



# ***THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL***

The Newsletter of the Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU

Volume XIV, Number 2

February 2007

## THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL

### The Newsletter of the Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU

**THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL** is published monthly by Training & Technical Assistance Services and the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) at Western Kentucky University. The CCR&R at WKU serves the Barren River Area Development District of Kentucky which includes Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalf, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Counties. Primary services offered by the CCR&R include:

- Distributing consumer education materials to families seeking child care,
- Providing child care referrals to parents;
- Offering training to early childhood providers and parents;
- Helping potential child care providers establish programs,
- Providing training hours leading to the Commonwealth Child Care Credential and the Child Development Associate (CDA), and
- Advocating for affordable, accessible, high quality services for children and families.



The professionals and staff of the CCR&R at WKU are ready to provide assistance in a number of areas. Our staff includes:

Dr. Connie Jo Smith, CCR&R Director  
Jill Norris, CCR&R Coordinator

Sherri Meyer, Parent & Community Coordinator  
Dr. Amy Hood Hooten, Training Specialist  
Heather Alms, Provider Assistant & Office Coordinator

**SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE.** Articles and stories from this newsletter may be photocopied or reprinted without written permission from the CCR&R at WKU. Reprints should, however, credit the magazine as follows: “*Reprinted from THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL, (date of issue), with permission from the Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU.*”

**KEEP IN TOUCH.** If you are not currently receiving the newsletter at your own center or agency, please contact our office by mail, phone or e-mail and we will add your name to our mailing list. If you, your agency or center are moving, please let us know your new address; we’ll update our mailing list, and you won’t miss an issue of **THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL**. (If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact our office by phone or e-mail and we will remove you from our mailing list.)

**Child Care Resource & Referral at Western Kentucky University**  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1098  
Phone Us at (270) 745-2216 or (800) 621-5908 - Fax Us at (270) 745-7089  
E-Mail Us at [crr.expert@wku.edu](mailto:crr.expert@wku.edu) • Or Visit Our Website at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku/](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku/)  
Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

**SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION.** Any program or person interested in receiving our newsletter may subscribe for \$36 per year. The monthly newsletter provides a variety of articles, news, and information for early care and education programs, including child care, family day care, preschool, and Head Start. Caregivers, teachers, administrators, and parents can all benefit from the newsletter. Single complimentary annual subscriptions of **THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL** are provided to licensed child care centers, certified home providers, and special friends in the Barren River Area Development District (BRADD) of Kentucky. Additional subscriptions may also be purchased by these readers for the same rate of \$36 per year. All registered providers in the BRADD qualify for the discounted rate of \$26 per year for each additional subscription.

The newsletter is available in both printed and electronic versions. Print copies of **THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL** are mailed at the end of each month; electronic copies are e-mailed directly to subscribers in a Portable Document File (PDF) which can be printed or viewed on your computer using Adobe Acrobat Reader (free software downloadable from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com)). Readers may select the format they prefer when subscribing. To receive an subscription form or to learn more, please contact our office by phone (800-621-5908 or 270-745-2216), by fax (270-745-7089), or by e-mail ([heather.alms@wku.edu](mailto:heather.alms@wku.edu)).

*Funded in part by the Kentucky Cabinet for Health & Family Services through the University of Kentucky Research Foundation.*

# Study Shows How to Better Meet Family Needs

By Jill Norris, CCR&R Coordinator

About 63 percent of children under age five in the United States spend time in a child care setting every week. Many of these children are in programs like the one you operate, possibly a child care center or a family child care home. Child care is critical to working families regardless of the number of working adults in the home. Additionally, the expense of child care can be overwhelming for some families, while many child care providers do all they can to keep costs to families as low as possible. Through this entire struggle, quality child care remains the number one desire for most people associated with the early childhood field, whether they are family members or early care professionals.

There is much information out there about what the experts say about the indicators of quality, but what do parents say? How do families assess quality when choosing child care and once their child(ren) are in care? The National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA) undertook the task of find out how families view child care in general and, specifically, how the families determine quality. By knowing what families expect of child care programs, we providers can better meet those families' needs and desires.

Two publications available via the NACCRRA website (<http://www.naccrra.org>) provide information on families opinions regarding childcare. The first document details the results of a national parent poll conducted in February 2006. Some 600 parents with young children were asked questions about their perceptions and thoughts about child care and their child care usage. The full results of the poll can be accessed at <http://www.naccrra.org/policy/newreport.php>, but the general findings are listed below:

- Parents feel the most important goals of child care are “providing a safe and healthy environment” followed by “preparing children to enter school ready to learn.”
- The attributes that parents most associated with quality child care were “caregivers who are loving and nurturing” followed by “caregivers who have specialized training in child development.”
- The biggest concerns parents have about child care are “quality” (by an overwhelming majority) followed by “cost.”
- Most parents feel making child care more affordable is an important way to help working families.
- Almost 80% of parents are in favor of a \$10 increase in taxes to improve the quality of child care.
- Of parents using child care, almost two-thirds are using formal child care arrangements (i.e., child care centers 30%; family child care homes 15%; nursery or preschool 17%); another 23% are using relatives to help care for their children; and 11% are using friends and neighbors.



A second document from NACCRRA, ***What Do Parents Think About Child Care? Findings From a Series of Focus Groups***, which can be accessed at <http://www.naccrra.org/randd/index.php?q=3> by clicking on *Parent Focus Groups*, provides information obtained during a series of focus groups conducted to find out what parents look for when choosing child care. NACCRRA made every effort to talk to parents who resemble the parents many of you serve in your programs by including parents of varied economic, ethnic, and educational backgrounds with children under the age of eight.

Not only are the focus group results summarized in the report, but specific parent statements are also quoted, which provide great information. One parent is quoted as saying: “One of the questions I asked all the teachers I visited was ‘Are you happy working here?’ I found out if there was high turnover; that’s not good for the kids.” Below is information obtained from the focus groups in regard to what parents want from a child care provider:

- Cost, cleanliness, and location are the first things parents look at, but quality factors are also extremely important
- “Parents want a caregiver who is friendly and caring, attuned to the needs and capabilities of their children, and informative and professional toward them.” Parents look for a caregiver with a good attitude who demonstrates that they like what they do and love children. They also feel that attitude is set by the director of the program.
- Parents look for a place where their children can learn new things “through activities, play and structured curricula.” Some parents expressed concern that children were being “pushed” and did not have enough time to play.
- Staff-child ratios are important to parents as they feel smaller class sizes mean their children will receive more individual attention.

- While many parents felt the child care they were currently using was better than what was available in their communities, they felt there was room for improvement.

Many of the parents’ insights mirror the indicators of quality typically outlined by “experts” in the field. Knowing that families feel quality is important and understanding how they define quality enables providers to better meet the needs and desires of families. How do you think your parents would have responded if they had been members of the focus groups? What are you doing and what else can you do to better meet the child care expectations of families? These two publications can provide insight for you as you look for ways of continually improving your program. To read more, access both documents at NACCRRRA’s website, <http://www.naccrra.org>.

## References

- NACCRRRA’s National Parent Poll- Executive Summary*, National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies.
- What Do Parents Think About Child Care? Findings From a Series of Focus Groups*, National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies.

# The CCR&R Needs YOUR Help!

The Child Care Resource & Referral wants and needs your input into our **2007-2008 CCR&R Training Plan**. We want to hear from you what training topics you are interested in for the upcoming year! If you have access to the Internet at your center or home, please consider taking about five minutes to complete an online survey that will provide us with information regarding your professional development needs. The online survey can be found on our website at <http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku>. If you don’t have Internet access, we still want to hear from you! The CCR&R will be offering several opportunities for individuals to complete the online survey at the CCR&R professional development conferences during February and March of 2007. If this doesn’t work for you, you may also request a hard copy of the survey be faxed or mailed to you! Contact the CCR&R office at 1-800-621-5908 or 270-745-2216 to obtain a hard copy of the survey.

The survey should be completed by **March 23, 2007**. Remember there are several options for completing the survey: (1) Go to our website, (2) Use the Internet services provided at February and March conferences, or (3) Request and complete a hard copy. The information you provide will enable us to plan future training events that meet the early care and education professionals in the BRADD area. Rest assured that any personal information gathered through the survey will remain confidential. We hope you will take the time to help us gather information that will help us plan professional development sessions that best meet the area’s needs and interests. **Thanks!**

*CCR&R PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*



*MARCH 2007  
REGISTRATION PORTFOLIO*

# CCR&R PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

## MARCH 2007 REGISTRATION PORTFOLIO

The Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU is the leading provider of quality, affordable training in the 10 counties of the Barren River Area Development District. The professional staff and consultants of the CCR&R provide Professional Development Training each month on a variety of topics, suitable for both new and veteran child care and family child care staff and administrators. Events are conveniently scheduled in the evening or on Saturdays and participants qualify for Child Care Training Credits.

This special removable section of **THE CCR&R PROFESSIONAL** contains registration forms for upcoming training events for the months of March 2007, as well as information on the remaining 2007 **CCR&R ADVANCED TOPICS SEMINARS IN EARLY MATH AND SCIENCE** (see pages 11-12). Simply detach the portfolio pages from the rest of the newsletter and copy the registration form or forms you need. Then pass the **REGISTRATION PORTFOLIO** on to your co-workers or colleagues so that they may copy the forms to register for the training in which they are interested. Please complete and return your registration form(s) with payment by the date specified on each form. You may also register on-line for all CCR&R training at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku). For additional details on scheduled events, please contact the CCR&R at (270) 745-2216 or (800) 621-5908.

*The CCR&R reserves the right to cancel an event if enrollment criteria are not met or when conditions beyond our control prevail. In the event of cancellation, the liability of the CCR&R is limited to the refund of registration fees only.*

### Attending Weekday Training? We Provide the Parking Pass!

Weekday parking on the WKU campus can be difficult. That's why the CCR&R provides free temporary WKU Visitor's Parking Passes for those pre-registering to attend CCR&R training on a weekday (Monday-Friday). Stickers can be picked up at Registration and should be placed on the driver's side dashboard of your car. Passes are valid only for the dates indicated on the pass. With a Visitor's Pass, you may park in all Non-Premium lots, including non-premium Faculty/Staff, Housing, Student, and Commuter Lots. You cannot park in Premium (i.e., gated) Lots, Handicapped Parking Slots, or Loading Zone slots, or in fire lanes or other parking-prohibited areas. (As always, parking on campus is not regulated after 5:00 and on weekends, so passes are not required for attending evening training or training on Saturdays.)

### Have You Lost Your Training Certificate?

If you've lost the certificate for any professional development training you received from the CCR&R, we will be happy to re-issue the certificate. Duplicate certificates are \$5 each and can be ordered by contacting Heather Alms at 270-745-2216 or 800-621-5908.

# CCR&R Professional Development Training

## INTRODUCTION TO RESOURCES IN KENTUCKY

9:30-11:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2007

Room 104, Jones-Jaggers Hall, University Boulevard, WKU, Bowling Green, KY

For training to count toward the required training hours for child care providers, the state of Kentucky requires that trainers have a *Kentucky Trainer's Credential*. To earn the *Kentucky Trainer's Credential*, a training professional must meet certain requirements and participate in two required training sessions. If you are an Early Care and Education professional who is working on or interested in obtaining a *Kentucky Trainer's Credential*, you will want to first participate in *Introduction to Resources in Kentucky*. This is one of two sessions required to submit an application for a *Kentucky Trainer's Credential*. Training is limited to 25 participants per session.

Doors will open and participant check-in will begin 1:00 p.m.

Copy and share this form as necessary; print clearly and submit one form per person.

### Registration Fee is \$30 per participant.

Register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return form with payment by March 1, 2007.

**No registrations accepted after March 1, 2007. There will be no on-site registrations!**

To receive CEU Credits, please check here  and include an additional \$15 fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed       Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  
 Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**No registrations accepted after March 1, 2007.** Please register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return completed registration form **with payment** to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral**  
**Western Kentucky University, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098**  
**Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098**

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: Do you have a disability that requires special materials or services? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
CANCELLATIONS: To avoid obligation for payment of fees or to obtain a refund, all cancellations must be received in writing five working days prior to the event.

**CCR&R Professional Development Training**  
**ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR EARLY CARE & EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS**  
 Saturday, March 17, 2007  
 Mass Media & Technology Hall, Normal Avenue, WKU, Bowling Green, Ky

**Morning Session: 9:00 a.m. - Noon**

- BASIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SANITATION AND RECOGNIZING AND REPORTING CHILD ABUSE.** This is the first half in a mandatory session of six-hour training that all child care employees must attend during the first 90 days of employment. *Presenter: Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Parent & Community Coordinator. Target Audience: New Employees. CDA Subject Area: 1. Core Content: Health, Safety & Nutrition. Training Level: 1. **This session also functions as the Registered Providers Orientation.***

**Afternoon Session: 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

- RECOMMENDED PRACTICES.** This is the second half of the mandatory session of six-hour training that all child care employees must attend during the first 90 days of employment. *Presenter: Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Parent & Community Coordinator. Target Audience: New Employees. CDA Subject Area: 1. Core Content: Learning Environments & Curriculum. Training Level: 1.*

Doors will open and participant check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.  
 Copy and share this form as necessary; print clearly and submit one form per person.

**Registration Fee is \$40 per participant.**

**Register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return form with payment by March 9, 2007.**

***No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007. There will be no on-site registrations!***

To receive CEU Credits, please check here \_\_\_ and include an additional \$15 fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age Group(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed       Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  
 Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007.** Please register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return completed registration form with payment to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral, Western Kentucky University**  
**1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098**

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: Do you have a disability that requires special materials or services? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANCELLATIONS: To avoid obligation for payment of fees or to obtain a refund, all cancellations must be received in writing five working days prior to the event.

# CCR&R Professional Development Training

Saturday, March 17, 2007

Mass Media & Technology Hall, Normal Avenue, WKU, Bowling Green, Kentucky

## Morning Session: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

- CARING FOR THE FOOD-ALLERGIC CHILD.** This session will focus on food allergies, what causes food allergies, and how to keep the food-allergic child safe and health in the early care and education setting. The session will also demonstrate how to use an EpiPen in case of serious allergic reactions. *Presenters/Guest Speakers: Dr. Diana Cavanaugh, Leslie Blair, and Melissa Wassom, FEAST (Food Education and Allergy Support Team) Advisory Board. Facilitator: Dr. Amy Hood Hooten, CCR&R Training Specialist. Target Audience: General. CDA Subject Area: 1. Core Content: Health, Safety & Nutrition. Training Level: 2.*

## Afternoon Session: 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- LEARNING THROUGH PLAY WITH INFANTS AND TODDLERS.** Participants will learn ways to incorporate play with infants and toddlers in ways that match developmentally what they can do at their age and that increase brain development. *Presenter: Sandy Hackbarth, Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist. Target Audience: Infant/Toddler. CDA Subject Area: 8. Core Content: Learning Environments & Curriculum. Training Level: 3.*

Doors will open and participant check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Copy and share this form as necessary; print clearly and submit one form per person.

**Registration Fees are \$20 per participant for the 3-hour Morning Session and \$15 per participant for the 2-hour Afternoon Session. (\$35 for a full day of training)**

**Register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return form with payment by March 9, 2007.**

***No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007. There will be no on-site registrations!***

To receive CEU Credits, please check here \_\_\_ and include an additional \$15 fee.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age Group(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed       Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  
 Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007.** Please register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return completed registration form with payment to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral, Western Kentucky University  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098**

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: Do you have a disability that requires special materials or services? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

CANCELLATIONS: To avoid obligation for payment of fees or to obtain a refund, all cancellations must be received *in writing* five working days prior to the event.

# March Make & Take Madness

9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 17, 2007

Mass Media & Technology Hall, Normal Avenue, Bowling Green, Kentucky

**The annual full-day event sponsored by the CCR&R at WKU and the Bowling Green Woman's Club with new projects!** Participants will be involved in a hands-on session where each individual will make three or more new projects focusing on language and literacy to take back to their work place. The projects will include activities to enhance language development including color, number and shape recognition, and language enhancement. *Presenter: Janet Buckley, CCR&R Consultant. Core Content: Child Growth & Development. CDA Subject Area: 2. Training Level: 2. 5 training hours will be awarded for this training.*

Doors open and participant check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby of Mass Media & Technology Hall. Classes begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m. with a lunch break from Noon until 1:30 p.m.

Please print clearly and submit one form per person. ***There will be no on-site registrations!***

You may copy and share this form as necessary. **SELECT ONE CATEGORY:**

**BRADD AREA PARTICIPANT**

*Registration Fee is \$35 for the full day training.*

**Return form with payment by March 9, 2007.**

***No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007.***

**NON-BRADD AREA PARTICIPANT**

*Registration Fee is \$50 for the full day training.*

**Return form with payment by March 9, 2007.**

***No registrations accepted after March 9, 2007.***

**ALL PAYMENTS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO "BOWLING GREEN WOMAN'S CLUB."**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Age Group(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number : \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed       Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed

Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_

Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**No registrations will be accepted after March 9, 2007.** Please return completed registration form to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral, Western Kentucky University  
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098**

**ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS:** Do you have a disability that requires special materials or services? Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

**CANCELLATIONS:** To avoid obligation for payment of fees or to obtain a refund, all cancellations must be received in writing five working days prior to the event.

# CCR&R Advanced Topics Seminar in Early Math & Science

*“Early childhood educators know that a young child’s natural interest and curiosity can be used as a basis for learning, understanding, and enhancing mathematics skill acquisition and concept development. They understand that science and math are all around in a child’s world and should be treated as an integral part of a curriculum. Researchers and early childhood educators are exploring how a child’s reasoning capabilities in mathematics and science develop across the early childhood years and are examining how this knowledge can be translated into practice. They are also recognizing the importance of complementing child-initiated learning with high-quality, teacher-directed mathematics instruction in the early years.* **National Child Care Information Center**

To address the critical topics of early math and science, the CCR&R at WKU has scheduled a series of Advanced Topic Seminars. Each session will be presented by Janet Buckley, well-known CCR&R consultant and early literacy expert. Participants may choose to enroll in the Full Seminar and earn 4.5 CEUs OR enroll in individual seminars for training clock hours.

To participate in the **full Advanced Topics Seminar**, you should have enrolled no later than January 19, 2007. Participants who registered for the full Seminar, but who fail to fully complete seminar requirements (including instruction, field projects, and field work) will receive training clock hours for each class completed in lieu of CEUs.

**YOU MAY STILL REGISTER FOR INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS.** Participants may attend the five-hour training portion of any or all of the remaining classes. CEUS are not available for individual sessions, but participants will receive 5 clock hours of training for each class, up to 25 clock hours total. Participants must enroll no later than the deadline date listed under individual class descriptions below. **Cost: \$90 per class.**

If using this form to register for individual sessions, please check the session(s) below that you will be attending, and return the registration form with payment no later than the deadline date listed in each session description.

*The CCR&R reserves the right to cancel an event if enrollment criteria are not met or when conditions beyond our control prevail. In the event of cancellation, the liability of the CCR&R is limited to the refund of registration fees only.*

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**FEBRUARY 24, 2007 • 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (FULL SEMINAR) • 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (TRAINING ONLY)**  
**THE PATH TO MATH: BEGINNING NUMBERS**  
Children, older toddlers, and preschoolers are learning that anything they count needs a “number name” (one block, two blocks) and that the list of number names has a set order (1-2-3-4). They may know that numbers stand for certain quantities. They notice that amounts change when things are added or removed. This session will present ways you can help preschool children learn about numbers and number concepts. *(Core Content Area: Learning Environments & Curriculum. CDA Subject Area: 2. Training Level: 4)* **Return Form with payment by February 16, 2007.**

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**MARCH 10, 2007 • 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (FULL SEMINAR) • 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (TRAINING ONLY)**  
**CLASSIFYING AND MEASURING ACTIVITIES**  
There’s more to preschool math than counting! Classification skills are building blocks for learning important math concepts. Children classify objects, ideas, sounds, smells, or flavors into groups (categories) according to traits they have in common. Children ages 3-5 may wonder about measuring many things—from how tall they are to how long it takes to walk around the school. They hear adults talk about miles, pounds, gallons, acres, and minutes. They see adults use measuring tools. Measurement activities can help young children understand basic math concepts and learn life skills. *(Core Content Area: Program Management & Evaluation. CDA Subject Area: 5. Training Level: 4)* **Return Form with payment by March 2, 2007.**

**MARCH 24, 2007 • 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. (FULL SEMINAR) • 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. (TRAINING ONLY)**  
**GEOMETRIC THINKING FOR YOUNG CHILDREN**

Circles, squares, and triangles are just the beginning: Children ages 3-5 are beginning to understand relationships among objects, spaces, and places. These are the basic concepts of geometry. Young children use geometric thinking when they describe where things are located or when they notice how parts of things are connected to each other. This session will present activities and explore the language to use with older toddlers and preschool children. (*Core Content Area: Child Assessment. CDA Subject Area: 7. Training Level: 4*) **Return Form with payment by March 16, 2007.**

For all events, doors will open and participant check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the morning of the training.  
 You may copy and share this form as necessary. Print clearly and submit one form per person.

To register for individual sessions, please register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR complete and return completed registration form **with payment** of \$90 per session **by the deadline date listed in each session description.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age Group(s) Served: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): \_\_\_\_\_ Your Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Enclosed       Purchase Order # \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed  
 Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Card Expiration Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_      Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register on-line at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) OR return completed forms with payment to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral, Western Kentucky University**  
**1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, KY 42101-1098**

ACCESSIBILITY NEEDS: Do you have a disability that requires special materials or services? Please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CANCELLATIONS: To avoid obligation for payment of fees or to obtain a refund, all cancellations must be received in writing five working days prior to the event.

## Want to Be Published? Or Announce An Event?

If you are an administrator, coordinator, teacher, or caregiver, we encourage you to articles to be considered for publication in **THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL**. You can share your experiences in early care and education, tell us about activities that work well with children, share ways you communicate and involve families, or discuss ideas for working with colleagues or community partners. Do you have a scholar story to tell about going back to school? Have a story about working on STARS for your facility? Want to tell us about your experiences starting your child care program? We welcome your submissions.

All non-profit agencies are also welcome to submit announcements for consideration of publication in the CCR&R newsletter. Describe your services, let us know about an upcoming event, or describe a specialized service your agency provides. We do not guarantee acceptance or the exact date of publication, but we want you - as our partners in early childhood - to freely contribute to YOUR newsletter. We will make every effort to include your articles and announcements in **THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL** on a timely basis.

*All articles, submissions, and announcements should be limited to 400 words or less, and must be typed and sent electronically. (Sorry, submissions cannot be returned.)* You may e-mail your submissions to [connie.smith@wku.edu](mailto:connie.smith@wku.edu), or mail them on disk to: Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1098.

# Evaluating Your Library and Book Area

Sherri Meyer, Early Childhood Coordinator

Children of all ages are learning many things through play and their interactions with the environment. The library or book center is an important part of that learning experience. Imagine you are once again a young child. You like looking at books and having books read to you. This article offers some suggestions on how to make your library/book center appropriate for preschool age children.

According to the Early Language and Literacy Classroom Observation (ELLCO) tool, it is suggested that an area be set aside for reading books. This is important since reading is considered a quiet activity. No other activities should occur in the area of the classroom where the books are located. The books should be displayed in such a way that children are able to choose what book to look at or “read.” Bookshelves on the child’s level are most appropriate so children are able to make the choice themselves. The area should be organized and neat to encourage children to spend time in the book center. This includes teaching children about treating books with respect and knowing how to place them back on the shelves.

The book center must contain many good books of interest to the children in your home or classroom. This will vary depending on what the children are interested in at the time, what season it happens to be, or what stage of development the children are in. It is vital to the development of the individual children to know what interests each of them. This means that books cannot remain the same for the entire year. Books need to be rotated when interests change. Books of high quality are needed in order to meet the needs that developing children of this age require.

According to the revised Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale, it is also suggested that books are available in a variety of topics that include, but are not

limited to, fantasy, factual information, and stories about people, animals, and science. Books need to be respectful of the variety of cultures found in the community and in the world. The revised Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale and the Family Day Care Environment Rating Scale discuss how books are to be used with children every day and that books should be accessible for all children.



All book areas should be inviting for young children. Many book areas contain soft items for children and adults to sit on or lay on. The Environment Rating Scales and the ELLCO all suggest that pillows, cushions, soft rugs or carpet, or soft furniture be available for children as they interact with the books and other materials in the center such as puppets or dolls.

Evaluating your book area is important since it is the beginning for many children in appreciating the skill of reading and literature. For a copy of the tools listed in this article, you may call the CCR&R office’s Resource Lending Library.

## References

- Harms, T. & Clifford, R. M. (1999). *Family Day Care Rating Scale*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.
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- Harms, T., Clifford, R. M., & Cryer, D. (2003). *Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale Revised Edition*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.
- Smith, M. W., Dickinson, D. K. Ed.D., Sangeorge, A., & Anastasopoulos, L. M.P.P. (2002). *Early Language & Literacy Classroom Observation*. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., Inc.

# Connect For Kids Corner

During the holidays, our members were in a festive mood discussing seasonal traditions and swapping holiday recipes. We discussed holiday hazards, alternatives to Christmas cards, and trimmed trees online. Several members are participating in **CFK**'s very own interactive mystery club, **Confidentially Yours**. Congratulations to *weikedm*; she became a **CFK** full member in the month of December!

## What Has Happened in *Connect for Kids* in Recent Months?

- CFK's expectant parents learned ideas about how to stay safe and active during a winter pregnancy.
- We discussed the dangers of infants sleeping in car seats and the best ways to start solids and our breastfeeding support group is still active.
- Parents and providers were given ideas for supporting toddler development along with website links to math games and classic art activities.
- In the preschool thread, we discussed guiding children to positive behaviors and fifth disease.
- Our school-age forum discussed organized sports and cool math activities and our providers discussed hand washing and budgets.

### In Their Words: What Our Members Are Saying

#### Re: Infant Sign Language

"My (husband's) grandparents are both deaf. His grandfather passed away last year, but his grandmother is still living. Everyone in their family is able to sign, including some of the very young great-grandchildren!! I really want to try and teach (my daughter) so, thanks for the great site!! I will be learning along with her."

#### Re: Children's Day At The Capitol

"I'm planning on going. My children have gone with me in the past and it is a great experience for them. I believe that they may go again this year."

#### Interested in Joining *Connect For Kids*?

Visit us at [www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku](http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku) and click on the Forum link. You must have a valid email address to register. Know a mom, dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, student, or professional? Share the news! Membership is not limited! Anyone can join no matter where you live! If you care about children... **CONNECT FOR KIDS!**

**Our Apologies to Cynthia Sprouse...**  
for failing to credit her as the source for last month's article on *New Tanning Bed Laws in Kentucky*.

### Recipe Of The Month Italian Stuffed Mushrooms

Submitted by Heather

- 16 medium mushrooms
- Olive oil
- Italian seasoning, crushed
- 1 large clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 pound hot Italian sausage, casings removed
- 5 green onions, chopped
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce (optional)
- 1/2 c. shredded Monterey Jack cheese



Remove stems from cleaned mushrooms by gently twisting base to snap off. Chop stems and set aside. Generously coat inside and outside of each mushroom cap with oil. Place in baking dish, open side up. Sprinkle insides with Italian seasoning to taste. Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in skillet and sauté garlic. Add sausage, crushing with spoon into smaller pieces. Cook thoroughly and then add chopped mushroom stems. Stir fry 1 minute. Add green onions and stir fry another minute. Add Worcestershire. Stuff each mushroom cap generously with sausage filling and sprinkle with cheese. Broil 10 to 12 inches from heat for 2 minutes, or until cheese is melted.

# Help Us Keep Your Information Current

To help us better serve your program and potential clients when we provide information in referrals to parents, we are asking that you notify us whenever your program experiences changes. When changes occur, the form below can be completed and mailed or faxed to our office, or you may call or e-mail us with changes if you prefer. The more up-to-date our database, the more accurate our referrals will be. Thank you for your assistance!



Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Director Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DAYS CARE PROVIDED							
	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>
<i>Start Time</i>							
<i>End Time</i>							

RATES				
<b>Age Group/Age Range</b>	<b>Daily Part-Time</b>	<b>Daily Full-Time</b>	<b>Weekly Part-Time</b>	<b>Weekly Full-Time</b>
<i>Birth to 12 Months</i>				
<i>12 to 24 Months</i>				
<i>2 to 3 Years</i>				
<i>3 to 4 Years</i>				
<i>4 to 5 Years</i>				
<i>5 to 6 Years</i>				
<i>6 Years or Older</i>				

CAPACITY / VACANCY INFORMATION			
<b>Age Group/Age Range</b>	<b>Licensed Capacity</b>	<b>Full-Time Vacancies</b>	<b>Part-Time Vacancies</b>
<i>Birth to 12 Months</i>			
<i>12 to 24 Months</i>			
<i>2 to 3 Years</i>			
<i>3 to 4 Years</i>			
<i>4 to 5 Years</i>			
<i>5 to 6 Years</i>			
<i>6 Years or Older</i>			

Complete and return form to:

**Child Care Resource & Referral, WKU**  
 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098  
 Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1098

Child Care Resource & Referral  
Western Kentucky University  
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February 2007