

# ***THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL***

***The Newsletter of the WKU Child Care Resource & Referral***

## **Helping Children Relate Positively & Empathetically to Others**

*Kim McIntyre, Professional Development Coordinator*

From the time they are born, children begin to learn about relationships through the people who care for them. When caregivers model positive interactions, children learn to interact positively. When caregivers model being responsive to children's distress, the children will tend to be more responsive to the distress of someone else. Even though very young children are egocentric and unable to realize that others have their own points of view and emotions, we begin to see children imitate empathy when an infant or toddler hugs or pats a friend who is crying or shows sympathy when a parent or caregiver is hurt or upset. When children start to show empathy, we know that certain social understandings are beginning to dawn on them.

Infants and young toddlers may stare at a distressed individual, cry, frown, or look towards caregivers as if to say, "Do something." Older toddlers may try to do something for the distressed person, such as walking over to them, touching, patting, hugging, offering an object, or saying something supportive such as, "Kiss it, make it better," or "No cry, Mommy." They may also try to lead the individual to the caregiver or try to go get help. Infants and toddlers vary greatly in their responses to other's distress and do not always respond. Some young children may never even notice and others leave the scene when another child is crying, but there are many daily opportunities to teach children about getting along. Here are a few:

1. Acknowledge children's positive interactions!  
"You are getting to know each other, you touched her face very gently." "That was thoughtful to bring her a book, too."
2. Encourage children to help one another. "Oh, look, James needs some help. He spilled the

- crayons. Let's help our friend."
3. Give children opportunities to help you - set the table, get paper towels, feed the fish, turn the water faucet off or on, and more.
4. Allow children time to work out their differences, but be ready to step in if you are needed. "Here is another pillow to sit on."
5. Arrange the environment so that children have opportunities to spend time alone or play together. Being together in a group situation all day can be stressful; encourage individual and one-on-one time, too!
6. Read books with themes of helpfulness and friendship. Tell stories that the children can identify with being helpful or being a friend.
7. Include materials that promote interaction and cooperation - a rocking boat, the paint easel, the computer, or a wagon.

## ***Child Care Resource & Referral***

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*Visit our website at [www.ttas.org](http://www.ttas.org)*

# Computers: Part I of A Continuing Series

Deane Oliva, Family Child Care Coordinator

For some of us, computers are still a mystery and we are not quite sure they interest us. This “**Computer Basics**” series will take some of the mystery out of personal computers.

The computer itself is nothing more than a large board filled with electrical circuits and boxes inside a metal case. The computer case can stand upright; then it is called a *tower* computer. Or, it can lie down on a table; then it is called a *desktop* computer. Computer hardware are pieces of equipment. In addition to the computer (and case), popular hardware include the video screen, known as a *monitor*, the *keyboard*, a *mouse* (or trackball), and speakers.

The computer case will have holes or “slots” in it for the drives (equipment) which use *Compact Disks (CDs)* and small square disks called *floppy disks*. Inside the case may be a *sound card* so that one can hear words, sounds and music, usually a *modem* to connect the computer to the telephone or cable line which can then connect to other computers, and a storage box called a *hard drive* to hold the documentation and instructions which run the computer. The computer may also include a variety of other components such as printers and scanners that are nice to have but may not necessary; collectively, these are called *peripherals*.

There are two main types of personal computers named after two major manufacturers, IBM and Apple. Thus, owners say “I have an Apple computer” or “I have an IBM computer.” Each type has

a series of instructions, called an *operating system*, written on the hard drive which directs the computer, telling it how parts and instructions should interact. Just as some people speak French and others English, operating systems are written in different *computer languages*. Apple decided not to let anyone else use their operating system. In contrast, many manufacturers, such as Dell, Gateway, Hewlett Packard, and Compaq, use the same operating system as IBM. Their machines are known as IBM clones or IBM -compatible. *Windows*, installed on most IBM clones, is the most popular operating system in the world.

While an operating system is essential, the computer needs more information to work. A *software program* is a sequence of coded instructions that makes the computer useful by directing it to perform specialized functions, place information on the video screen, and respond to the user’s keyboard and mouse movements. Examples of software include games, databases, spreadsheets, financial, and writing (or *word processing*) programs. These programs may be written on the hard drive or purchased later either on a floppy or compact disk. After purchase, the disk is placed into the correct drive. The computer’s operating system then reads what is on the disk and either starts the program or transfers it to the hard drive for future use.

*In Part II of this Computer Series, we will continue our exploration of how computers work. Then, we will learn what computers can do for us.*

# Poisonings Kill About 30 Children Annually

*Lesley Montgomery, CCR&R Office Coordinator*

Poison Centers are now accessible through a National Toll-Free Number. Calling **1-800-222-1222** makes 65 local Poison Centers accessible through a single national toll-free number. In Kentucky, the toll-free phone number is automatically routed to Louisville.

On January 30, 2002, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) launched a nationwide public awareness campaign to promote **1-800-222-1222**, a new lifesaving toll-free hotline that connects Americans to poison treatment and prevention experts 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The new hotline allows someone to call from anywhere in the U.S. and automatically be connected to specially trained nurses, pharmacists, and doctors at the closest local Poison Control Center. Poison experts will respond to emergencies and answer poison-related questions about medicines, household products, and other potentially dangerous substances. The service is free.

More than two million poison exposures were reported to Poison Control Centers in 2000; the majority could have been prevented with simple information available from experts. On average, Poison Control Centers in the United States manage a poison exposure every 14 seconds. The vast majority - 77 percent - of these exposures can be treated over the phone, right where they happen, with telephone advice and assistance from the experts. If emergency medical care is needed to treat a poisoning, experts provide information on treatment to emergency personnel and other health care providers. Additionally, the expert staff at Poison Control Centers are available to answer non-emergency poison-related questions.

Prior to the launch of **1-800-222-1222**, each local Poison Control Center was accessible only through local or state-wide numbers. While these numbers will continue to operate, the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) and local Poison Control Centers are encouraging Americans to learn and remember the new national hotline, so they can easily access it, anytime and anywhere in the United States. The AAPCC's education campaign will include print,

radio and television public service announcements. They will be distributing stickers, magnets, brochures, and posters with the new hotline number and Poison HELP logo.

See the web site at <http://www.aapcc.org/> or call **1-800-222-1222** for information. The hotline is authorized and funded under the Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act (P.L.106-174). Funding is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration, which works in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The American Association of Poison Control Centers is a nationwide not-for-profit organization of poison centers and others interested in the prevention and treatment of poisoning.

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## **Other Poison Control Resources**

### **Poison Prevention Council**

<http://www.poisonprevention.org/main.html>

**Plants That Poison** Illustrated chart of common poisonous plants indicating size, toxic parts, and symptoms of poisoning. Contains info on preventing plant poisoning and emergency measures. Single copy free. Must send self-addressed, stamped business envelope to: Bronson Hospital Poison Prevention, 601 John Street, Box 56 (Attn: Nancy), Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

### **What You Need to Know About the Safety of Art & Craft Materials**

A 12-page booklet that answers commonly-asked questions about the safe use of materials. Single copies free: quantities upon request. The Art and Creative Materials Institute, Inc., P.O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341; Phone: 781-293-4100; FAX: 781-294-0808. [www.acminet.org](http://www.acminet.org)

### **Read the Label First! Protect Your Kids**(EPA #740-F-00-001)

A brochure about protecting children from exposure to household cleaners and pesticides. Free copies available from the National Service Center for Environmental Publications, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, OH 45242-2419. 800-490-9198. [www.epa.gov/ncepihom](http://www.epa.gov/ncepihom)

## **Southern Early Childhood Association**

Since 1948, the Southern Early Childhood Association (SECA) has served as a professional association for preschool, kindergarten, and primary teachers as well as administrators, caregivers, program directors, and individuals working with and for families. SECA supports the members in promoting quality care and education for young children.

SECA members receive several benefits, including *Dimensions of Early Childhood* (a quarterly journal), and discounts on publications and conference registration fees. Even for those who are not members, the web page provides position statements, a listserv, publications for sale, and information about conferences. Position statements include topics such as literacy, quality child care, brain research implications, and child assessments.

The 53rd Annual Conference, scheduled for March 21-23, will be held in Oklahoma City. There is a special track for child care directors that will focus on legal issues, diversity, and personnel management. The conference also includes professional tours of military, corporate, and public school programs. A wide range of workshop topics are planned. For more information about SECA contact them directly at:

### **Southern Early Childhood Association**

Phone: 1-800-305-7322; Fax: 1-501-227-5297  
seca@aristotle.net (Email)  
P.O. Box 55930  
Little Rock, AR 72215-5930

SECA also has a Kentucky affiliate so you can become involved at a more local level. Here is the state contact information.

### **Kentucky Association for Early Childhood Education**

Phone: 859-341-0722; Fax: 888-523-2322  
521 Garden Way  
Edgewood, KY 41017

## **Kentucky Legislators Are In Session: Have You Contacted Yours?**

Legislators are now in session until April 15, 2002. Visit the web page at [www.lrc.state.ky.us](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us) to follow the work of the legislators. If you do not have Internet access, you are welcome to come to the CCR&R office to check this web page.

## **Interested in Earning A CDA? Or The New Commonwealth Child Care Credential?**

*Kim McIntyre, Professional Development Coordinator*

The new Commonwealth Child Care Credential will soon be available to caregivers who successfully complete sixty clock hours of approved child care training from an approved early childhood education agency. The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential can be earned by caregivers who successfully complete 120 clock hours of approved training and the CDA assessment process. The Child Development Associate credential is awarded by the Council for Professional Recognition in Washington, DC after the caregiver demonstrates sound early childhood development knowledge and the ability to provide quality care to children and families.

If you are interested in earning the new Commonwealth Child Care Credential or a Child Development Associate Credential, please contact Kim McIntyre, CCR&R Professional Development Coordinator, at (270) 745-2216 or 1-800-621-5908 regarding possible scholarship information.

# News for Family Child Care Homes

Taylor Tucker, CCR&R Quality Coordinator

The STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System is a part of Governor Patton's KIDS NOW initiative. The KIDS NOW initiative is a comprehensive program with a vision that all young children in Kentucky are healthy and safe, possess the foundation that will enable school and personal success, and live in strong families that are supported and strengthened within their communities.

There are many components in the KIDS NOW initiative to support this for Kentucky's youngest citizens. One of these is the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System, a voluntary scale that rates child care centers and now homes on a one to four "star." This system has been up and running for the Type I centers for about eight months. It is now time to add the Type II and Certified Family Child Care Homes to the Rating System.

The Pilot period for the Quality Rating System for Family Child Care Homes has begun. Warren County is the pilot county for the BRADD area. The pilot period will last until July of 2002. At that time, the Quality Rating System for Family Child Care Homes will become available for all interested Type II and Certified Family Child Care Homes.

Why should homes participate in the STARS for KIDS NOW Quality Rating System? First participation tells families that your program is investing in quality. Second, free technical assistance will be available to support you and make STARS work for you and the children you serve. And last, monetary awards will be given to qualifying sites.

The rating scale is based on Staff Child Ratios, Curriculum, Training, Business Practices and Regulatory Compliance. Research shows, that quality care is related to staff child ratios, curriculum, and staff training. All directors and owners must attend a STARS for KIDS NOW overview to participate in the voluntary program. Technical assistance is available for any family child care home requesting

it, and you don't have to wait to start receiving technical assistance. Owners and directors can call the Child Care Resource and Referral and request technical assistance now so when the Quality Rating System rolls out statewide, you can be ready to participate. The future strength of the Commonwealth of Kentucky depends upon the healthy development of our youngest citizens. So get involved by calling Taylor Tucker, Quality Coordinator at 1-800-621-5908 or 270-745-2216.

## March Calendar of Events

### ***Annual Conferences in March:***

**National Child Care Association**  
San Antonio, Texas on March 7-10  
Contact: 800.543.7161x10.

**Family Child Care Convention**  
Atlanta, Georgia on March 20-24  
Contact: 404.479.4200.

**Southern Early Childhood Association**  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on March 21-23  
Contact: 1.800.305.7322

### ***Special Celebrations During March:***

Poison Prevention Week is March 17-23  
Women's History Month

### ***Special Days in March:***

March 1	National Pig Day Peanut Butter Lover's Day Share a Smile Day
March 11	Johnny Appleseed Day
March 12	Girl Scout Day
March 21	Children's Poetry Day National Teenager Day Single Parent Day
March 30	Doctor's Day

# Mark Your Calendars for The Week of the Young Child

*Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Coordinator*

Every year, the National Association for the Education of Young Children sponsors *The Week of the Young Child*. First celebrated in 1971, this annual event is designed to focus the public on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. This year, *The Week of the Young Child* is April 7 through April 13, and this year's theme is *Children's Opportunities - Our Responsibilities*.

The opportunities that children, birth to age eight, have in their daily activities and encounters really is our responsibility as the adults in their lives, whether we are their parent, child care provider, or an acquaintance. We have a responsibility to all children to provide them with a loving and nurturing environment. We have such an impact in shaping the learning and development of young children.

## Family Fair Planned for April

**WHAT:** A Family Fair sponsored by the Barren River District Early Intervention Committee, featuring Janet Fugate, Western Kentucky University Consumer and Family Sciences Instructor

**WHERE:** Living Hope Baptist Church, 1802 Westen Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky

**WHEN:** April 27, 2002 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**WHY:** For a fun time for families with young children who have special needs and are receiving early intervention services. There will be information booths, children's activities, clowns and games, and sibling activities will be available.

**FOR WHOM:** All families of infants and toddlers who live in the 10 county Barren River area and who are receiving or may receive early intervention services for delays or disabilities.

**Tell Your Friends! Tell Your Families!**

Take a few minutes to evaluate the services and experiences that we provide to young children in our care. Be sure that it is the best that they can receive in order to learn and grow to their greatest capacity. Plan a celebration at your family child care home or early childhood/child care center to celebrate all of the children in your care and to celebrate their families. Let the children know how special and important they are.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is the world's largest early childhood education association and has over 100,000 members. NAEYC recognizes that the years from birth to age eight lay the foundation for children's future success in school and in later life. For more information on *The Week of the Young Child* or to apply for or learn more about NAEYC membership information, visit their web site at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org).

## Looking for Employees?

*Connie Jo Smith, CCR&R Specialist*

The Career Services Center at Western Kentucky University is sponsoring a *Spring Job Fair* on March 14, 2002 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for registered employers to meet WKU students and graduates and area high school students seeking employment. Over 1,000 people are expected to attend this event at the Carroll Knicely Conference Center on WKU's south campus at 2355 Nashville Road.

A non-refundable employer registration fee of \$100 - due by March 4th - includes a 4x6 table and lunch for two representatives. To register or for more info, contact WKU Career Services at 270-745-3095 or on-line at <http://www.wku.edu/Info/Student/CareerServ/cscweb/>. If registering, be sure to bring job applications and brochures about your program. If not registering your program individually, you may join forces with the Child Care Resource & Referral, which is hosting a table to share general info about the early childhood field. Contact Sherri Meyer to register and, for \$10 per program, we will distribute the information you provide about your program at the CCR&R table. You are also welcome to sign up to help staff the CCR&R table.