

# CONNECTIONS FOR CAREGIVERS

A NEWSLETTER & TRAINING CALENDAR ESPECIALLY FOR CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

JANUARY – MARCH 2009

**Child Care RESOURCE CENTER**  
 A PROGRAM OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL OF GREATER TULSA

## Riverfield Country Day School Announces the Arrival and Grand Opening Initiative of “The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children”

Riverfield Country Day School proudly announces the Tulsa arrival of “The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children,” an international exhibit. Sponsored by Riverfield and through generous contributions from Northeastern State University and the George Kaiser Family Foundation, this Exhibit will be housed in the Gallery at Northeastern State University in Broken Arrow from January 15 – July 1, 2009 and will support numerous professional development opportunities. The Grand Opening Initiative begins on Thursday, January 15th with the Ribbon Cutting and continues with a two-day conference featuring keynote speakers Lella Gandini and Jennifer Azzariti. Jennifer Azzariti will return February 21 and April 18 for day-long expressive media workshops. Other conferences and workshops will be announced throughout the spring.

“The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children” is a continuously updated traveling exhibition that, translated into various languages, has been telling

the story of the Reggio Emilia educational experience worldwide to thousands of visitors for over 25 years. The newest North American version of the exhibit is composed of multimedia/multi-sensory sections and will feature the “Ray of Light” interactive atelier. For more information, please contact Jennifer Kesselring or Kacey Davenport at [hundredlanguages@riverfield.org](mailto:hundredlanguages@riverfield.org) or (918) 446-3553.

### Dates to remember:

- January 15, 2009 . . . . .Ribbon Cutting and Opening Celebration
- January 16-17, 2009 . . . . .Tulsa Grand Opening Initiative “The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children”
- February 21 . . . . .Expressive Media Workshop, Jennifer Azzariti
- April 18 . . . . .Expressive Media Workshop, Jennifer Azzariti

(See page 6 for more about Reggio Emilia)

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2008 for the International Infant Toddler Conference, April 23-25, 2009! This will be an exciting event with presenters from around the world! Scholarship applications available and due December 31, 2008. Go to [www.ccrctulsa.org](http://www.ccrctulsa.org) for more information and to register.**

### CCRC is going GREEN

In the effort to help our environment, cut out waste and leave a world that is cleaner and better for our children, the Child Care Resource Center has been going green. We are recycling our paper and plastic grocery bags by donating them to local child care programs...we have been bringing our lunches and snacks to work (saves \$\$\$, gas and is healthier) and we have recycling bins for plastics and cans. As we continue our efforts to stay “green” please look for a new and improved newsletter and e-newsletter. As always, if you have compliments, concerns or recommendations regarding our newsletter, please, let us know!

### New Winter Hours for CCRC

Effective DECEMBER 1, 2008 to FEBRUARY 28, 2009 Please make a note that we have changed the hours that we will be *open to the public*. The following are our new hours:

- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday . . . . .8:30 to 5:00
- Thursday . . . . .8:30 to 6:00
- Friday . . . . .8:30 to noon
- Saturday . . . . .10:00 – 2:00

Our business hours are from 8:30 to 5:00  
Monday through Friday

# IN & AROUND

## THE CHILD CARE COMMUNITY



*New bookshelf enjoyed by all at Jessica Brown's family child care home*

### Day of Caring 2008 Update

Day of Caring was a HUGE SUCCESS! On Friday, September 12, 2008 CCRC participated in the Tulsa Area United Way Annual "Day of Caring". Seventeen projects were adopted from 13 different companies. One update that didn't make the last newsletter—ABC Child Development Center had 20 people from McKesson Health Care Information Technologies Corporation who painted classrooms, landscaped and fixed a fence on the playground, and painted an entrance mural. Thank you again to all of the companies and businesses for your time, hard work and dedication to the community!



*Katrece Scott*

### Winners of the October Wal-Mart Gift Card

Thank you to everyone who updated their information during the month of October. The two winners of the \$25.00 gift card were: Katrece Scott, a family child care home provider and the World Won Early Learning Center.



*Jackie Evans*

### Family Child Care Provider Honored at Annual Conference

At the Fall Conference in October, Jackie Evans received the Shining Star Award for her many years of dedication to improving child care in Tulsa. Her numerous contributions to the profession have resulted in positive outcomes for many children and their families. Jackie's friends and family proudly looked on as fellow Family Child Care Home Provider DeVonne Willis presented Jackie with this prestigious award.



**Tulsa Area United Way**

## News from the Resource and Referral

By Melinda Belcher, R&R Coordinator

You have questions...we've got the answers!

### ***Have you ever had trouble with CCRC's phone system?***

Are you aware that we have a new phone system that will direct you to a live person? Here are some tips about our new phone system that will make getting a hold of people at CCRC easier on you:

- When you first call our mainline 834-2273, you will always reach our automated phone system. A live person will never answer this number.
- To bypass this, press "0" to speak to our administrative assistant.
- Press # for a dial by name directory.
- ALWAYS LEAVE A MESSAGE if the person you are trying to reach does not answer the phone. The person you are trying to call may be on the other line or working with another client. Please do not hang up and call again. Unless our staff is out of the office, they will return messages in the order they are received.
- For Spanish press 299
- For Parents who need help Finding Child Care press 1
- For Providers needing the Resource and Referral press 2
- Food Program press 3
- Toy Lending and Resource Library press 4
- Quality Enhancement Initiative press 5
- Child Care Health Consultant press 6
- Early Childhood Bookstore press 7

### ***Have you ever wondered why your name does not show up when someone in your zip code calls the resource and referral looking for child care?***

Our system is very advanced and each search is based on each families individual needs. When a family calls looking for child care, a referral specialist is on the phone with them for close to twenty

## CCRC Staff Honored at Tulsa Area Safe Kids 15th Anniversary Celebration and Awards

On Wednesday, December 10, Melinda Belcher, R & R Coordinator and Paige Whalen, QEI Coordinator were recognized as *Champions of Safe Kids* for their "generous contributions, dedication to safety and love for children".

Melinda and Paige are the Membership Co-Chairs for Tulsa Area Safe Kids. Also honored were the Tulsa Police Department, Tulsa Fire Department, State Farm Insurance, Tulsa City County Health Department, US Army Corps of Engineers, the Children's Hospital at Saint Francis, MADD, KTUL-Channel 8, Oklahoma Highway Safety Office, Riverside Chevrolet and the Tulsa Automobile Dealers Association. Thanks to all for keeping Oklahoma's children safe!



minutes. They collect information from the family and educate them on what to look for when finding child care, definitions of care, STARS, licensing, financial assistance, health and safety and other resources. When you are added to our database we asked you very specific questions. The answers you gave to us must match everything that a parent is requesting in order for you to show up in the search. For example, if you are open until 6:00 p.m. and the family that might live one mile from you is needing child care until 6:30 p.m. your name will not show up in the search. Many times when we do have problems finding everything the parent requests, we will take off parameters on the search and your name will show up. Such as, if we took off the time the family was needing care as in the example stated above. Please note:

- Names are always listed randomly in a search.
- You must meet all the family is requesting in order for your name to be viewed in the search.
- We only give referrals, not recommendations.

## Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health

**Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health**

### **What is the OK-AIMH Endorsement Process?**

A process that supports the development and recognition of infant and family professionals within an organized system of culturally sensitive, relationship-based learning and work experiences that promote infant mental health.

### **Who will be able to apply?**

All Oklahoma Association for Infant Mental Health members and members from other IMH associations who have experience working with or on behalf of infants, toddlers, parents and/or other caregivers and meet the educational training and reflective supervision requirements as specified at each level. There are four distinct levels of the Endorsement: Level 1- Infant Family Associate, Level 2 -Infant Family Specialist, Level 3 -Infant Mental Health Specialist and Level 4-Infant Mental Health Mentor. For more information, please visit our website at [www.ok-aimh.org](http://www.ok-aimh.org).

# NEWS & NOTES

## FROM THE CHILD CARE RESOURCE CENTER

### News from the Director:

Our Fall Conference “Finding Your Smile Again” was a huge success. Over 300 people were in attendance at the Crowne Plaza and enjoyed Jeff Johnson’s keynote presentations and numerous breakout sessions on curriculum ideas, stress, burnout and professionalism. Awards were presented to three outstanding individuals in our field during the luncheon. The Rising Star was presented to Kailey Riner, a Tulsa Community College Student. The Shining Star was presented to Jackie Lee a family child care home provider for her commitment to supporting children and mentoring new providers. The North Star was presented to Erma Lee McMinn for lifetime dedication to children. The awards ceremony was a touching and uplifting moment for conference attendees.



The Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy sponsored their annual Fall Forum in October where child advocates have an opportunity to develop the legislative children’s legislative agenda for 2009. The Child Care Workgroup discussed issues related to changing the STARS System, increasing subsidy rates, increasing days DHS will pay for children that are absent, and developing an overall system for children’s services. Unfortunately, none of these issues made it to the final agenda. If you would like to see the 2009 Children’s Legislative Agenda, visit the OICA website at [www.oica.org](http://www.oica.org).

Several CCRC staff and other local Early Childhood Professionals had the privilege to attend the annual NAEYC conference in Dallas in November. Four of CCRC’s Accreditation Specialists presented an awesome workshop on “Demystifying the NAEYC Accreditation Process” which was met with great interest and excitement. I attended a variety of workshops from advocacy sessions to curriculum ideas. My favorite sessions were two advocacy topics on “Testing the limits: How inappropriate high-stakes testing puts young children and their schools at risk” featuring Samuel Meisels from the Erikson Institute and “Why are quality infant/toddler programs closing and what can we do about it” sponsored by WestEd. Both topics support our policy change focus for Quality Care for Every Child..

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen".

Karen Smith  
CCRC Director

*The Early Care and Education program  
is “going on the road”...*



*We are bringing the Tulsa Tech classroom to you!  
828-2086 [regina.rice@tulsatech.org](mailto:regina.rice@tulsatech.org)*

## Quality Enhancement Initiative says Goodbye to 2008 and Welcomes in 2009!

### Welcome 2009!

We are excited to start a great New Year with all of our programs! First, we would like to thank the George Kaiser Family Foundation for their continued support of the Quality Enhancement Initiative. We received a generous grant to continue our efforts in helping programs achieve NAEYC Accreditation. 2009 is set to be a great year with some unique opportunities to look forward to including PAS (Program Administration Scale) Training for directors of programs involved in our projects scheduled for March 24-26, 2009 and the International Infant & Toddler Conference that will take place here in Tulsa on April 23-25, 2009.

### Goodbye 2008!

As we said goodbye to 2008 we also said a sad goodbye to Kim Thuerlauf, our Infant/Toddler and Family Support Specialist who had been implementing the Strengthening Families Initiative. She moved on to new endeavors

in November...she will be greatly missed by the QEI team and CCRC. Please join us in welcoming Stephanie Howard to

CCRC. We are so excited to have her as the newest member of our QEI team! Stephanie has joined us part time as a Family Support Specialist to work on the data collection and evaluation of the Strengthening Families Initiative. With that said, we plan to implement the Strengthening Families Initiative again in 2009. More information to follow in the new year!

Updates from the last quarter of 2008...several members of our team were fortunate to be able to attend the NAEYC Annual



*Lindsey Asher, Shauna Meador, Retta Seger, and Erma Lee McMinn*

Conference held in Dallas, TX this year. It was a great conference with an overwhelming amount of knowledge that was gained and will surely be shared with all of our programs in different ways throughout the new year...with this we have many great ideas for topics for our monthly Program Director's Meetings! We also had four of our team members who were very honored to be chosen as presenters at this year's NAEYC conference. Retta Seger, Erma Lee McMinn, Shauna Meador, and Lindsey Asher presented a session titled "Demystifying the NAEYC Accreditation Process". The team shared how they support their programs through the process of NAEYC Accreditation. The session was a great success!

QEI would also like to send a huge CONGRATULATIONS to the latest round of programs in the Tulsa area and beyond who have achieved NAEYC and NAFCC Accreditation in late 2008. These programs include Day Schools-Memorial Campus and Seminole Early Head Start a project of Crossroads Youth and Family Services. Also, Family Child Care Home Provider and member of the QEI Success by Six Accreditation Group, Montenette Spencer, recently became accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care. CONGRATULATIONS Montenette! We are so proud of the job that you all are doing every day to ensure the highest quality of care for the children and families that you serve!

## Quick Facts on Brain Development

*By Erin Strobel, Infant-Toddler Specialist*

I think one of the most important things a teacher can learn is how a child's brain works. Unless you understand how a child's brain is wired to learn, you cannot plan activities that help that child reach his or her fullest potential. Here are few quick facts on brain development to think about when planning activities for young children:

- Learning happens best when children have formed a strong relationship with a caregiver
- Birth to 3 years is the most rapid period of brain development throughout the lifespan
- Children who are talked to often about many different things learn the most and do better in school
- Good nutrition is very important to developing a healthy brain
- Boys' and girls' brains develop at different rates and in different areas





## LINK Project Update

By Lesley Gudgel, LINK Coordinator

On August 28th, 2008 the LINK Project had an Appreciation Celebration to honor those who have been instrumental to the success of the LINK Project over the past two years. There were door prizes, great food and lots of networking! Two representatives from the Children's Medical Charities Association were in attendance and honored for their support in providing grant money for the LINK Project to purchase much needed hearing equipment. Also, the parent of a child screened by the LINK Project shared a success story about her son who received important intervention. LINK has provided screening services to over 1,000 children this year.



## NAFCC Booth at Fall Conference

This was the first year for members of QEI's Success by Six Family Child Care Home Accreditation Group to have a National Association for Family Child Care booth promoting membership and explaining the accreditation process. Working at the booth were Darlene Morgan, Chasity Wesley (in picture) along with Alfred Morgan and Pacia Wesley.



## QEI's Family Child Care Success by Six Accreditation Group Meet Monthly

Family Child Care Providers who are working toward national accreditation, are recently accredited, or serve as mentors make up this group which is open to any family child care home provider who would like to work toward becoming accredited through the National Association for Family Child Care.



Last month the meeting was held at Selena Baker's program where the training was on Insurance and Retirement, with guest speaker, Abby Williams. Everyone toured the home. The picture below is Selena showing Alfred Morgan how she uses high shelving for storage.

Anyone who is interested in joining the group can call Marlene Smith at 831-7247 for more information.

## What is Reggio Emilia?

The Reggio Emilia Approach is an educational philosophy focused on preschool and primary education. It was started by the parents of the villages around Reggio Emilia in Italy. The parents felt that it is in the early years of development that children are forming who they are as a person. This led to creation of a program based on the principles of respect, responsibility, and community through exploration and discovery in a supportive and enriching environment. The Reggio Emilia philosophy is based upon the following set of principles:

- Children must have some control over the direction of their learning;
- children must be able to learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, seeing, and hearing;
- children have a relationship with other children and with material items in the world that children must be allowed to explore;
- and children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.

The Reggio Emilia approach to teaching young children puts the natural development of children as well as the close relationships that they share with their environment at the center of its philosophy.

# ASK THE NURSE

By Joyce Reynolds, RN

## Tooth Injuries

A dislodged baby tooth can't be replaced and does not need to be put back in. On the other hand, a permanent tooth, which is more sharply defined than a baby tooth, can often be saved if prompt action is taken and the tooth is handled carefully. A permanent tooth has the best chance of survival if replaced within 30 minutes.

### What to Do When a baby or toddler injures gums or teeth:

- If there's bleeding, put cold water on a piece of gauze and apply pressure to the site.
- To reduce swelling, offer the child an ice pop to suck.
- Call a dentist. He or she will probably want to see the child to assess the need for realignment or removal of a very loose tooth.

### If a permanent tooth is chipped or broken:

- Collect all the pieces of the tooth.
- Rinse the damaged area of the mouth with warm water.
- Give the child a cold compress to hold on the injured tooth.
- See a dentist right away.

### If a permanent tooth is knocked out:

- Hold the tooth by the crown (the top), not the root.
- Rinse the tooth immediately with saline solution or milk. (Tap water should be used only as a last resort; it contains chlorine, which may damage the root.) Do not scrub the tooth.
- The best place to preserve the tooth on the way to the dentist is in its socket. If your child is old enough and mature enough not to swallow it, replace it gently, then have the child bite down on a gauze pad to keep it in place.
- If the tooth can't be reinserted, put it in milk - a good preservative because its chemical makeup is compatible with teeth.
- Give the child a gauze pad or handkerchief to bite down on, which will help lessen bleeding and ease the pain.
- See a dentist right away.



## Library News

By Marilyn Cundiff, Toy Lending & Library Coordinator

### Adding Health and Safety Education to Your Early Childhood Program:

Help your children learn to live healthy lifestyles by introducing them to fun and meaningful activities through their play. Family child care providers and child care centers in CCRC's referral data base can checkout the following library resources on health and safety concepts to build skills that are appropriate for young children:

#### Learning Luggage:

2-6 years:

- Buckle Up!
- Departure to the Doctor
- Fit for Life (Nutrition, exercise, & rest)
- Safety First: (Features firemen and fire safety)
- Scrub-A-Dub (Cleanliness)
- Tissue Please (Wellness and immunizations)

3-6 years:

- Always Be Safe (Fire, stranger, and water safety)
- Departure to the Dentist
- Healthy Me (Nutrition and exercise)
- My Body: Inside and Out

### Risk Watch Bags

Ages: 4-7 year olds

- Motor Vehicle Safety
- Fire and Burn Prevention
- Choking, Suffocation, and Strangulation Prevention
- Falls Prevention
- Firearms Injury Prevention
- Bike and Pedestrian Safety
- Water Safety



Toy lending membership for family child care is \$25 for a year. Child care centers may checkout a Learning Luggage for \$5 for three weeks or join the Toy Lending Library to check out the Learning Luggage kits only for \$25. For more information call 831-7227.

# Child Care RESOURCE CENTER

Quality Care For Every Child

18 North Norwood  
Tulsa, OK 74115

918.834.2273 (834-CARE)

On-line: [www.ccrctulsa.org](http://www.ccrctulsa.org)



The purpose of CCRC is to promote quality, affordable child care in the Tulsa area.

CCRC is a program of the Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa, a United Way Member Agency.



Funding is also provided by the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

Tulsa Area United Way

“Connections for Caregivers”  
Quarterly Newsletter, Vol. 18, Issue 1

INSIDE: CHILD CARE TRAINING CALENDAR  
January – March 2009

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## WHO TO CALL

Listed below are helpful contact names and information for professional development opportunities or consultation in early childhood.

### Child Care Health Consultant

Joyce Reynolds, RN, 918-831-7245, [jreynolds@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:jreynolds@ccrctulsa.org)  
Janna Cooney, RN, 918-831-7229, [jcooney@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:jcooney@ccrctulsa.org)

### Child Care Consultant

Ellie Newby, 918-831-7234, [enewby@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:enewby@ccrctulsa.org)

### Quality Enhancement Initiative (Success by 6)

Paige Whalen, Coordinator, 918-831-7237, [pwhalen@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:pwhalen@ccrctulsa.org)

### Reaching for the Stars

Linda Bradford, Tulsa, Creek, Rogers and Wagoner Counties,  
1-800-734-7520 [linda.bradford@okdhs.org](mailto:linda.bradford@okdhs.org)

### REWARD

Kristina Allen, 888-446-7608, ext. 241, [kdallen@ou.edu](mailto:kdallen@ou.edu)

### Scholars for Excellence in Child Care (S.E.C.C.)

Melinda Suttle, Tulsa Community College, 918-595-8236,  
[msuttle@tulsacc.edu](mailto:msuttle@tulsacc.edu)

The Scholars for Excellence in Child Care (Scholars) program, Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, Oklahoma Registry and REWARD Oklahoma are programs funded through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Oklahoma Child Care Services.

Child care professionals who complete a credential should apply for the Oklahoma Registry and REWARD Oklahoma programs through the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) at 888.446.7608, 405.799.6383 or [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org).

Infant Mental Health Endorsement & Infant Mental Health  
Tulsa On-line: [www.ccrctulsa.org](http://www.ccrctulsa.org)

# Child Care RESOURCE CENTER