently, making a book with the new words and pictures, singing songs with the words, making puzzles with the words, and many other ways.

There are many great books about food. One is *Bread, Bread, Bread* by Ann Morris. You could provide a tray with many kinds of bread (tortillas, pita, lefse, and focaccia) to let children experience foods that they might not have eaten. Other good books include: *Daddy Makes the Best Spaghetti*, by Anna Grossnickle Hinds; *Eating Out*, by Helen Oxenbury; *Everybody Cooks Rice*, by Norah Dooley; and *D.W. The Picky Eater* by Marc Brown.

The above ideas came from: *Growing, Growing Strong: A Whole Health Curriculum for Young Children*, by Connie Jo Smith, Charlotte M. Hendricks, and Becky S. Bennett, Redleaf Press (800-423-8309)

Events of Interest for



Aviation Month
 Child Safety and Protection Month
 Good Nutrition Month
 International Drum Month
 Latin American Month
 National Adoption Month
 2nd Week - American Education Week
 2nd Week - National Children's Book Week
 Peanut Butter Lover's Month

November :1 National Author's Day
 November 1: National Family Literacy Day
 November 3: Sandwich Day
 November 6: Basketball Day
 November 7: Hug-a-Bear Day
 November 15: America Recycles Day
 November 17: National Young Reader's Day
 November 17: Take A Hike Day
 November 22: Stop the Violence Day

National Family Child Care Convention

Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Coordinator

Are you a family child care provider? Then this convention is for you! Make plans now to attend the National Family Child Care Convention: "The Art of Family Child Care: The National Picture." This special convention for family child care providers will take place March 20-24, 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The good news is that there are scholarships available to interested family child care providers and the application is easy to complete. The Nancy E. Travis Scholarship program is designed to reward special family child care providers for using nurturing techniques, innovative ideas, and for being dedicated to the family child care profession. The scholarship application contains questions such as: the length of time you have been a provider, how you would describe family child care to someone who did not know, three things that you would want to learn and take home from the conference, why your business is special, and why you feel that you should be selected to receive the scholarship. If you do not have access to the internet and want to get more information, please call the CCR&R office at 270-745-2216 or 800-621-5908, or call (404) 479-4204.

You may choose not to apply for the scholarship. If so, then if registered prior to December 15, 2001 the cost is \$150 for the convention or \$70 for the Saturday only sessions. If you would like to visit the website for more information, to get the scholarship application, or get highlights for the convention, visit www.qualitycareforchildren.org.

Don't let a great opportunity pass you by to interact with other family child care professionals from around the country! Enjoy!



Family Child Care Resources

Lesley Montgomery, Office Coordinator

The following family child care resources are available from the CCR&R library. Please feel free to contact Lesley Montgomery, Office Coordinator and she will be happy check these and other materials out to you!

Family Day Care Activities From A to Z – Developmentally Appropriate Activities for Preschool-age Children; Prestine, Joan.

This is a small paperback book, but it's "jam packed" with great ideas! Over 100 activities for children between the ages of one and five are organized alphabetically under such topics as Magnets, Magnifying Glass, Makeup, and Markers, using readily accessible household items for each activity. The activities stress both indoor and outdoor free play, language development, social skills, motor development, and self-esteem. Don't overlook this great resource for your preschoolers!

Heart to Heart Caregiving – A Sourcebook of Family Day Care Activities, Projects and Practical Provider Support; Powell, Sandy.

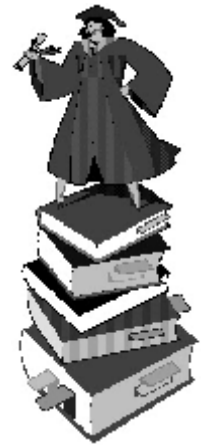
This book is appropriate for child care staff, preschool teachers, and parents. Ms. Powell stresses the need to bring together home day care providers, who often feel isolated from other care givers. Her user-friendly book offers practical advice for planning, and delineates steps home care providers can take to ensure a seamless transition between the daily activities. She also offers helpful hints for long-term planning, and includes equipment purchase and maintenance, program expansion and program enhancement to help family child care providers set goals.

Making Home-Based Child Care Work for You – A Handbook for Parents and Family Child Care Providers; McDonough-Abunassar, Holly.

This book targets new or established family child care providers and parents. She presents an in-depth look at family child care as a profession, and covers business management, budgeting, curriculum planning, marketing, and facility set-up. Parents will benefit from tips on choosing a provider and parent/provider communication. The book has very useful

samples of forms, such as an incident report, a client account statement, and even a tuition increase notice! This handbook is practical and

interesting. Please don't overlook this gem of a book!



Congratulations, KIDS NOW Scholars!

Kim McIntyre, Professional Development Coordinator

Congratulations to the KIDS NOW Scholars for leading the way for other area early childhood professionals to follow in their footsteps and enroll in early childhood classes! During the last year, the KIDS NOW Scholars have overcome their fears and anxiety of returning to school and learned how to help each other out by enrolling in the same classes and studying together. Now, these scholars are encouraging and supporting newcomers into the KIDS NOW Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program.

Special recognition is in order for Kim Copeland, Director of LaPetite Academy, for having the program with the most participating scholars in the BRADD area! The secret: Kim is a role model and a mentor for the staff at LaPetite Academy. Kim recently indicated, "We will help anyone who is interested in joining us. We have been there, and we want others to know we will help them. If we can do it, they can do it".

Through the KIDS NOW Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program, child care providers and preschool instructional assistants can attend college classes to earn an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. The scholarship pays for classes, and if scholars earn at least a "C" in the classes, they are also awarded \$100 each semester.

Other benefits include: enhanced job satisfaction, improved staff retention, a significant impact to quality, as well as, the earning of training hour requirements while taking early childhood development classes. To find out how you can become a KIDS NOW Scholar too, contact Kim McIntyre, CCR&R Professional Development Coordinator.

KIDS NOW Scholars	Participating Employers
Linda Bohannon	LaPetite Academy
Paula Burd	Noah's Ark Child Care & Learning Center
Kimberly Copeland	LaPetite Academy
Janis Flynn	Holy Trinity Lutheran School
Judith Ged	Eagle's Nest Childcare
Vickie Gregory	Community Education
Michelle Jessie	Plum Tree Montessori
Sheila Luntz	Eagle's Nest Childcare
Angela Michael	Wee-Care Child Care & Learning Center
Jennifer Moore	Creative Learning
Lori Mosier	Noah's Ark Child Care & Learning Center
Alissa Nealy	LaPetite Academy
Tammy Reeder	Busy Town, Inc.
Lucy Rush	LaPetite Academy
Lori Wallen	Warren Co. Schools Preschool

Make More Money

According to Governor Patton's Education Pays campaign, "a person who receives an associate degree will earn, on average, a half-million dollars more in his or her lifetime than a high school dropout." Contact Kim McIntyre, Professional Development Coordinator for information about the scholarship opportunities for early childhood educators.

Children's Theatre is Back!

Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Coordinator

Looking for a children's play at a low cost? WKU Department of Theatre and Dance has announced their Children's Theatre Series. All performances are \$1.00 per person. Each performance is on Western's campus in the Gordon Wilson Hall, Theatre 100.



Performances are at 4:00 p.m. on Fridays and at 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The following is a listing of dates, name of the play, and the intended

audience. For more information, you can call (270) 745-5845.

Robin Goodfellow

November 2, 3 and 4

The magical prankster Robin sets out to prove he is the master of mischief! It is a wonderful

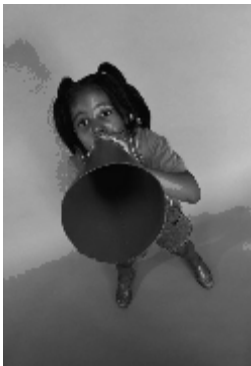


introduction to the world of Shakespeare. Best suited for ages six and above.

Marmalade Gumdrops

November 16, 17 and 18

Wally's furniture comes to life to teach him that "imagination is like a marmalade gumdrop; once you've tasted it, you'll never settle for just plain." Suitable for kids of all ages.



Little People, Big Differences

November 30, December 1-2

Young people unite! Tired of adults telling you that you're too little? Step into the world of *Little People, Big Differences* where kids are the heroes and heroines, where size doesn't matter, and

anything is possible! Suitable for all ages.

Make plans now to take children to a theater production. Exposing children to the arts helps to establish assets for our young children and models the enjoyment of the performances and talents of others. Enjoy!

CCR&R Has New Home

The Child Care Resource and Referral at Western Kentucky University is excited to announce that the office has moved from Tate Page Hall to Jones Jagers Hall. Jones Jagers Hall is located on University Boulevard at the edge of campus. Please note that our mailing address has changed to:

**151 Jones Jagers Hall
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101**

Our local telephone number (270-745-2216), toll free number (800-621-5908), and fax number (270-745-7089) have not changed. The email (ccrr@wku.edu) and web page (www.ttas.org) are also the same.

You are welcome to visit the CCR&R library in room 151 of Jones Jagers Hall. Please park in the visitor spaces in the back of the building.

Child Care Resource & Referral

The staff of the Child Care Resource and Referral at Western Kentucky University includes:

Connie Jo Smith, CCR&R Specialist