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*Child Care Resource Development Center
for Kennebec and Somerset Counties
A Program of Southern Kennebec Child Development Corporation*

the LINK eNewsletter
Staying Connected and Informed

Issue 1, January 2011

Dear Provider,

Greetings and best wishes for a Happy New Year! With the start of the New Year the Child Care Options staff are busy planning for our annual Kids Conference, which will be held on April 16th at Kennebec Valley Community College. As we prepare for the conference I would like to extend a special thank you to the local agencies and businesses that have generously provided financial support to us:

Education Workshop Conference Sponsors

Darling's Hyundai-Augusta
Scentsy, Julie Goldsmith-Skowhegan
Crisis and Counseling-Augusta
Kennebec Behavioral Health-Waterville

Hospitality Conference Sponsors

AB Counseling-Gardiner
G&E Roofing Company-Augusta
Fred's Coffee-Waterville

Conference brochures will be mailed soon. Hope to see you there!

Until next time,
Rita Fullerton, Director
Child Care Options, SKCDC

Maine Early Learning Guidelines Training Waiver Request

Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ) in partnership with the Early Childhood Education Higher Education Committee has determined that child care providers may request an exemption from the Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines (MECLG) training. The Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development are not part of this exemption.

If you have completed qualifying courses through the University of Maine, the community college system or Wheelock College you may be eligible for an exemption.

For more information or to request a "Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines Training Waiver Request" form contact Jill Moody, Education Specialist edspec@skcdc.org



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Congratulations to:

The following programs that have moved up a Step on "Quality for ME" and will be receiving a financial stipend:

- George Mitchell B/A School Program, Waterville moved to Step 2 will receive \$300
- The Children's Center, Augusta moved to Step 3 will receive \$400
- Kim Cleaves, family child care provider, Augusta moved to Step 2 will receive \$200

Congratulations to Shauna Burke, family child care provider in West Gardiner for becoming accredited by NAFCC.

Taxes, Where Do I Start?

- Pam Soucy, Training Coordinator



Shawn Savage, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Senior Stakeholder Liaison, will show Childcare providers how to navigate the IRS web site. Throughout the presentation, there will be information about how to make the IRS Web site work specifically for you and your business. This part of the discussion will concentrate on the Small Business/Self-Employed and Child Care Tax Centers.

Some other critical issues that will be discussed include making sure all workers are properly classified as employees or independent contractors and making sure taxes are withheld and paid in a timely way.

Also, at the completion of this presentation, we hope you will have a good understanding of a Schedule C business, receive information which will guide you in avoiding potential tax issues, and lead you to resources which will provide relevant and useful information. We hope you can join us!

January 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Child Care Options in Farmingdale
OR

January 13, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Waterville Inland Hospital
Cost, \$10, pre-registration is required

Speaking of Taxes...

- Pam Soucy, Training Coordinator

Jan. 29th - [National Puzzle Day](#)

Jan. 31st - [Backward Day](#)

Upcoming Trainings

Caring for Infants, Toddlers and Their Families

Date: Saturday January 8 & February 5 plus Monday evenings January 10, 24, 31
February 7, 28, March 7
Time: Saturdays 9:00-3:00 PM,
Mondays 6:00 - 9:00 PM
Location: Child Care Options,
Farmingdale
Cost: \$ 15 - QRS participants,
\$20 - non QRS participants

Getting Started in Family Child Care

Date: January 10 & 24
Time: 9:00-3:00 PM
Location: Child Care Options,
Farmingdale
Cost: \$15 - pre-registration
required

Supporting Maine's Infants & Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning & Development

Date: Wednesday afternoons
February 23, March 2, 9, 16,
23, 30 April 6, 13 **please note
date changes from newsletter**
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM
Location: Educare Training
Room, Waterville
Cost: \$15 for Quality for ME
participants, \$20 for non
Quality for ME participants,
pre-registration required

First Aid and Pediatric CPR

Date: January 22
Time: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Location: Child Care Options,
Farmingdale
Cost: \$30

Smile! Kids Oral Health

Date: January 25
Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Location: Child Care Options,
Farmingdale
Cost: \$10, pre-registration
required

Providers, have you thought about the fact that whenever you give parents your social security number, name, and address so they can file for the child care tax credits, that you are potentially exposing yourself to identity theft?

There is an alternative, you can apply for an employer identification number (EIN) and give that number to the parents instead of giving them your social security number. The application process is very simple. You can do it by phone (1-800-829-4933) or visit the website at www.irs.gov.

Money Saving Tips

- Kelley Bowley, Resource Development & Referral Specialist

In this ever changing economy we know that child care providers are always looking for tips to stretch their limited supply dollars as far as possible. For many of you, it's a decision between whether to charge a supply fee, build it into your weekly rate, or to charge an activity fee for those special event activities.

Regardless of the choice you make, finding ways to save and extend the supply budget as far as it will go can take some creativity and smart shopping.

Here are some tips and ideas for stretching your budget to find ways for enriching activities for children without spending a fortune. Let's start with the most obvious one:

- Buy non-perishables in bulk, hit up all the back to school sales in the fall & garage sales in the summer months, and dollar stores are great sources for baskets and bins.
- Find a great children's consignment store, and rotate items and trade them in. One provider does theme based units, so she boxes up things from one theme, keeps the very best and trades in the ones the children were not really interested in. It's also a great way to rotate books and puzzles.
- Consider a "helping hands" request. One provider occasionally posts hands with above-and-beyond supplies that are being requested (all those extra special craft treats: glitter, pom poms, etc.). There is no pressure on parents, they can choose a "hand" and return the item on their own schedule. Since she doesn't plan on having these items on hand she isn't waiting on them to complete a project. If a parent brings something in it will be quite obvious with the project that goes home that day!

Do you have some other great budget friendly tips? Share them with your colleagues and let's make the best of stretching those dollars!

Child Care Cabin Fever Reliever

Have a ball: Bring in some snow from the backyard, make it into balls and freeze them. The frozen snowballs can be painted with tempera paints and then put back into the freezer to come out

CDA Workshop

Date: January 27

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Cost: \$10, pre-registration required

School Age Parent 101

Date: February 1

Time: 11:30 - 1:30 PM

Location: Alford Youth Center, Waterville

Cost: FREE, pre-registration required

Maine Early Childhood Learning Guidelines

Date: Thursday evenings

February 3, 10, 17 March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Location: Skowhegan Savings Bank, Skowhegan

Cost: \$15 for Quality for ME participants, \$20 non Quality for ME participants, pre-registration is required

Observations & Assessments

Date: February 3

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location: Child Care Options, Farmingdale

Cost: \$10, pre-registration is required

For a description of these trainings click [here](#).

To download a registration form for any of these trainings click [here](#).

Save The Date:

For Our Annual Conference

Kids, Kids, Kids

April 16, 2011

Maine Early Care and Education Training Calendar is now available online.

Click [here](#).

Resource Sharing from NACCRRRA (National

again in sweltering July. If you have empty squeeze bottles, fill them with water and food coloring and let the children paint the snow.

Art attack: Turn your child care into a fine art museum. Pin up the children's signed paintings, drawings, collages, even photos, place clay sculptures on coffee-can pedestals and invite family, friends or neighbors art opening. Serve juice and cheese and let the children talk about their work.

Puppet theatre: Place an expandable curtain rod in a doorway at kid level, hang a tablecloth or thread a small curtain through the rod and you've got an instant puppet theatre. If you don't have real hand puppets, you can use stuffed animals or make some puppets out of odd socks with buttons for eyes and yarn for hair.



*Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things,
but just look what they can do when they stick
together.*

Vesta M. Kelly

Association of Resource and Referral Agencies)

**New America Foundation
Early Ed Watch Blog:** [Slight
Uptick for State-Funded Pre-K
in 2011 Budgets](#)

**New America Foundation Ed
Money Watch:** [Conflicting
Priorities under the American
Recovery and Reinvestment
Act](#)

**New America Foundation
Early Ed Watch Podcast:**
[FirstSchool Aims to Transform
Early Education](#)

R & R Corner

Do you ever wonder about the Child Care Options referral clients? Here are some interesting facts about Child Care Options child care referrals.

Over the past 6 months:

- 74% of referral clients needed referrals for one child. 26% needed referrals for two or more siblings.
- 80% of children needing care were 2 years old or under. 18% were preschool age, and 2% were school age.
- 82% of clients got six or more provider names on their referral list. Only 18% of clients received 5 or less names.

Child Care Options has data on referral trends dating back to 2001. If you have any questions or would like additional data just give us a call!

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