

THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL

The Newsletter of the Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU



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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 S. Hooten, Training Specialist
Heather Alms, Provider Assistant & Office Coordinator

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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.)

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E-Mail Us at crr.expert@wku.edu • Or Visit Our Website at 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). 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).

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Examining Professional Growth and Development

Dr. Amy S. Hooten, CCR&R Training Specialist

As teachers of young children and/or managers of early childhood programs, we have a responsibility to the children and families we serve to grow as professionals. In order to do this, there are several things that we must take charge of in our own professional growth and development. In this article, we will focus on two very important ways to build and enhance professional growth among early care and education professionals.

First, it is important for everyone working with young children to assess their own performance in the classroom. By this we mean using tools and other resources to identify the strengths and weaknesses we have as individuals. As a preschool teacher, one of my strengths was working in the art area, while my weakness was the nature and science area. I was always delighted to implement art activities with children. I loved seeing the excited looks children had when they mixed two colors together and made a new one, or when they painted a picture to take home for grandma.

At the same time, I could never think of any type of nature/science activity. I had to grow in this area, so instead of never providing nature/science activities with children, I had to talk with other teachers and ask for their ideas and input on how I could make this area of my classroom stronger. I had to go to the library and check out resources with nature and science activity ideas, and I had to choose workshop sessions on nature and science activities so that I could strengthen my own weak area.

Early care and education professionals now have many resources available to help identify their individual strengths and weaknesses. One of these resources is the Early Childhood Professional Core Content Self-Assessment that was developed to help early care and education professionals understand their own competencies

in the Kentucky Core Content areas and at what level they may be in the various subject areas. The self-assessment form helps individuals take a close look at each Core Content area and each training level and identify their own knowledge and skill levels. The self-assessment form can be found on-line at <http://www.ihdi.uky.edu/tipp/Resources/CoreContent.aspx>

What is Core Content? Kentucky has outlined seven different subject areas in which specific knowledge, skills and abilities are necessary for early care and education professionals. As Presented in *Early Childhood Professional Development: Creating a Framework for Kentucky (Revised 2004)*, these seven areas include the following:

Child Growth and Development – which includes information regarding developmental abilities among children

Health, Safety, and Nutrition – the basic needs of all children and the environments, including laws and regulations to keep children safe

Learning Environments and Curriculum – understanding the appropriateness of the environments and the curriculum planning necessary for children's learning

Professional Development/Professionalism – the knowledge of ethical standards, the commitment to professional growth and advocacy for children and families.

Child Assessment – the ways in which professionals observe, record, and document children's progress and how sharing that information with families is important

Family and Community Partnerships – understanding the roles that the family and the community play in early childhood education



Program Management and Evaluation – the way in which staff evaluate and administer the early childhood program and all essential record-keeping, reporting and regulations

What are Training Levels? The training level describes a presumptive base of knowledge that individuals have in that specific core content area. The definitions provided below were also taken from the *Early Childhood Professional Development: Creating a Framework for Kentucky (Revised 2004)*.

- **Level 1** – this training has been designed to develop a basic knowledge or skill in a specific content area of study. An introduction to a topic or concept as well as philosophy and vocabulary are the primary focus of training at this level.
- **Level 2** – training designed for someone who is at the Child Development Associate (CDA) level or who has two-three years experience working in early care and education. The main focus of this level is to extend information on basic concepts, theory, vocabulary and philosophy.
- **Level 3** – a training session that assumes participants are competent in developing curriculum opportunities and who have at least an Associate’s degree in early childhood or over three years experience.
- **Level 4** – training designed for participants who already have competence in the area in which they are being trained. These participants will have at least two years experience in early care as well as a Bachelor’s degree in early childhood or related field.
- **Level 5** – designed for individuals who not only have a four-year degree in early childhood or related field, but also four years experience, and who may also have taken additional coursework (for example, working on a Master’s degree). The four years of experience will also include supervision of others.

How does the Self-Assessment help? The Early Childhood Professional Core Content Self-Assessment, located on the previously mentioned web page, helps professionals take their time and examine their own performance in each of the areas. The form instructs individuals to determine if they are “beginning” a skill, meaning they need more information about it, if they are “developing” the skill, meaning one has some knowledge

but still needs more training or information, or if they have “mastered” a certain skill and may not require more information. The form examines each core content area at each training level.

What is the Next Step? Once individuals have identified their training needs based on core content and training levels, **the next step is to develop a professional development plan.** You may have heard this term used before because it is a “hot topic” in our field these days, and we may soon expect that all child care providers will need to develop their own Professional Development Plan or PD Plan.

PD Plans are like a road map - they help you outline your “route” to what it is you want to learn about or strengthen in your own professional growth and helps identify the ways in which you will accomplish those goals over a certain period of time. When individuals have PD Plans in place, it is similar to our lesson plans for children because just as we develop goals for children’s learning, we are developing goals for professional learning. As each goal is accomplished, we can mark that goal as accomplished and see the progress we are making in our own professional journey.

An important note when designing PD Plans is to remember that individuals may well be at various training levels in different core content areas, dependent upon one’s own experience and education. For instance, someone who began their career as a nurse and then went into the early care and education field, may need a Training Level 4 or 5 in Health, Safety and Nutrition, BUT may need a Training Level 1 or 2 in Learning Environments and Curriculum. This is another example of helping individual staff assess their own needs, outline their own goals, and choose their own training sessions and/or resources, so that they can choose what is best for them and make each session valuable in order to continue their lifelong learning.

Staff members from of the Child Care Resource & Referral are always available to assist programs in learning more about the development of Professional Development Plans. Feel free to e-mail us at ccrr.expert@wku.edu or contact us by phone at 1-800-621-5908 if we can offer more information or technical assistance in this area.

A black and white photograph of a young Black woman with short, dark, curly hair. She is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved, ribbed top. She is looking slightly to her left with a thoughtful expression, her right hand resting on her chin. The background is blurred, showing other people in what appears to be a classroom or training session. The lighting is soft, highlighting her features.

*CCR&R PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

MARCH 2008

REGISTRATION PORTFOLIO

CCR&R PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING MARCH 2008 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 2008. 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. 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 a.m., Tuesday, March 4, 2008

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 9:00 a.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 OR return form with payment by February 26, 2008.

No registrations accepted after February 26, 2008. There will be no on-site registrations!

Name: _____ Position: _____

Age Group(s) Served: _____ Program Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): _____

ECE-TRIS ID Info: Birth Date: ___/___/___ (Day/Mo/Yr) Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____

Check Enclosed Purchase Order # _____ Enclosed

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

Card Expiration Date: ___/___ Signature: _____

No registrations accepted after February 26, 2008. Please register on-line at 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 15, 2008

WKU Glasgow Campus, 500 Hilltopper Way, Glasgow, Kentucky

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

- FUN WITH SCHOOL AGE ACTIVITIES.** Join us for this session as we explore various school age activities, discuss the various learning styles of school age children, and have fun. *Presenter: Sherri Meyer, CCR&R Parent & Community Coordinator. Target Audience: School Age. CDA Subject Area: 5. Core Content: Child Growth & Development. Training Level: 3.*
- MORE THAN WORDS.** Join us as we learn about collecting children's words during everyday routines as a form of assessment. We will discuss how to record the information collected and how to use it for planning, measuring progress, and program effectiveness. *Presenter: Beth Schaeffer, CCR&R Consultant. Target Audience: General. CDA Subject Area: 3. Core Content: Child Growth & Development, Child Assessment. Training Level: 3.*

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

- READ IT, WRITE IT.** This interactive session will allow participants to examine children's books as well as exploring the ways early care and education professional can broaden the use of children's literature to get a variety of language samples. *Presenter: Beth Schaeffer, CCR&R Consultant. Target Audience: General. CDA Subject Area: 5. Core Content: Child Growth & Development. Training Level: 2.*
- THE CODE OF ETHICS: WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?** This session will examine the Code of Ethical Conduct of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Participants will examine the Code of Conduct and the Statement of Commitment and discuss how they impact professionals working with school age children and families. *Presenter: Dr. Amy S. Hooten, CCR&R Training Specialist. Target Audience: School Age. CDA Subject Area: 6. Core Content: Professionalism, Professional Development. 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 OR return form with payment by March 7, 2008.

No registrations accepted after March 7, 2008. 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: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number : _____ E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): _____

ECE-TRIS ID Info: Birth Date: ___ / ___ / ___ (Day/Mo/Yr) Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____

Check Enclosed Purchase Order # _____ Enclosed

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

Card Expiration Date: ___ / ___ Signature: _____

No registrations accepted after March 7, 2008. Please register on-line at 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 15, 2008
WKU Glasgow Campus, 500 Hilltopper Way, Glasgow, Kentucky

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: Dr. Amy S. Hooten, CCR&R Training Specialist. 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, 3, 8. Core Content: Learning Environments & Curriculum, Child Growth & Development. 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 OR return form with payment by March 7, 2008.

No registrations accepted after March 7, 2008. 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: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): _____

ECE-TRIS ID Info: Birth Date: ___/___/___ (Day/Mo/Yr) Last 4 Digits of SSN: _____

Check Enclosed Purchase Order # _____ Enclosed

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

Card Expiration Date: ___/___ Signature: _____

No registrations accepted after March 7, 2008. Please register on-line at 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.

Child Care Resource & Referral Telephone Conference

The Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU is pleased to announce a SPECIAL TELEPHONE CONFERENCE which allows you to participate in training by telephone from any location - from your home, office, or another location. No travel time, no per diem expenses, no hassle, and low cost! After you register and shortly before the telephone event, you will be mailed the session handouts, directions for calling in, and the central phone number you should call to participate. After the call, the CCR&R phone service provider will provide the names of those participating in the call and the length of their participation. Certificates for one hour of training will be mailed to all registered participants whose phone lines remain active for the full length of the telephone conference call.

HEALTHY KIDS - HEALTHY TEETH! 6:00 - 7 :00 p.m., Tuesday, March 25, 2008

This teleconference will focus on the importance of early dental care with young children. Participants will explore various ways that we as early care and education professionals can incorporate preventive dental care in child care. *Presenter: Dr. Amy S. Hooten, CCR&R Training Specialist Target Audience: General. CDA Subject Area: 1. Core Content: Health, Safety and Nutrition. Training Level: 2.*

Please copy and share this form as necessary. Please print clearly and submit one form with payment per person.

Registration Fee is \$10 Per Participant Per session

Register on-line at www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku OR return registration form with payment by March 18, 2008. *No registrations accepted after March 18, 2008.*

Name: _____ Position: _____
Age Group(s) Served: _____ Program Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ County: _____ State: ____ Zip Code: _____
Phone Number : _____ E-Mail Address for Confirmation (if available): _____
ECE-TRIS ID Info: Birth Date: __ __ / __ __ / __ __ __ __ (Day/Mo/Yr) Last 4 Digits of SSN: __ __ __ __
 Check Enclosed Purchase Order # _____ Enclosed
 Please bill my Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover): _____
Card Expiration Date: __ __ / __ __ Signature: _____

No registrations accepted after March 18, 2008. Please register on-line at www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku OR return registration form with payment to:

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

CANCELLATION: 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.

The WKU Parking Challenge!

We admit it! Parking for CCR&R training on WKU's campus can be a real challenge. Here are some tips that might just help. If you are attending weekday training, we will provide the parking pass free for you if you are pre-registered to attend the event. Parking Passes can be picked up at conference registration and should immediately be placed on the driver's side dashboard of your car. Passes are valid only for the dates indicated on the pass and only for non-premium lots including those for Housing, Student, Commuter, and Faculty/Staff. You will receive a ticket and your vehicle may be towed if you park in spaces labeled as gated lots, or for Handicapped Parking, University Vehicles, Commercial Vendors, or Loading/Unloading Zones.

Parking on campus is not regulated after 5:00 p.m. and on weekends, so passes are not required for attending evening training or training on Saturdays. Still, you should avoid parking in spaces labeled for Handicapped Parking, University Vehicles, Commercial Vendors, or Loading/Unloading Zones.

To learn more about parking, visit WKU's web page at www.wku.edu and click on the visitor tab. On the visitor page, you will see clickable links to a campus map, directions to WKU, and parking on campus. The Parking and Transportation web page also provides updated information about closed parking lots and traffic disruptions on campus. For your convenience, we've included a 2008 Parking Map on page 12 of this newsletter.

CCR&R training is usually held in one of a limited number of buildings on campus. *Jones-Jaggers Hall* is the home of the CCR&R's offices and Resource Library. It is often used as a training site for small sessions (week-day Orientations, Introduction to Resources in Kentucky, director training, and sometimes CDA and CCCC classes). It is also the location where the Provider Appreciation Event was most recently held. Jones-Jaggers is the round building on the left side of campus maps. The parking lots that you will most likely use for

CCR&R training held at Jones Jaggers Hall are Jones Jaggers and Normal Street.

Tate Page Hall, also known as the College of Education, has been the home of many CCR&R events, including Saturday Training, CDA Classes, March Madness Make and Take, and more. Tate Page is the round building generally found in the middle of campus maps. *Mass Media & Technology Hall* (or MMTH) is a newer educational and meeting facility on campus, and is located next door to Tate Page Hall. This state of the art facility is used most frequently for CCR&R Saturday events. Lots that are the most convenient for training held in both MMTH and Tate Page Hall are Mimosa and Minton Hall lots

Downing University Center, or "DUC" is occasionally used for training.

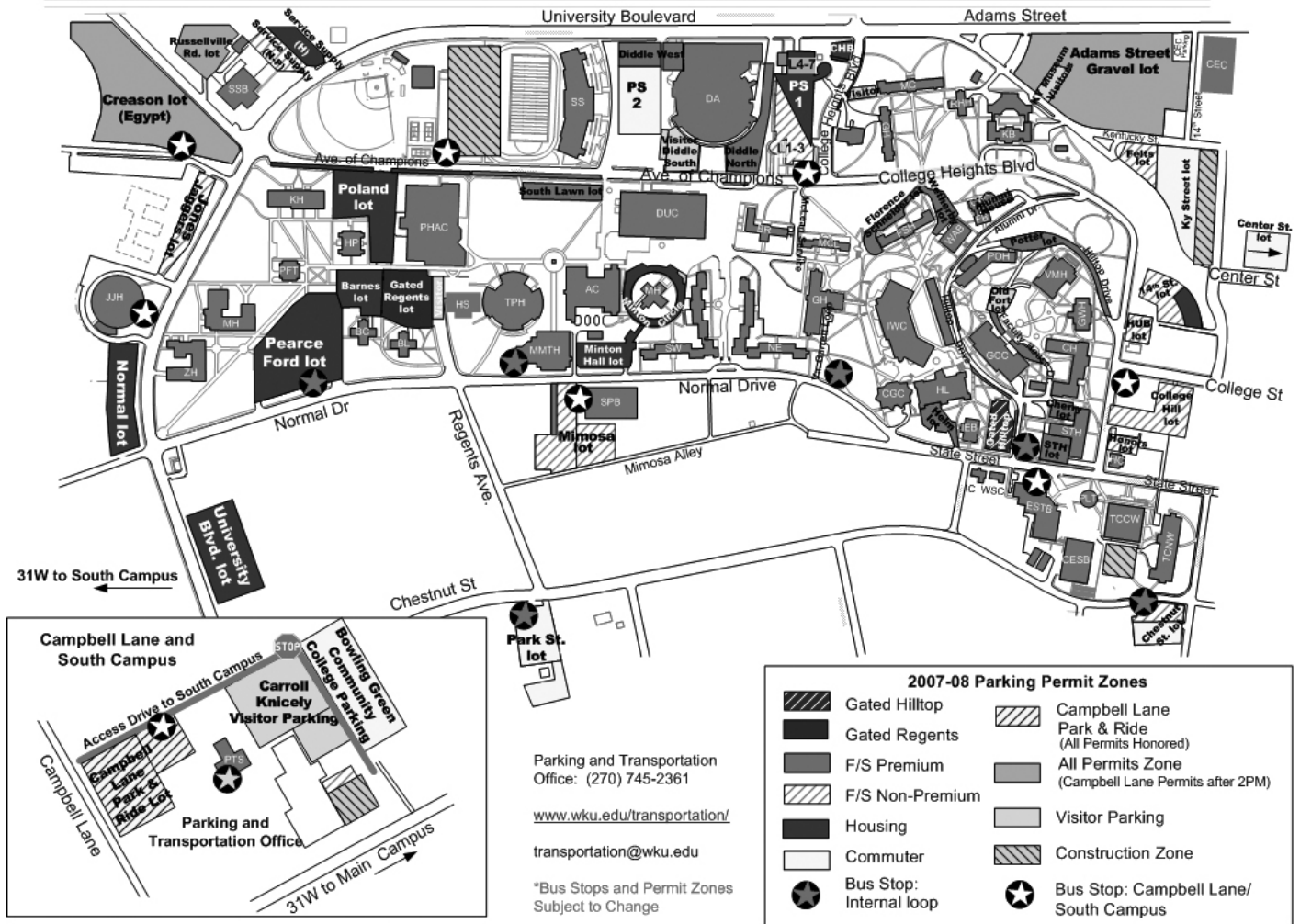
Located across from Diddle Arena on the Avenue of Champions, DUC is the large building to the right and above Tate Page Hall on campus maps. There is a food court, Java City Coffee, and a bookstore in DUC. The most accessible parking to DUC is in the parking structures across the street next to Diddle Arena.

CCR&R training held in Glasgow is generally located on the *WKU Glasgow Campus* located at 500 Hilltopper Way. Directions from various locations to this site are found on their web page at <http://www.wku.edu/glasgow/directions.html>. This same web page also has maps to guide your travel. Glasgow Campus parking on weekends is generally plentiful and located in a lot right outside of the building door.

Finally, if you're a long time supporter of CCR&R training, or if you've been to a training recently, you know that parking lots are often subject to closure without notice because of the huge amount of construction occurring on campus. We apologize if this causes any additional inconvenience in what is already a challenging situation!



2007-08 Parking Map



Want to Be Published? Or Announce An Event?

If you are an administrator, coordinator, teacher, or caregiver, we encourage you to submit 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, or mail them on disk to: Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU, 1906 College Heights Blvd. #11098, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101-1098.

The Pre-Kindergarten Movement

Jill Norris, MPH, CCR&R Coordinator

There is a lot of talk about Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) around the country and here in Kentucky. Several states have already initiated Pre-K plans while many others, including the state of Kentucky, are looking at the resources necessary to implement Pre-K.

During 2007, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence, “a statewide education advocacy organization,¹” worked with individuals from across the state and developed recommendations for Kentucky as Pre-K options are explored. The culmination of this activity was the release a report in October 2007 titled *Strong Start Kentucky: Investing in Quality Early Care & Education to Ensure Future Success* report.

The report outlines the goal of Strong Start Kentucky as “making voluntary, quality pre-school available for every three and four year old child in Kentucky and ensuring the highest quality care and education possible for every child beginning at birth.”² Strong Start Kentucky makes the following recommendations for reaching their goal with an incremental approach:

- “Increasing access to preschool,
- Assuring child readiness,
- Encouraging collaboration between public and community-based or private programs, and
- Engaging parents and families.”³

Throughout the report, Strong Start Kentucky emphasizes the need for collaboration among public preschools, Head Start programs, and community-based child care programs. This type of collaboration has been utilized in other states that have already implemented a Pre-K initiative.

For more information on these types of collaborations, you may want to explore the National Women’s Law Center’s November 2007 report titled *A Center Piece of the Puzzle: Providing State Prekindergarten in Child care Centers* which is available on-line at <http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/NWLCPreKReport2007.pdf>. This report looks at the benefits and challenges for child care programs in providing state-funded Pre-Kindergarten programs. It also looks at policies that can better support child care programs. This is something else that is addressed in the Strong Start Kentucky report.



As the Pre-K discussion continues in Kentucky, it is imperative that child care programs stay informed and learn about collaboration opportunities. The Strong Start Kentucky website, <http://www.strongstartky.org>, provides an opportunity to sign up for

their e-mail list to receive regular updates about Pre-K education. Check it out!

References

- ¹ Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence website, <http://www.prichardcommittee.org>, January 11, 2008.
- ² *Strong Start Kentucky: Investing in Quality Early Care & Education to Ensure Future Success*, http://www.prichardcommittee.org/Pre-K_Report_Complete_Document.pdf, October 2007, pg 3.
- ³ *Strong Start Kentucky: Investing in Quality Early Care & Education to Ensure Future Success*, http://www.prichardcommittee.org/Pre-K_Report_Complete_Document.pdf, October 2007, pg 3.

We Want Your Input!

The CCR&R at WKU is already beginning to look ahead for our 2008-2009 Training Plan and we want and need your input!

We hope that all providers will take a few minutes to complete our short online survey designed to capture your information regarding your professional development needs. The staff at the CCR&R will use this information as we plan for workshops, tele-conferences, etc. Visit our webpage at <http://www.wku.edu/ccrr-wku>. From there, you can access and complete the survey, which will be available between February 1, 2008 and March 30, 2008.

We want to hear from as many providers as possible, so if you are unable to use the Internet, please contact us at the CCR&R office and we will make arrangements for you to complete the survey in a hard copy form. You may contact the CCR&R office at 800-621-5908 or 270-745-2216 or by email at ccrr.expert@wku.edu.

We look forward to hearing from you as we develop our new Training Plan for 2008-2009!

Gracias!

The Child Care Resource & Referral at WKU would like to thank Dr. Melissa Stewart of the Modern Languages Department at WKU and her Spanish 455 students for the translation services they provided during the Fall 2007 semester. Jacob Epperson, Lucas Page, and Tori Theiss translated the CCR&R at WKU brochure into Spanish.

This project provided the students with real world student engagement activities while enhancing the CCR&R's outreach efforts to the Spanish speaking population within our service delivery area. We are very grateful for your excellent work!! Muchas gracias!

Special Congratulations

The CCR&R would like to congratulate the following individuals for completing the required 120 clock hours of training toward a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

Deborah Blair, Butler County
Linda Cannon, Barren County
Ericka Huffine, Allen County
Phyllis Lamberson, Warren County
Bethany O'Neal, Grayson County
Emily Roberts, Logan County
Alexandra Watts, Warren County

These hard-working individuals began classes in February 2007, earning the Commonwealth Credential along the way, and completing the 120 hours of training in November 2007. In addition to the required training hours, they were required to complete a resource portfolio and competency goal statements. They are now awaiting the final step - the assessment process which includes a visit from a Council representative from the Council for Professional Development in Washington, D.C. Upon completion of the assessment process, the award of the CDA credential will be determined.

A big **CONGRATULATIONS** to these individuals for their major professional development accomplishment!

Training Cancellations



With Winter upon us, travel during ice and snow can be a frightening experience. The CCR&R may be forced to cancel scheduled training due to inclement weather, especially during periods of ice and snow. In that event, training cancellations notices will be posted on our phone system. To learn if training is cancelled, please call 800-621-5908 or 270-745-2216. In the event of cancellation, registration payments for the cancelled session will be refunded or applied to a later session.

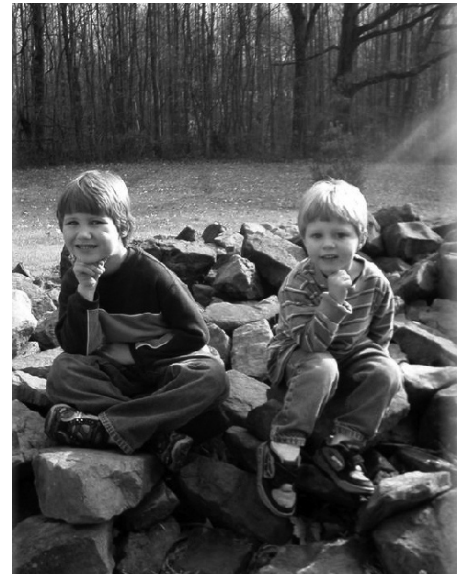
As always, whether or not training is cancelled, we encourage our clients to use their own best judgment when traveling in wintry weather!

Connect For Kids Corner

Welcome to 2008 from **Connect For Kids!** Our little internet forum has grown from a small project to a wealth of information in the past year! Did you know that all that information is right at your fingertips? All you have to do is visit www.wku.edu/cfk and sign up! After signing up, you will get access to the 1,850 topics and over 16,200 posts that fill **CFK's** forum. Best of all... **it's free!**

What are our members currently talking about? We are talking about issues that effect children, parents, and caregivers today in an easy to read format. Here's a list of current topics on **Connect For Kids:**

- **Sharing** - Do you think it's okay to *make* kids share?
- **Teen Pregnancy and The Media** - Tips for discussing premarital sex with children.
- **How Much Do Adults Know About Child Development?** - Adults were interviewed about topics such as when young children begin to share, react to their environments, sense anger and depression, etc.
- **STARS** lesson plans/activity plans and resources available in the CCR&R library.
- **Choosing Books for Your Classroom** - Lists of appropriate books for differing age groups.



Heather submitted this photo of her two boys, Tyler (left) and Aiden.

Interested in Joining **Connect For Kids?**

Visit us at www.wku.edu/cfk. You must have a valid email address to register. Know a mom, dad, grandparent, aunt, uncle, student, or professional who might benefit from CFK? Please share the news! Membership is unlimited and open to all! Anyone can join no matter where you live! If you care about children... **Connect For Kids!**

Recipe of the Month: Oatmeal Cranberry Cheesecake Bars

Submitted by Denney

2 cups all-purpose flour	1 ¼ cups quick cooking oatmeal
¾ cup packed brown sugar	1 cup butter (softened)
½ cup granulated sugar	12 oz. package of cream cheese (softened)
2 eggs	2 teaspoon lemon juice
1 teaspoon vanilla	2 teaspoon cornstarch
1 can whole cranberry sauce	

In large mixing bowl, stir together flour, oatmeal, and brown sugar. Using a pastry blender or two knives, cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Place half the crumb mixture into a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan and bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, beat the cream cheese and sugar with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, lemon juice, and vanilla. Remove the crumb mixture from the oven and spread the cream cheese mixture over the crust. Stir together the cornstarch and cranberry sauce, then spoon over cream cheese layer. Sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Continue baking at 350 degrees for 40 minutes more, or until set. Cool on wire rack. Chill three hours, then cut into bars. Yummy!

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THE CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL

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