

The Corps AA Degree Program

If you are interested in earning an AA Degree or the equivalent in early childhood education, the Corps AA Degree program may be for you. The Corps AA Degree Program offers individual education and professional advising as well as a financial incentive for completing college courses.

The Program is open to all early care and education (ECE) providers who currently work in Alameda County at least 15 hours a week with children birth to pre-kindergarten or in an eligible AB212 school-age program. You must have been working in the same program for at least the last nine months when you apply to the Program. If you have at least 6 ECE units, you must have a valid Child Development Permit; if you have less than 6 units, a permit is not required.

If you are eligible for the Corps AA Degree Program, stipends range from \$650 to \$1,600 for your first year with the potential to earn additional stipends each year and you are eligible for a \$2,500 stipend when you complete the program. There is no application deadline, you can apply to the Program at anytime throughout the year. To enroll in the program or for more information, contact Jeanne Virgilio, Las Positas College Professional Development Coordinator at 925-424-1187 or jvirgilio@laspositascollege.edu.

Accreditation

Are you a family child care provider interested in becoming accredited? Child Care Links through funding from Every Child Counts, First Five of Alameda County is able to reimburse up to five family child care

providers once they become accredited. To learn more about accreditation visit the National Association for Family Child Care website at www.nafcc.org or contact Kelly Van Raden, Career Advocate at 925-249-3920.

The Enhanced Mentor Program

Are there areas of your classroom, program or family child care home you would like to improve? You can get free support from an experienced early childhood teacher.

The Enhanced Mentor Program has certified Mentor Teachers available to help you in areas including:

- *curriculum development
- *circle time and transitions
- *indoor/outdoor environment
- *developmentally appropriate practice
- *classroom management
- *literacy activities

This service is provided free of charge by the Enhanced Mentor Program. Mentors will come to your site at a time that is convenient for you! Please contact Nadiyah Taylor at (510) 875-2498 or NadiyahTaylor@acgov.org for more information

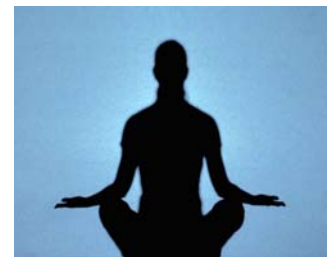


Save the Date:

**A Conference For Early Childhood Professionals:
Mind, Body, & Soul
Saturday, November 4,
2006**

**Las Positas College
"Taking Care of the Caregiver"**

Series of workshops offered on a variety of topics which are current and relevant to early childhood professionals



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.



November Calendar

11/07 Pre licensing Orientation, Pleasanton conference room from 9:30 am to noon. \$25 registration fee, no pre-registration required. For more information contact Sara Gonzalez.

11/08: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

11/13: New Provider Training Session 1, 7:00 pm-9:30 pm. Location TBA. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3932 for further information.

11/16: Harms/Clifford Rating Scales ECERS/ITERS Training at Child Care Links Conference Room 6 pm-9 pm. Please contact Megan Alsdorf for more information (925) 249-3935.

11/17: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.

11/18: "Getting to Know Me", Social/Emotional Development. 9:00 am-12:00 pm, Child Care Links Conference Room. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3923 to register.

11/20: New Provider Training Session 2, 7:00 pm-9:30 pm. Location TBA. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3932 for further information.

11/23&11/24: Child Care Links Closed

11/27: New Provider Training Session 3, 7:00 pm-9:30 pm. Location TBA. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3932 for further information.

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

Want to Hand Jive? What if you were a balloon? How would you look?

To have some fun with these, and other lively movement activities, check out audiocassettes, *We All Live Together, Volumes 4 & 5*, by Greg & Steve.

Movement Activities and Songs include:

- The Number Game
- I Like Potatoes
- A Walking We Will Go
- Old Brass Wagon

- Down on the Farm
- Hand Jive
- Just Like Me

Across the Bridge
Items available in the Fran Caulkins Memorial Resource Library may be borrowed for a period of up to 30 days. Members may come into the library to borrow items or call Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923 to arrange for delivery.



Family Read Night

English Sessions

Pleasanton: Sessions held from 6 - 7 p.m. at Child Care Links, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 104. **Upcoming dates:** Thursday, November 9th.

Livermore: Date and location TBD. Please call for more information.

Spanish Sessions

Date and location TBD. Please call for more information.

Space is limited, so registration is required for participation. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller, Project Specialist, for site addresses and to register at (925) 249-3923.

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

HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



Child Care Initiative Project (CCIP)

Make that Goal! CCIP participants attending the Mind, Body and Soul Conference on November 4, 2006 at Las Positas Community College will receive credit toward CCIP training goal hours. Make sure to register on the day of the event. Then contact Donnamarie Fuller, at (925) 249-3923 to confirm credit toward your training hour goal.

Don't forget to calendar (and r.s.v.p.) for the third and fourth trainings in *The Look Again: Infants and Toddlers in Family Child Care* training series, "Getting to Know Me" and "Do It Again".

"Getting to Know Me" training topics will include:

- "Where Do I Start? Where Do I End?" – Self Concepts
- "Chilling Out" – Self Regulation
- "Who's the Boss" – Social Relationships with Adults

"Do It Again" training topics will include:

- "Going Over to the Far Side" – Social Play and the Development of Humor
- "Superman or Batman" – the Debate Over Dramatic Play
- "My Child Needs to Learn Something" – Sharing Program Goals with Parents

Be one of the first to experience this group-oriented, hands-on training. Participants will receive a Certification of Participation. One lucky participant will take home a great raffle prize. Space is limited. Register now!



Center-Based Family Read Night

Don't Miss Your Chance to Offer Family Read Night at Your Center-based (or Family Child Care) Location! There are approximately 5 opportunities remaining and each will be assigned as calls are received. At center-based Family Read Night a story will be read, an activity will be provided and snack will be served. These Family Read Night sessions may be scheduled near pick up time in order that families wishing to participate will not need to leave and return in the same evening. Children in attendance will take home a free book for their family's library.

December Calendar

12/02: "What to Expect Your First Year in Business" and "How to Market Your Business"; with VFCCA President, Linda Ross. 9:30 am-12 pm in Pleasanton Conference Room. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3932 to register.

12/04: Social, Emotional Support Group with Ronald Mahl, MA. 6:30 pm– 8:30 pm in the Pleasanton Conference Room. Please contact Kelly Van Raden (925) 249-3920 to register.

12/05: Pre licensing Orientation, Pleasanton Conference Room from 9:30 am to noon. \$25 registration fee, no pre registration required. For more information contact Sara Gonzalez. At (925) 417-8733

12/06: Growing, Learning and Caring Orientation for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-12 pm.

12/08: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.

12/09: "Do It Again" Play and Learning, 9:00 am-12 pm at Child Care Links Conference Room. Please contact Donnamarie Fuller (925) 249-3923 to register.

12/22: Play Groups for licensed exempt providers, Pleasanton Conference Room from 10-11:15 am.

12/25-1/01/2007: Child Care Links Closed

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR





American Lung Association Training Information

**Childcare Centers:
Trainings Available for
your Childcare Center
Staff Provided by the
American Lung Association
at No Cost!**

Fresh Air for Little Noses (3 hours)

Goal: To improve the lung health of young children by reducing secondhand smoke exposure and the incidence of asthma episodes.

Objectives:

- By end of the workshop participants will:
- Understand the importance of a comprehensive smoke-free policy
- Feel comfortable in educating staff and parents about secondhand smoke
- Be able to list common asthma triggers
- Understand the importance of having an asthma action plan
- Receive videos and materials to conduct their own trainings

Tobacco 101 (3 hours)

Goal: To provide participants with the skills necessary to motivate tobacco users to quit.

Objectives:

- By end of the workshop participants will:
- Gain a basic understanding of nicotine addiction and health hazards associated with tobacco use
- Understand how the tobacco industry targets minorities, women and children
- Receive materials to share with parents
- Know how to motivate smokers to quit

Call Today to Confirm a Training Date with Program Coordinator Alex Rice at: (510) 847-9232 or at: arice@alaebay.org

Taking the “Special” Out Of Special Needs

The job of a child care provider is to provide an environment that is nurturing, of high quality and educational to the littlest people in our community. A little more care goes into caring for a child with special needs, depending on what that need may be. But what if we took the word “special” out of special needs and just cared for children all the same? What if we all looked at a child as a child first, and cared for the special need or disability that that child may have second?

The fear that a provider experiences when approached to care for a child with special needs, or who is currently caring for a child with special needs is natural. By keeping in constant communication with the parent and picking up classes, workshops or trainings when possible, a provider has taken steps to care for the special need of that child. The next step is applying that knowledge into the every day routine. But whether we realize it or not, all children have a special need.

Some are less subtle than others and some are special needs that you wouldn’t even consider to be a “special need”. The way a provider cares for that particular child could be from experience, learned from a class or workshop or both. But, as providers, we care for them anyway, and go about the day as planned.

The instinct to care for a child is natural, and to care for a child with a special need really shouldn’t be any different. There are many resources available to providers to better care for children of all abilities, as well as resources for children who have a special need or disability. If you are interested in learning about these resources, please contact Kim Marshall, Inclusion Services Coordinator at (925) 249-3940. And please remember, a child is a child first! The term “special needs” should be on its way out the door and the love of children should continue to carry on in our hearts!

