

MENTORING PROGRAM UPDATE

Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute
2001 North Front Street, Building #1, Suite #314- Harrisburg, PA 17102

Volume 1, Issue 2
December 8, 2000

Inside this issue:

Data Collection to Begin Again	1
ECELS Funds Visiting Nurses to Consult	1
Scholarship Opportunities	2
The Prevention Research Center	2
Learning Language and Loving It...	2
Upcoming Events	3
Why Does the Institute Need to Know...	3

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ!

Barbara Carl will be conducting the observations as part of our data collection in December, January and February. In order for the data collected to be as objective as possible, she will not know which centers have received mentoring and which have not. We would appreciate it if you could refrain from mentioning whether or not your center has worked with a mentor. Thanks!

Data Collection to Begin Again

The Fall mentoring phase is rapidly nearing an end (already!) and beginning in late December through the end of February, we will be collecting data at all the sites that are involved in the mentoring project (including the Spring group, who has yet to receive the mentoring). The tools used for data collection will be the same as those we used last summer:

- The ITERS and Arnett observation scales
- The Work Environment Survey
- The Knowledge of Infant Development Inventory (KIDI)

In addition, if caregivers participating in the program

have not yet completed a demographic survey and an informed consent form, we will collect that information.

For those caregivers and directors that were part of the Fall group, we will also conduct an exit interview. This will give you a chance to provide the Institute with feedback about the program and to let us know how we can improve it in the future.

We know that collecting this information is time-consuming for you, and we appreciate your cooperation. The data are important for the research study that we are conducting to evaluate the effectiveness of mentoring. We remind you that *all the information you provide is strictly confidential.*



The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute is funded by the Pennsylvania Child Care/Early Childhood Development Training System and the Capital Area Funders Group, through the Greater Harrisburg Foundation.



Early Childhood Education Linkage System (ECELS) Funds Visiting Nurses to Consult with Centers

We are excited to inform you that ECELS has provided resources for the Institute to link visiting nurses with the centers participating in the mentoring program to serve as health and safety consultants!! This will be a wonderful resource for centers!

The nurses will be available on-site approximately once a month to observe, give feedback, and provide any additional informa-

tion about health, safety, and disease prevention. The nurses will also be available to answer questions and provide information on any specific topic within the areas of health and safety that a particular center may need. Examples would include recognizing symptoms that should restrict a child's participation in daily activities, preventing the spread of disease (or lice),

protecting staff health, etc.

We hope that all the centers involved in the mentoring program will be able to take advantage of this valuable resource! The nurses will begin in January, working with those centers that participated in the Fall mentoring group. In June, 2001, they will begin working with the centers in the Spring group.

Scholarship Opportunities for Caregivers and Centers

There are a few local opportunities available for caregivers who are interested in pursuing a Child Development Associate (CDA), associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree in child development or early childhood education.

T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships: Funding is available through the T.E.A.C.H. program, which provides scholarship opportunities for individuals who work at least 30 hours a week in a licensed childcare program and who are committed to staying in the field. For more information, call PA Child Care Association (PACCA) at (717) 236-0458.

CAAIEYC Scholarships: The Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAIEYC) has a scholarship fund to assist caregivers and other early childhood professionals in paying for courses directly

related to the early childhood field. For more information, contact Barb Yost, CAAIEYC Scholarship Chairperson at (717) 731-8408.

In addition, the **United Way of the Capital Region's Early Childhood Initiative** has received a grant from the Child Care Resource Developer (CCRD) to encourage accreditation efforts. There are 3 types of funding available:

Financial Assistance for Centers to Obtain NAEYC Accreditation Materials: Centers interested in beginning the accreditation process through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) may apply for funding to obtain the self-study materials.

Funding for an Honorarium for NAEYC Validators: Current validators (those who have completed the NAEYC Validator Training) may be eligible for an honorarium when they complete a validation visit at a center applying for accreditation.

Funding for a Local Validator Training: The Early Childhood Initiative Director is pursuing the possibility of hosting a validator training in the local area, as there is a shortage of trained validators.

If you would like more information about the United Way's Early Childhood Initiative and funding opportunities, contact Judy Leslie at 255-1010.



The Prevention Research Center at Penn State

The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute operates as a part of the Prevention Research Center (PRC), which is located at the University Park campus of Penn State.

The focus of the Prevention Research Center is centered on developing positive outcomes for children and families, thereby strengthening commu-

nities. The PRC conducts research studies and a variety of programs throughout the state in order to learn more about risk factors for children and families, and successful methods to overcome these factors.

Locally, the PRC has two full-time programs: The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute and the Harrisburg

Center for Healthy Child Development.

For more information about the Prevention Research Center, you can visit their website at: <http://www.psu.edu/dept/prevention>.

Learning Language and Loving It—The Hanen Program For Early Childhood Educators Wraps Up in Carlisle

The last session of Learning Language and Loving It—the Hanen Program for Early Childhood Educators is scheduled for December 14th. Nine caregivers from three Cumberland County sites have been enthusiastically participating in this program, which focuses on fostering language development in infants and toddlers through daily classroom activities..

The group has learned about children's con-

versational styles and the roles teachers play during interactions. Information related to how children acquire language and how language can be adjusted for children at different stages of language development has been shared, in addition to the importance of play and peer interaction to the development of language. Learning how to make sensory/creative activities a language-rich experience has led to exciting activities using leaves, flavored ice cubes, Cool Whip,

and magic sponges! During the last two sessions, caregivers will learn how to promote pretend play and how to pave the way for young readers and writers by making print "talk" in the classroom.

Another LLLI program is scheduled to begin in Dauphin County in mid-February, 2001.



CAPITAL AREA EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING
INSTITUTE
2001 NORTH FRONT STREET, BUILDING #1,
SUITE #314— HARRISBURG, PA 17102

Contact Information

Prevention Research Center:

Mark Greenberg, Ph.D.

Director—Bennett Chair for Prevention Research

E-mail: mxg47@psu.edu

Website: www.psu.edu/dept/prevention

Institute Staff:

Richard Fiene, Ph.D.— 233-5276

Director

Email: rjf8@psu.edu

Molly Wilson— 233-5279

Training Coordinator

Email: mxw53@psu.edu

Gretchen Derr— 233-5274

Administrative Assistant

WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
<http://ecti.hbg.psu.edu>

Upcoming Events!!

December 7 & 14— “Hot Topics for Center Directors—Personnel Issues” offered by Dauphin County Cooperative Extension. For more information, call Jane Mecum , Dauphin County Cooperative Extension (717) 921-8803

March 30— Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAAYC) Administrator’s Pre-conference Day. For more information, call Molly Wilson at (717) 233-5279.

March 31—Capital Area Association for the Education of Young Children (CAAAYC) Annual Conference. For more information, call Molly Wilson at (717) 233-5279.

June 13— Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute’s First Annual Summer Institute. All caregivers and directors participating in the mentoring program will be treated to a full-day professional celebration! Featured presenters will be Dr. Sue Aronson, Abbey Griffin, Ph.D., and Alicia Lieberman, Ph.D.



Why Does the Institute Need to Know About My Family and Household?

Part of the data that we are collecting about the caregivers and directors involved in the mentoring programs is demographic information; age, ethnic background, sex, family members, individual income and household income. From a research perspective, this information helps to illustrate the “typical” person involved in a study. In the case of our program, it will help to provide a profile of the people that we work with, without identifying people or centers individually. Once we receive your paperwork, the answers that you provide are entered into a computer database according to a number that was assigned to you. Nobody other than Dr. Fiene, the Institute Director has access to the database. The data are stored in a locked file cabinet.

The other purpose of collecting this information is to illustrate to policymakers and other interested parties the average salary and quality of life that exists within the field of childcare. Our hope is to raise awareness not only of the importance of what you do and how you do it, but also the importance of providing funding to improve the field of childcare.

We appreciate any information that you are willing to provide us, and assure you that all information is kept strictly confidential. If there is any information that you are unwilling to provide, please feel free to write that on your survey.

*“To those born into the gaze of loving eyes,
Life is beautiful.
To those welcomed by tender voices,
Life is peaceful
To those embraced by gentle hands,
Life is secure
To those born into a world of compassion,
Life is good beyond all measure”*

Author Unknown
Adapted by Leigh Schroeder Salvage

