

Waukesha County Child Care Newsletter

July/August 2013



Summer Weather Watch

Summer Weather Watch: A great reminder from the Department of Children & Families about Warm Weather Guidelines

It's getting warm and muggy out but how hot is too hot for outdoor play? Here's a handy download tool to help you decide. Enjoy the summer and stay cool!



http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/memos/BRL/2011/2011_05_attachment2.pdf

Remember daily outdoor play is a requirement for all licensed and certified child programs in Wisconsin unless the weather is inclement or there is a health reason. The definition of inclement weather means stormy or severe weather including:

- Heavy Rain
- Temperatures above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Watching the weather is part of a child care provider's job. Planning for play-time, field trips and weather safety must be part of the daily routine. Changes in the weather can happen quickly and the provider must be ready to react immediately when the weather becomes threatening. Providers should have a plan to protect children when severe weather threatens. The plan should include what to do when children are on a field trip and the weather changes. Special precautions need to be taken during the hot summer months to protect children from too much heat and sun.
- Clothing should be able to help children maintain a comfortable body temperature. In the summer lightweight cotton clothing will protect children from the sun as well as absorb perspiration and allow air to circulate. Wearing a cap or hat with a brim that faces forward will shield the face.
- Beverages should be offered to children who are playing outside. Water or 100% fruit juices are best. Avoid high in sugar content beverages. Children don't always want to take the time to stop for a drink, so regular breaks may be needed.
- Sunscreen should be applied to all exposed skin prior to going outside and reapplied as necessary throughout the day. Look for sunscreen with UVB and UVA ray protection. Sunglasses should be available for children to wear to protect their eyes from dangerous sun rays.
- Shaded areas should be available on playgrounds to give children a play area that is out of the sun. When trees and natural shade are not available, tarps can be used to provide shaded areas.
- Provide opportunities for water play to help children cool off. The use of a wading pool is not recommended, but sprinklers, hoses, water squirting or spraying devices and water tables are good ways to allow children to have fun with water and cool down on hot summer days.

Stop the Summer "Brain Drain"

www.kidcentric-childcareissues.blogspot.com/

Every year, students experience a phenomenon known as the "brain drain" or "Summer slide". During summer vacation, the average child loses 2.6 months of grade level equivalency in math and reading. Because children's brains develop at such a rapid pace, taking 3 months off from learning over the summer can be quite detrimental.



The first thing we can do to stop this brain drain is to teach and show children that learning does not just occur in a classroom. There are things to be learned everywhere if we can just help them to see the opportunities. Of course most children enjoy a break during the summer, but they don't need a break from learning. An ideal summer will blend rest and relaxation with fun, hands-on learning.

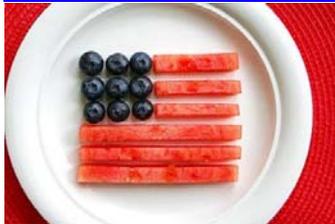
We have compiled a few ideas of how to keep children having fun and learning throughout the summer.

- Cook together—cooking provides opportunities for learning about sequencing, cause and effect, fractions, and calculations like how to double a recipe.
- Keep a lot of reading material around—books, magazines, comic books—and read to and with the children.
- Check out your library's summer reading program.
- Before heading to the beach or a baseball game, pick out a book that discusses the activity.
- Make a comic strip—it's really easy to make a template on Excel.
- Write postcards to friends, family, or pen pals.
- Go on a tour—there are many free tours in the area- jellybean or chocolate factories, sporting venues, police and fire departments, etc.
- Plant a garden.
- Learn a new art technique or style.

What's Inside This Issue:

- Easy Snack Idea
- Waukesha County Certification Program Staff Changes
- Free WECA Online Child Care Training
- Website Spotlight & WECA Annual Conference
- Credit for Prior Learning Program
- Simple Tips and Tricks from One Provider to Another
- Why Should Certified Providers Participate in the Food Program
- Safety and Item Recalls

EASY SNACK IDEA



Here is a picture of an easy snack to make with the day care children when trying to keep cool on a hot July day. All you need is watermelon and blueberries. Enjoy!

WAUKESHA COUNTY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES

As most of you know, last month Karen Narlow left Waukesha County DHHS to accept a full-time training position with 4C-for Children in Milwaukee. Karen has enjoyed working with all the Waukesha County Certified Providers and hopes to see everyone at future trainings. Our supervisor, Kathy Mullooly, is currently interviewing for this Human Service Support Staff position. This new person will be hired to assist Jennifer Mantei and Beth Treder with the Certification Program. In the meantime, please continue to contact your certifiers with any questions or concerns.

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- **Beth Treder**- Social Worker, Certifier
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FREE WECA ONLINE CHILD CARE TRAINING: Business Practices Tutorial

<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/training/>

This free online training welcomes group directors, administrators and family child care providers to learn about the impact of financial business practices have on improving program quality. Providers can do this training at home on your own time.

ABOUT THE TUTORIAL:

While the information and practices in this tutorial are designed around YoungStar standards, they are appropriate for ALL early childhood programs who wish to increase their financial business practices. Participation in YoungStar is **not** a prerequisite to this tutorial.

We will review the 4 components related to finances in the Business & Professional Practices of YoungStar. We will offer a clear explanation of how you can create and review your budget and organize your record keeping, which may help you to increase your points. We will provide templates and resources to help you develop a budget, compare your budgeted amounts to what you actually spend and what you actually earn in income.

You can access the training at any time and do not need to complete it in one sitting.

REGISTRY CREDIT

To receive Registry credit upon finishing the tutorial, you will be



provided a link to complete a short evaluation. Once we receive your evaluation we will enter your name into the Registry roster and email you a certificate of completion. We cannot give Registry credit without the completed evaluation form.

EXAMPLE: REGISTER FOR FREE!

After you register, we'll send you an email to access the training.

* required

First Name: *

Last Name: *

Email Address: *

Which county in Wisconsin do you work in? *

Check if you work in family child care:

Check if you work in group child care:

work in group child care:

Register >>

QUESTIONS-

Phone: 800-783-9322 ext. 7253

Email: training@wisconsinearlychildhood.org

REGISTER FOR FREE AT-

<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/training/>

After you register, WECA will send you an email to access the training.



WEBSITE SPOTLIGHT & WECA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

► Website Spotlight:

http://developingchild.harvard.edu/index.php/resources/multimedia/videos/inbrief_series/

► 2013 WECA Annual Conference Oct. 10-12, 2013 at Kalahari Resort

<http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/conference/>

Keynote Speaker Friday Oct 11 - Lisa Murphy The Ooey Goey Lady

<http://www.ooeygoeey.com/>

*The above excerpt is reprinted from DCF Certification E-news, March 2013

CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING PROGRAM

At the fall regional meetings certifiers heard about Credit for Prior Learning Program. We are now told to share this information with our certified child care operators. <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/CPL/>

Although many Wisconsin child care providers have not completed college degrees, most have several years of relevant experience and many hours of non credit-based training. This experiential learning often addresses components found in college courses. What this means is that while many providers have not completed college credits, they may have learned and mastered many of the skills and concepts as those who have.

The promising news is that sometimes this learning-through-experience can be "counted" towards college credit. A system of **credit for prior learning** is an opportunity to recognize the current skill and knowledge level of Wisconsin's early childhood teachers, improve child care quality in the state, and meet expectations in the YoungStar program. Colleges that offer credit for prior learning award credit(s) to individuals who can demonstrate relevant skills and knowledge previously acquired through non-traditional schooling, non credit-based training, work or other life experiences. Please visit the following link to learn more about the Credit for Prior Learning Program <http://wisconsinearlychildhood.org/programs/teach/CPL/>

Tiered Reimbursement – General Information for Providers

http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/tiered_reimbursement_general_info.pdf

**The above excerpt is reprinted from DCF Certification E-news, March 2013*

SIMPLE TIPS & TRICKS FROM ONE PROVIDER TO ANOTHER:

(Excerpts taken from 101 Tips & Tricks, a book by Patricia Dischler)

- ★ To keep your wading pool free of grass clippings and bugs, keep a bug catching net nearby for the kids to use to scoop them out with.
- ★ Carpet stores are always happy to donate remnants or carpet samples to daycares to use for squares to sit on during group time.
- ★ Look for necklaces at garage sales with large beads or shells on them. You can cut the string they are on and have a supply for the children to string and make their own creations. Often, people are willing to donate these if you explain what it will be for.
- ★ Each week stores that carry greeting cards have to clean out the shelves of mismatched cards and envelopes. Get to know your retailer and ask them to save these items for you. The children can cut out the pictures on the cards to glue on construction paper to make their own cards and you will have envelopes as well.
- ★ Stores that carry wallpaper discard the sample books when new ones come out. Ask them to save them for you; the kids can cut out the pictures on the papers to use for art projects and making cards. Some even have textures and can be used to create texture matching cards.
- ★ Instead of putting paint cups that tend to tip over when a paint brush is put inside it, put globs of paint on a paper plate. Each child can have their own "paint palate" to use.



WHY SHOULD CERTIFIED PROVIDERS PARTICIPATE IN THE FOOD PROGRAM?

The Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is a well-documented success. Young children and adults can receive up to two meals and a snack or two snacks and one meal that meet USDA nutritional standards. Studies have shown that children in the CACFP receive meals that are nutritionally superior to those served to children in child care settings without the CACFP. Furthermore, CACFP participation:

- Provides funding to supplement the cost of healthy meals,
- Teaches children at an earlier age a healthier way of eating and being active early,
- Helps working families by giving them confidence that providers are invested in the well-being of their family members,
- Provides adults good nutrition which allows them to remain independent longer,
- Offers assistance with menu planning, recipes and improving nutrition & physical activity environments,
- Offers guidance to assist in the program's success.
- Help make a lasting impact on the health and wellness of the children, adults & families providers serve each day. We are encouraging certified providers to take the next step! Family providers can contact a sponsoring agency (WECA or 4C-for Children) in their area by visiting: www.foodprogramwi.org/about_us.phml. To learn more about the CACFP Program, visit http://fns.dpi.wi.gov/fns_cacfp1.

**The above excerpt is reprinted from DCF Certification E-news, March 2013*



Children Are...
AMAZING, acknowledge them
BELIEVABLE, trust them
CHILDLIKE, allow them
DIVINE, honor them
ENERGETIC, nourish them
FALLIBLE, embrace them
GIFTS, treasure them
HERE NOW, be with them
INNOCENT, delight with them
JOYFUL, appreciate them
KINDHEARTED, learn from them
LOVABLE, cherish them
MAGICAL, fly with them
NOBLE, esteem them
OPEN MINDED, respect them
PRECIOUS, value them
QUESTIONERS, encourage them
RESOURCEFUL, support them
SPONTANEOUS, enjoy them
TALENTED, believe in them
UNIQUE, affirm them
VULNERABLE, protect them
WHOLE, recognize them
XTRASPECIAL, celebrate them
YEARNING, notice them
ZANY, laugh with them

Save the Date
October 22, 2013
5:30 - 8:30 PM
Child Care
Appreciation Event
Northview Banquet Hall
and Catering
815 Northview Road
Waukesha

The Waukesha County Child Care Work Group Committee invites you to attend the Child Care Appreciation Event on October 22, 2013.

This year's event will focus on Developmental Trauma in Infants and Children. We will also examine behavioral indicators which can be present as a result of trauma. You will get wonderful ideas of how to support these children in your daycares. Come and develop some useful tools to work with these children.

Free Event
Registry Hours Available

Questions contact us at:
1-855-WC-4-KIDZ

If you enjoyed these simple tips, there are 94 more in the 101 Tips & Tricks Book! Order your copy today from Patricia Dischler at www.patriciadischler.com.

**Reprinted from KIDBIZ Newsletter, an ezine by child care author and speaker, Patricia Dischler.*

SAFETY & ITEM RECALLS:

<http://www.cspc.gov/>

This short video clip is a good reminder on keeping button batteries away from children.

THE BATTERY CONTROLLED: KIDS SAFE WORLDWIDE PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SWALLOWING BUTTON OR LITHIUM BATTERIES

<http://www.safekids.org/battery-controlled-0> (2:16 video)

H&M Announces Recall of Children's Water Bottles Due to Choking Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of product: Children's Water Bottles

Hazard: The water bottle's spout can break off, posing a choking hazard to children.

Recall Details

Incidents/Injuries: H&M has received one report of an incident in England of the water bottle spout breaking off in a child's mouth as the child was drinking from the bottle. No injuries have been reported.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the water bottle and call H&M to receive a prepaid mailer to return the bottle. Upon receipt of the returned bottle, consumers will be mailed a full refund plus a \$25 H&M gift card.



Sold exclusively at H&M stores with children's departments nationwide from July 2012 through March 2013 for between \$1.50 and \$5. About 200 of the bottles were sold after the original recall was announced in September 2012.

Small World Toys Recalls Spin-A-Mals Farm and Safari Puzzles Due to Choking Hazard

Recall Summary

Name of product: Children's Wooden Puzzles

Hazard: Small pegs on the puzzle boards can loosen and separate from the boards, posing a choking hazard to children.

Recall Details

Description: The recalled products are Ryan's Room brand Spin-A-Mals Farm and Spin-A-Mals Safari puzzles intended for children over 12 months of age. Both toys are made of wood. The puzzles consist of a painted, rectangular board with pegs mounted to it and removable gear and animal-shaped pieces. The farm puzzle has 14 puzzle pieces including three animal pieces: a cow, a dog and a sheep. The safari puzzle has 11 puzzle pieces. Children place the pieces onto the pegs and use the knob on one of the pieces or insert an animal figure into other pieces to rotate all of the gears. The puzzle boards have "2012 Small World Toys" on the bottom right.



Incidents/Injuries: The firm has received four reports of pegs separating from puzzle boards. No injuries have been reported.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the puzzles away from children and contact Small World Toys for a free replacement toy. After contacting Small World Toys, the recalled toys should be destroyed and disposed of in a manner to prevent future use.

Sold at: Toy stores nationwide and catalogs from May 2012 through October 2012 for about \$25.

West Music Recalls Egg-Shaker Toy Instruments Due to Choking and Aspiration Hazards

Recall Summary

Name of product: Basic Beat BB201 standard egg shaker

Hazard: The outer "end cap" that is glued onto the top, smallest part of the egg can come off, posing a small part choking or aspiration hazard

Recall Details

Description: These recalled egg-shaker toy instruments are plastic, egg-shaped instruments sold in five colors: yellow, green, blue, red and purple. The toy instruments are about the size of small eggs and have a "Basic Beat" label printed on the front of the product. The product is marked for children ages 3 years and older but West Music is concerned with the possibility of the egg being used by or near a younger child. The toy instruments have Lot Number 0E0212 located on the bottom of the roundest part of the egg.

Incidents/Injuries: West Music has received three reports of ends popping off, with no injuries reported.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled egg shaker toy instruments away from young children and contact West Music for a free replacement product.

Sold at: West Music stores, West Music Catalog, West-music.com, Amazon.com and at West Music booths at summer workshops from July 2012 through October 2012 for about \$1.50 each.



SUGGESTION BOX:



Waukesha County Certified Child Care Providers...This is YOUR newsletter so we want to hear from YOU! We are always looking for your comments and feedback on the monthly Child Care Newsletters. In addition, we are also looking for topic ideas to be featured in future newsletters. Please forward any ideas or suggestions onto the certification staff as we would LOVE to hear from you!

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Very Special Thanks to
Maureen Erb for designing
and producing our newsletter.

