

Child Development Corps News

If you are a family child care provider, have you ever thought about becoming accredited? Have you heard of accreditation but were not sure of what that meant for you? Child Care Links through funds from Every Child Counts, First Five of Alameda County will offer an opportunity for five family child care providers to get reimbursed once they become accredited. These providers will be reimbursed on a first come first serve basis.

The National Association of Family Child Care established the National Accreditation System for family child care in 1988. NAFCC Accreditation benefits children, parents, communities, and employers. Accreditation is voluntary. It is a system that has been created to verify the quality of services provided by family child care providers and to help improve quality of care. The process has providers evaluate their child care through a self study phase and then through observation. This enables family child care providers to grow, learn, and improve upon their skills.



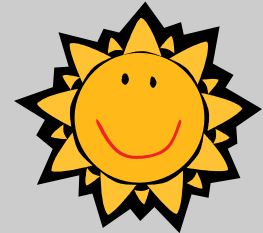
To be eligible to become accredited, the NAFCC requires:

- Offer care and education to children in a home, spending at least 80% of the time with the children
- Provide care for a minimum of 15 hours per week
- Be at least 21 years old
- Have a high school diploma or GED
- Have at least 18 months experience in Family Child Care
- Complete background screening and documentation requirements
- Have a minimum of 3 children enrolled and present during the observation. At least one child must live outside the child care home

The accreditation process can take anywhere from 2 months to a maximum of 2 years to complete the self-study phase. After the self study phase and all paperwork is complete, within 8 weeks an observer will schedule an appointment for the observation phase of accreditation to occur. The cost to become accredited if you are a non-member is \$695.00. If you become a member it is \$35 to become a member and then \$ 495.00 to become accredited. You can learn more about National Accreditation for Family Child Care Providers by visiting the NAFCC website at www.nafcc.org

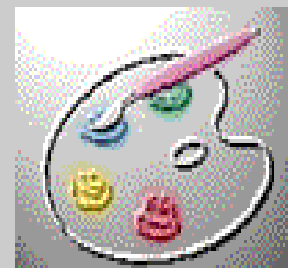
For information regarding the Corps program or accreditation reimbursement, please contact Kelly Van Raden, Career Advocate at 925-249-3920

For more information and/or to register for play group activities or Growing, Learning and Caring Program Orientations, please contact Nicole Roman at (925) 249-3942.



ICY PAINTINGS

What's more cooling than ice on a hot day? For refreshing fun, let your toddlers use frozen paint. Mix powdered tempera paint and water to consistency. Dip craft sticks in the thick paint and then freeze them on a baking sheet lined with waxed paper. When the paint is frozen, let your children smear the frozen paint sticks on white construction paper. Encourage them to notice what happens as the paint melts.



For more information regarding training Child Care Initiative Project and/or Family Read Night, please contact Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923.

Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP)

July Calendar

7/5: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

7/11: Pre licensing orientation, Pleasanton conference room from 9:30am to noon. \$25 registration fee, no pre registration required. For more information contact Sara Gonzalez.

7/14: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.

7/26: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

7/28: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.



CCIP participants licensed in the 2005-2006 fiscal year can look forward to technical assistance and support, free training and support materials and post licensing reimbursement of specific licensing related fees. Licensing related fees include the cost of the Community Care Licensing orientation and licensing application, fingerprinting, T.B. test, First Aid/CPR/Infectious disease training for the participant and any other adult residents in the home. Currently, requests from newly licensed participants for reimbursement of licensing related fees are being processed at 100% of the requested amount. As the year comes closer to an end (June 30, 2006) reimbursements may only be made for partial costs as these reimbursements are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

It is not too late to join. Currently, there are only 8 slots left for new provider participants so registration for these last slots will be conducted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register to participate, kindly contact Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923.

Several trainings are in the process of being scheduled/rescheduled including, "Now What, Developmentally Appropriate Practices", "Earthquake Preparedness", "Biting", File Folder Activities, Basic Training in Spanish and Mentor Training. Flyers will be mailed out as soon as training dates are confirmed.

As with all CCIP sponsored trainings, all family home day care providers are invited to attend, however, CCIP participants will have priority when registering. Parents are also welcome to attend these additional trainings. Please share flyers with the families you serve when you receive them.



IMPORTANT CALENDAR INFORMATION

Please note:

All training is held at Child Care Links (CCL) Conference Room, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 104 in Pleasanton, **unless otherwise noted**. Registration is **required** for all CCL training & workshops.

Calendar contacts:

East County Office
(925) 417-8733

E-mail

events@childcarelinks.org (please write contact name in subject line).

Rupe Singh, Community Specialist,
(925) 249-3921

Sara Gonzalez, R & R Specialist,
(925) 249-3935

Megan Alsdorf, Training Coordinator
(925) 249-3925

Donnamarie Fuller, Project Specialist,
(925) 249-3923

Kim Marshall, Inclusion Project Coordinator,
(925) 249-3940

Kelly Van Raden, Career Advocate,
(925) 249-3920

Nicole Roman, Provider Services Specialist
(925) 249-3942

Save the Date!

Child Care Links 30th Anniversary Celebration

Val Vista Park,
Pleasanton
October 14, 2006
10am-3pm

Family Read Night

Family Read Night is a great opportunity to set aside the hectic over-scheduling of life and spend some time together as a family— no matter what age you are.

Child Care Links' Family Read Night program is offered in English and Spanish at the following sites.

In English:

Date to be announced, no summer sessions. Fall hours will be 6-7 pm, Child Care Links' Conference Room, 1020 Serpentine Lane, #104, Pleasanton
Please call for location in Livermore.

In Spanish:

Date to be announced, no summer sessions. Fall hours will be 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Hill N Dale (CAPE, Inc.) 4150 Dorman Road, Pleasanton

Date to be announced, no summer sessions. Fall hours will be 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Leahy (CAPE, Inc. & LHA) Pre-school Room, 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore.

Please contact Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923 for more information. Registration for Family Read Night will be required as space and parking are limited.

From the Shelf... at the Fran Caulkins Memorial Resource Library

Simple Steps – Developmental Activities for Infants, Toddlers and Two-Year-Olds, by Karen Miller. A collection of age appropriate activities grouped by developmental stage supported, i.e., social, language, cognitive and physical. Instructions for each activity include materials, what to do, what to observe, how to extend the activity and emerging skills. Materials for most activities can be found at home or purchased at a dollar store.

Association Information

Valley Family Child Care Association

Mission: To provide education opportunities, support, networking, and fellowship for fellow licensed family child care providers. Informed and educated members provide a higher quality of child care.

President: Renee Luce, (925) 606-8298

Membership: Meg Bell, (925) 449-5667

Hospitality: Judy D'India, (925) 245-1816

Directors of the Valley (DOV)

Goals: Directors of the Valley or "DOV" meet to offer each other encouragement, to share concerns of interest with the group and to advocate for children, families, and the child care profession.

Co-Chair: Laura Reno (925) 373-0865

Co-Chair: Joan Hottinger, (925) 846-5455

August Calendar

8/2: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

8/11: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.

8/16: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

8/19: Handwriting Without Tears workshop located at the Dublin Civic Center in the Regional Room, from 9am-1:30pm. Registration is \$15 and lunch is included. Contact Megan Alsdorf at (925) 249-3925, if you have any questions.

8/25: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.



Are you considering expanding to a Large Family Child Care?

The cities of Livermore, Dublin and Pleasanton require a conditional use permit (CUP) be obtained through your city Planning Department. There are fees and an approval process associated with this permit. For more information, technical assistance and guidance through the application process, please contact Rupe Singh at (925) 249-3921.

Children with Special Needs and Their Families

The 2005 Annual Report & Child Care Provider Rate Survey

R&R staff has been fielding many inquiries regarding our 2005 Annual Report and the rate survey of local child care providers. Child Care Links has changed the publication cycle of their annual report to the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year. The main reason for this change is to coincide with the publication of the county and state reports included in the California Child Care Portfolio. This change will allow Child Care Links to make available current data from the state down to the city and neighborhood level. The next annual report will be for Fiscal Year 2005-2006 and will be published and distributed in the Fall of 2006.

The rate survey is published and available. To download a copy, please visit our website at www.childcarelinks.org or contact Child Care Links at (925) 417-8733.

Health & Safety Training Reimbursements

Reimbursement of health & safety training costs is available for family home providers, family home provider aides, license exempt providers and center based staff in the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. Training must have occurred between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007. Each eligible participant may receive up to \$65.00 for the completion of health and safety training (CPR, first aid, prevention of infectious disease, preventative health practices, and injury prevention). The recipient must pay at least \$5.00 of the cost of the training. Contact: Rupe Singh.

In this article, I would like to focus on those families who have a child with a special need or disability. Being a parent or guardian of a child with a special need can be challenging and exhausting at times. Finding someone to care for your child that you feel is trustworthy, as well as, one with whom you enjoy a rapport of mutual respect, is already a task in and of itself. Add to this that you are a parent or guardian of a child with a special need, that task can become exhausting. Oftentimes, when a family with a child who has special needs approaches a provider, the usual reaction of the provider is one of fear. While caring for any child can be a fearful proposition, the idea of caring for a child with special needs can sometimes serve to heighten this fear. Below I've listed several methods by which these fears can be lessened, or eliminated entirely!

· It is vital to maintain a channel of open communication with the parents of the children in your care. Consistent meetings will soon serve to lessen the feelings of apprehension you may have initially experienced.

· Remember that the parent is the foremost expert on the subject their child. As such, they possess a wealth of knowledge concerning what both you and the child need in order to cre-

ate a healthy and rewarding childcare experience.

· Be respectful to the children in your care. Provide them with the same level of respect you would want for you and your family.

· It is important you to remain mindful of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which states that a provider cannot turn away a child because of a special need or disability. All reasonable accommodations must be made in order for that child to have a positive experience while in your care. A child is a child first; with their special need being secondary. You are destined to have an unforgettable experience, as well as being the provider of a program cherished community-wide, as long you love and nurture every child in your program equally.

For questions regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as any other resource available in Alameda County, please contact Kim Marshall, Inclusion Services Coordinator, at (925) 249-3940.

