



The Early Educator

As The World Turns

I recently saw a quote that pretty much sums it all up. "The only thing constant is change". This statement is so true. The world of child care is constantly changing. It doesn't seem like that long ago that we transferred to the star Rated License system and the Environmental Rating Scales. Now we are into new crib laws, a subsidy swipe card system, regional referrals and so much more. Not all change is bad, but it all takes getting used to. Just like young children, most of us feel comfortable when our world is consistent.



During the past few months the Children's Council has gone through many changes. We have lost approximately \$105,000 in funding which has forced all of directors asking me to be the Interim Executive Director until a decision can be made on what path our agency will be taking.

the Children's Council staff hours to be cut. This unfortunately results in a cut to the services we can offer as well as office coverage being sparse. Along with staff reducing hours, some have decided to pursue other paths which has led to the board

of directors asking me to be the Interim Executive Director until a decision can be made on what path our agency will be taking.

I want to assure you that as a staff, we are all working hard to maintain as many services as possible and looking for volunteers to help us do simple things like answering the phones.

Please be patient with us through all of the changes and just know that we are all here for one reason ~ The Children.

Lee Marshall

The Children's Council Child Care Resource & Referral

Quarter 2
October-November 2011

Our Mission:

"We build upon the strengths of children, families, and educators by investing resources, information, and training towards promoting the future health and success of our greatest asset— Our Children."



Resource Corner News

The Resource Corner has a wide variety of resource books and materials that childcare programs can check out. This program is open to any member of the community, with a particular focus on early childhood teachers. Administrators and/or teachers do need to attend training before materials can be checked out and a membership fee of \$5.00 yearly does apply. Center memberships may be purchased for \$50.00, which covers

the entire staff, regardless of how many employees a program has. Many of you purchased memberships last summer, which have now expired. You will receive notification and new membership applications in the mail soon.

We do not presume to know what kits or resource books you may be interested in, so programs will need to contact Lorrie Looper in order to reserve re-

source materials and determine a time of delivery. Please see the procedures for more information on accessing resources.

Thank you,
Lorrie Looper



Fall Fun and Activities



Pounding golf tee's into a pumpkin may seem like an easy activity, that is because it is. Not only is this fun for children but inexpensive and helps to reduce the urge that some children have to hit other children. This is a good stress reducer for all ages.

Riddle:

You are in a cold house in the winter. It is dark. You have one match. There is a candle and there is a wood burning stove. Which do you light first?

Be the first person to call in with the correct answer and you or your facility will be featured in the next newsletter.

If we are closed or do not answer, leave your answer on the voice mail .

Quest for Quality-Second Success

The second annual Quest for Quality Conference held on August 27th was another huge success!

113 individuals registered for the conference this year and the feedback has been remarkably positive! We truly appreciate the work of each individual that served on conference committees, as well as the many volunteers who assisted in ensuring that the event was carried out as planned.



Keynote Speaker **Deborah Cassidy**- Director of the Division of Child Development & Early Education

It is our goal to continue to provide quality professional development opportunities for the providers of Watauga County.

We thank you for giving us your Saturday and hope that you were able to take something back to your program that will promote high quality leaning experiences for the children in your care.

Note: Next year we plan to have a new location.

Public Comment Opportunities Now Available

The NC Child Care Commission proposes rule-making in direct response to comments that were received from the public and the Child Fatality Task Force requesting rule-making to improve the safety and welfare of children while in child care.

Amendments to Rules .0604 and .1719 (6) are proposed as the result of incidents in which children were burned by the contents within a crock pot when the electrical cord was pulled and the pot fell down. The amended rule states that small appliances with heating elements and/or cords shall not be accessible to preschool children. The adoption of Rule .1725 is proposed as a re-

sult of concerns related to injuries from small appliances as well as an incident in which a child was attacked by a dog while in care at a family child care home. This rule would require the provider to inform parents if they do or do not carry accidental or liability insurance. The parent can then decide whether or not to enroll their child in the facility.

Amendments to Rules .1719(10) and (11) also would notify parents if the facility maintains any animals on the premises and would require the child care provider to secure all animals (indoors or outdoors) while children are in care.



Anyone wishing to comment on these proposed rules or would like to request copies of the rules, should contact Dedra Alston, Rule-making Coordinator, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, 2201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2201, at (919)890-7060 or Dedra.Alston@dhhs.nc.gov. Written comments will be accepted through **October 31, 2011.**

Regional Specialists Available to Assist You

Rhonda Hamby **Behavior Specialist**

704-929-3980 or rhamby@icpyc.org

Do you have children with challenging behaviors in your classroom? Would you like specialized technical assistance, resources, training and support to address these problems? Are you willing to try new approaches to make your classroom a calmer, happier place for all your children? If you answered yes to any of these questions then call Rhonda for assistance.

Alicia Shell **Infant/Toddler Specialist**

704-929-4359 or ashell@icpyc.org

The Infant/Toddler Specialist provides training, technical assistance and consultation for centers and family child care homes. Susan uses environment rating scale assessments in child care programs to assist you in improving the quality of care. If you care for infants and/or toddlers and could use some assistance call Susan for assistance.




Linda Curtis **School-Age Specialist**


704-929-3967 or curtis@icpyc.org

The School-Age Specialist works collaboratively with school-age child care providers to improve the quality of care by offering technical assistance, training, consultation and other services. If you care for school-age children and could use some assistance call Linda for assistance.

Successful Naptimes

 Gather several small lidded boxes, such as baby wipe containers, and decorate them. In each box, put objects students can use quietly, such as puzzles, a pencil and a small notepad, plastic linking blocks, or plastic toy animals. If it is obvious that a child is unable to sleep, invite him to choose a box to bring back to his/her naptime

area and play with the materials in the box. Have youngsters return their boxes 10 minutes before naptime ends.

 Do you have little ones who are afraid of the dark? Here's a solution! In a safe location, display a strand of white lights. At the beginning of naptime, turn on the "night-night" lights. Youngsters think

they are cool, plus it calms those who are afraid of the dark. For added fun, substitute the strands to match holidays: orange for Halloween, red for Christmas, and green for St. Patrick's Day!



The Children's Council Child Care Resource & Referral

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Visit us on the web!
www.thechildrenscouncil.org

NEW
Online Training
Calendar with online
registration!!!

Name	Position	Extension
• Lee Marshall	Interim Executive Director and Child Care Resource & Referral Coordinator	206
• Charisse Cuthbertson	Contracts & Financial Manager	207
• Diana Smith	Administrative Assistant	203
• Lorrie Looper	Child Care Resource & Referral Family & Community Educator	204
• Robin Triplett	Parents as Teachers Coordinator	208
• Lynette Walker	Parents as Teachers Educator	201
• Crystal Kelly	Teen Parent Educator	210

Upon those who step into the same rivers flow
other and yet other waters.
All things . . . are in flux like a river.

To obtain more
information on how to:

- Enroll in college classes (seated or on-line)
- Apply for a TEACH scholarship
- Apply to the WAGE\$ program

Call us at 262-5424

The Family Childcare Home Association

will meet on Tuesday November
15th from 6:30-8:30 at the
Children's Council.



