



Center News

Volume 9 Issue 4

A Newsletter for Federal Child Care Centers

Fall 2006

The GSA Nationwide Network of Child Care Coordinators

New England Region
Sherrri Edwards
617-565-7312

Northeast/Caribbean Region
Sidny Lincoln
Cora Zoccolo-Ungaro
212-264-0512 or 0514

Mid-Atlantic Region
Robyn Major
215-446-2893

Southeast Sunbelt Region
Janie Heisner
404-331-4729

Great Lakes Region
Connie Chidester
312-886-0611

The Heartland Region
Barbara Daniels
816-823-2215

Greater Southwest Region
BJ Upton
817-978-8451

Rocky Mountain Region
Jacki Fling
303-236-8000 x 2264

Pacific Rim Region
Lyvette Norris
415-522-3350

Northwest/Arctic Region
Jennifer Bashford
253-931-7700

National Capital Region
Leo Bonner
202-401-7403

Northeast and Caribbean Region Participates in Build-a-thon to Benefit New Orleans Child Care Centers

Five child care centers in the Northeast and Caribbean Region (FedKids, NY, NY; Courtyard Kids, Islip, NY; BSC Kids, Holtsville, NY; Newark Federal Kids Care, Newark, NJ; and Jamaica Kids, Jamaica, NY) in conjunction with six private child care centers, all operated by Imagine Early Learning Centers, held a Build-a-thon on August 24th, 2006 to benefit children and families affected by Hurricane Katrina. Imagine Early Learning Centers recently established a non-profit charitable organization, Imagine Kids for Kids, to raise funds and resources annually to benefit children and families in need. The Build-a-thon was preceded by a month long curriculum focused on hurricanes and the damage they can cause. For the event children built structures such as bridges, cities, and schools from items such as cardboard boxes, plastic bottles and sand. Children and families then requested sponsors from the community to donate items that were in turn raffled off. The proceeds of this event totaled over \$8000 and were donated to organizations dedicated to the rebuilding and renovation of child care centers affected by Katrina.



Fall Festival at the Summit Child Care Center in Atlanta

It was a beautiful day; the sun was shining bright and the weather in the morning was crisp but warmed up throughout the day. The children were all adorned in every costume imaginable and the playground had magically been transformed into a "Pumpkin Patch". It was time for the annual Fall Festival at the Summit Child Care Center in Atlanta, GA. As the children arrived you could feel the excitement mounting. They were dressed as bumble bees and lady bugs, pirates and princesses, football and basketball players, cowboys and Indians. Even the teachers joined in the fun and became nurses, doctors, witches (the good ones) and a variety of animals. The playground was loaded with activities. There were stations for nail painting and face painting, cookie and orange decorating, apple biting, musical chairs and fishing for prizes. The Pumpkin Patch had lots of hay and there was a pumpkin for every child to take home. Of course the main attraction was a huge Atlanta Falcon jumping apparatus that was located at the far end of the playground. Everybody enjoyed a sack lunch outside. Parents had donated lots of candy and prizes that were included in their "take home" bags. As the day ended the staff, parents and children left the center exhausted and happy.



NAEYC UPDATE

Programs that have enrolled in the new NAEYC Accreditation system received a new Self-Assessment Tools CD in the mail recently. (If your program is enrolled, and you have not received your CD, please contact qualityassurance@naeyc.org)

The Self-Assessment Tools are also online in your program record www.program.naeyc.org and at www.naeyc.org/selfstudy

The CD includes the new Self-Assessment Tools that programs will need to use in the Application for NAEYC Accreditation (Step 2 in the process) and in reporting the results for Step 3 (Candidacy).

The Self-Assessment Tools are different from the Self-Study Tools CD in the Self-Study Kit that programs receive when they enroll. The changes relate to the difference between self-study (an open-ended process designed to help programs plan and make improvements) and self-assessment (in which programs document performance on selected accreditation criteria.) Programs that were already using Self-Assessment Tools downloaded from their program record or from the self-study Web site do NOT need to start over with the tools on the new CD Rom. The changes were minor and will not impact your work, with the exception of the Teachers survey. If you have already distributed the Teachers survey from the Self-Assessment Tools, you do not need to do it again.

Examples of important changes in the Self Assessment Tools:

The Self-Assessment Family Survey is shorter and simpler than the self-study version, to make it easier for programs to report survey results, and for assessors to review results during the visit.

Some of the accreditation criteria that were included in the Self-Study Tools have been deleted from the Self-Assessment Tools, while others have been added. The new CD includes a complete list of the revised Sources of Evidence.

SOME FREQUENTLY-ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can the 5-year plan that administrators put in place to meet the Candidacy requirements be a plan to meet one of the alternative pathways to achieving the educational qualifications?

A: No, the 5-year plan must be a plan to earn "a baccalaureate degree with at least 9 credit-bearing hours of specialized college-level course work in administration, leadership, or management and at least 24 credit-bearing hours of specialized college-level course work in early childhood education, child development, elementary education or early childhood special education that addresses child development and learning of children birth through kindergarten." (Leadership and Management Standard book, page 27.)

Q: What is required for child and family outcomes?

A: The program standards and accreditation encourage programs to become more intentional in their work with children as well as with families. The specification for child and family outcomes (criteria 10.A.01 and 10.B.07) asks programs to think about and express their goals in measurable terms for what they want to accomplish in their work with children as well as families. These outcomes may include general statements such as, "Children will experience growth and learning in their social-emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development," or "Families will feel supported and nurtured in their child rearing efforts" as well as more specific statements linked to the particular context of the program, for example, "Children will gain competence in their home language as well as in a second language," or "Families will experience greater support in dealing with the challenges of recent immigration." Outcomes should be linked to evidence that is collected in the assessment of child progress (for child outcomes) or through family evaluations (for family outcomes).

CLOSE-UP ON CRITERION 5.A.03

The new NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards and Accreditation Criteria include a small set of Required Criteria that programs must meet in order to obtain and maintain NAEYC Accreditation. One Required Criterion, 5.A.03, requires that each group of children has at least one staff member with them at all times who has successfully completed pediatric first-aid training, including managing a blocked airway and providing rescue breathing for infants and children. The criterion goes on to state additional, more rigorous requirements for programs with swimming pools and/or children with special health care needs. Pediatric first aid and CPR prepare teaching staff to respond quickly and with confidence in an emergency situation involving young children. Two sources to consider for first aid and CPR courses specific to infants and children are the;

American Red Cross: www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/infchild.html

and the

American Academy of Pediatrics: www.pedfactsonline.com/about_PedFACTS.cfm

You can subscribe to the free NAEYC Accreditation E-Update at www.naeyc.org/accreditation/e-update.asp

Ania's Angle

TEN "GREEN" THINGS STAFF, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES CAN DO RIGHT NOW

1. **Replace** a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb.
2. **Reduce** the number of miles you drive by walking, biking, carpooling or taking mass transit wherever possible — **Walk with Your Children to School.**
3. **Remember** Grandmother's tips for cleaning, staying healthy and resourceful and make it a family tradition. Example: teach your child how to mend their own clothes.
4. **Reuse** Before You Recycle **Share** what you have — **Buy Less Stuff!**
5. **Turn off** and unplug electronics from the wall when you're not using them. Turn off lights when leaving a room.
6. **Use Less** hot water. **Put Your Hot Water Heater on a Timer.**
7. **Eat Locally Grown** Organic Food. Buy fresh foods instead of frozen.
8. **Use a Clothesline** Instead of a Dryer.
9. **Choose energy efficient** appliances when making new purchases.
10. **Check your tires** weekly to make sure they're properly inflated.

Ten Things You Should Never Buy Again

1. **Styrofoam cups:** Buy recyclable and compostable paper cups. Styrofoam cups are forever.
2. **Bleached coffee filters:** Look for unbleached paper filters.
3. **Over packaged foods and other products:** Buy products with minimal or reusable packaging or buy in bulk and use your own containers.
4. **Chemical pesticides and herbicides:** Buy organic pest controllers. Or better: Plant native flowers and herbs that act as natural pesticides.
5. **Conventional household cleaners:** Look for nontoxic, vegetable-based, biodegradable cleaners. OR: Try making your own green cleaner using vinegar, water, and castile soap. Find safe, green cleaners in the National Green Pages™ at <http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages/>
6. **Toys made with PVC plastic:** Avoid plastics that are labeled as "PVC" or "#3." Look for #1 and #2 plastics, which are easier to recycle and don't produce as many toxins.
7. **Plastic forks and spoons:** Use compostable food service items. Companies such as BioCorp, <http://www.biocorppaavc.com>, make cutlery from plant materials such as corn starch and cellulose.
8. **Beauty/Body Care with Phthalates and Parabens:** Read labels. To be safe, choose products from companies that have signed on to the Compact for Safe Cosmetics.
9. **High VOC Paints and Finishes:** There is now a wide array of low or no-VOC paints on the market. Look for paints certified by Green Seal.
10. **Higher octane gas:** than you need high-octane gas releases more hazardous pollutants into the air, and may be bad for your car. Buy the lowest-octane gas your car requires as listed in your owner's manual.

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 92% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following center on their recent accreditation:

Green Byrne, Philadelphia, PA

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent re-accreditation:

Green Tree, Seattle, WA

Centennial Mall, Lincoln, NE operated by Cedars Youth Service



Are You An "Allergy Aware" Center?

More than 11 million Americans have food allergies of varying degrees of severity, at least 8% of children less than 3 years of age and 2% of adults in the United States have food allergies. Over 6.5 million adults are allergic to seafood and over three million are allergic to peanuts and tree nuts. The number of children with a food allergy to peanuts has doubled in the past five years. Food allergies affect children and adults of all races and ethnicity, and can develop at any age. Most importantly, hundreds die from food allergies each year and over 30,000 receive lifesaving food allergy treatment in emergency rooms each year.

While any food can cause allergies, 90% of all food allergic reactions are caused by:

- Eggs
- Peanuts
- Shellfish
- Fish
- Soy
- Wheat
- Nuts from trees (e.g. walnut, pecan)

What you can do:

- Build allergy awareness among teachers, parents, children, and cooks
- Develop emergency plans
- Create emergency kits/back packs
- Institute food policies: food from home, for celebrations, food used in sensory play or in the environment
- Encourage a support system

Where to get more information:

- www.foodallergy.org
- www.gosafe.ca
- www.safe4kids.ca
- www.foodallergyinitiative.org
- www.medumich.edu/foodallergy
- www.aafa.org
- www.safetysack.com

Thanks to Gretchen's House Child Care Centers, Inc. for sharing this information at the NAEYC Atlanta conference.

GSA Office of Child Care

WWW.GSA.GOV/CHILDCARE

National Director

Eileen Stern
212-264-8321

Jacki Fling
303-236-8000 x2264

Magda Marcano
212-264-1268

Nancy Norris
404-331-1851

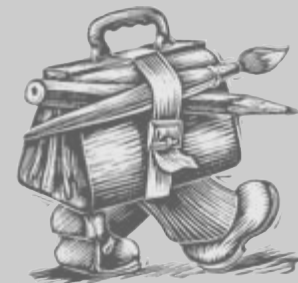
Jill Rhea
215-446-4639

Ania Shapiro
202-208-7656

Liz Themelis
216-522-4963

newsletter
Liz Themelis
216-522-4963

Cora Zoccolo-Ungaro
212-264-0514



Contributions and Comments on Center News are welcome and encouraged.

Parents and center staff are encouraged to check the following website regularly: www.recalls.gov