



## QEI News

Cynthia Mooney, Quality Enhancement Specialist

The Quality Enhancement Initiative (QEI) works with Child Care Programs that are currently a 2 STAR and want to improve quality. The Initiative seeks to model and give technical assistance to providers based on current standards of best practice. The Quality Enhancement Specialists work closely with program directors to assess the program's strengths and set goals for improvement. In addition to ongoing technical assistance, the QEI team offers monthly directors meetings that cover topics that are specific to the concerns of program administration. Through the directors meetings, networks are formed that allow for greater community building and sharing of information.

Currently, the Quality Enhancement Initiative is focused on building the capacity of center directors with the idea that the director can affect the greatest amount of change at their program. The Initiative strives to create a community of lifelong learners and future leaders within the field.

Please contact us to find out more!

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## 5<sup>th</sup> International Infant & Toddler Conference

Collette Sawyer, Quality Enhancement Specialist

Child Care Resource Center's 5<sup>th</sup> International Infant & Toddler Conference is taking place April 5 – 8, 2017 at the Downtown Doubletree Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This year's theme is *A World of Possibilities: It All Starts Here*.

Keynote presenters are coming from all over the United States and around the globe to share their perspectives and expertise on infant and toddler development, practices, and advocacy. Presenters include: Toni & Robin Christie, Dr. Tamar Jacobson, Dr. Peter Mangione, Rae Pica, Else Chahin, Dr. Amy Emerson, Betty Blaize, and Dr. Barbara Sorrels.

The preconference will take place Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and the main conference takes place Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. For more information, to register, or to submit a session proposal, please visit <http://www.ccrctulsa.org/index.php/iitc>.



## Let's Stay in Touch!

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# CCRC Update

a newsletter for child care providers

## Disasters & Emergencies — Are You Prepared?

Jessica Smith, Child Care Consultant



CCRC is proud to have received an Emergency Preparedness Grant from Child Care Aware of America for a two-year project; Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies as Resilience Hubs.

In 2016, new licensing regulations went into effect for child care programs, with a large part of the new regulations involving emergency preparedness. CCRC will be using the Emergency Preparedness Grant to educate and train child care programs about effective ways to practice emergency fire, tornado, and earthquake drills. Participants will also learn how to assemble an emergency preparedness kit and develop plans for the program to follow in worst-case scenarios.

A local child care center has already completed the process and is very happy with the results. "Gathering the materials for the emergency kit from the list provided by CCRC was easy with the correct information to follow, and the fire drill was a very helpful learning tool," said Carla Story, Director of Play & Learn Preschool. We are excited to assist more child care programs over the next two years.

According to the National Weather

Service, from January 1 through July 2016, there were 57 tornadoes reported in Oklahoma. Additionally, 37 earthquakes rated 4.0 or higher have been reported in the past year. With our staff and Child Care Aware of America, we are eager to assist our community in becoming an area of emergency resilience.

Our first Emergency Preparedness training will be February 20-21, 2017 from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Participants will receive 4 hours of formal training and the opportunity to win exciting door prizes! Visit our training calendar at [www.ccrctulsa.org](http://www.ccrctulsa.org) to register.

If you would like assistance with Emergency Preparedness planning, please contact Jessica Smith at [jsmith@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:jsmith@ccrctulsa.org) or 918-831-7240.

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5<sup>th</sup> International Infant & Toddler Conference

### Don't forget...

Update your program's information with us twice a year, to ensure we are giving the correct information to potential parents.

# From the Consultants

## School's Out! Now What?

Stephanie Howard, Child Care Consultant



Between January and March, school is out for up to two weeks, depending on the school district.

School being out equals school-age kids spending much more than their typical few hours a day in your program. Often, programs are so busy with day-to-day tasks and putting out fires that they forget to prepare for the impending "big kids." Here are some tips and ideas that will help you make a plan for successful school-break days:

- **Give each day a theme.** Themes can be simple or complex, depending on your time and budget. Having themed days makes kids feel special and excited to come to your program.
- **Go on field trips when possible.** Field trips help break up the day and provide fun, new experiences for children. If you have the means, consider taking the kids to the park, zoo, aquarium, museum, arcade, roller skating, swimming, etc. If you do not have transportation, look for places that are within walking distance.
- **Provide new and exciting activities and materials.** School-out days are when you want to pull out that new toy you just bought or that fun activity you've been dying to try!

Contact me if you would like assistance with planning an upcoming school-break day at [showard@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:showard@ccrctulsa.org) or 918-831-7239.

## Upcoming Events & Trainings

### January

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 6, 7, 20, & 21 – **Early Learning Guidelines for Infants, Toddlers, & Twos**, time varies, \$20.
- 9 – **Safe Sleep: SIDS**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$10.
- 12 – **Infection Prevention & Control**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$10.
- 17 – **QEI Directors Training: Strategic Planning**, 12:00pm-2:00pm, Free.
- 28 – **FCCH Training: FCCH Environments**, 9:30am-11:30am, Free.

- 2 – **Intentional Observation to Improve Outcomes**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$10.
- 20 & 21 – **Emergency Preparedness**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, Free.
- 21 – **QEI Directors Training**, 12:00pm-2:00pm, Free.
- 25 – **FCCH Training: Fun with Science**, 9:30am-11:30am, Free.

### February

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

- 13 – **Safe Sleep: SIDS**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$10.
- 16 – **Behavior & Guidance**, 6:30pm-8:30pm, \$10.
- 21 – **QEI Directors Training**, 12:00pm-2:00pm, Free.
- 25 – **FCCH Training: Folder Game Fun**, 9:30am-11:30am, Free.

### March

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Visit our training calendar online at [www.ccrctulsa.org/index.php/events](http://www.ccrctulsa.org/index.php/events) for more detailed information including location, description, registration link, and more.

## Infants & Toddlers- On the Move

Jessica Ruggles, Quality Enhancement Specialist

Large-muscle development in the first months of life happens at a phenomenal rate. A newborn has little control and in just a few short months gains neck control. The infant then masters crawling, standing up, and walking. Physical development happens from the head downward, and from the center out. Babies need practice to help strengthen their motor skills.

How can we help? First, provide a safe place for babies on the floor. A large blanket or mat can provide a boundary as well as blocking off an area with furniture. Provide toys for the infant to reach for, and places to pull up. If you have space, platforms or even a crib mattress on the floor provides different levels to crawl on.

Infants do not need special equipment to develop muscles. As children get older, provide large muscle toys. Large trucks to push, large balls to kick and throw, and even bubbles to chase allow infants and toddlers plenty of large muscle exercise. When the weather permits make sure the children are getting plenty of outside time. All of these things and more are very important to the development of children's muscles.

For more resources on this subject check out CCRC's Resource Library.

Resource: *Beginning with Babies* by Mary Lou Kinney & Patricia Witt Ahrens



*"Every baby moves with more ease and efficiency if allowed to do it at his own time and in his own way, without our trying to teach him. A child who has always been allowed to move freely develops not only an agile body but also good judgment about what he can and cannot do." -Magda Gerber*



## Resource Library News

Karen Smith, Director

The Child Care Resource Center is excited to announce that our Toy Lending and Resource Library will be moving across the parking lot to a new location in Main Square Towers. We will be on the first floor of Tower 2. To find us, enter in the door facing Baltimore under the awning that says "Community Service Council." This is the same location where we hold many of our trainings. The physical address for this building is 1604 S. Baltimore, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119.

Because of this move, the Toy Lending and Resource Library will be closed through February 6th. We will reopen on Tuesday, February 7th. If you have materials checked out, you may keep them for the full month of January. We look forward to serving you in our new space! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sam Stephenson at [sstephenson@ccrctulsa.org](mailto:sstephenson@ccrctulsa.org) or 918-831-7299.