

EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING INSTITUTE UPDATE

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

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Special points of interest:

- The Institute's offices are located at 2001 North Front Street, Building 1, Suite 314 in Harrisburg.
- Congratulations to the Wilson Family on the birth of their third son, Peyton Wilson!!
- Visit CAECTI on the web at www.caecti.org

Certificate Programs Underway

In the Fall of 2002, CAECTI began to offer certificate programs which combined classroom instruction with on-site mentoring visits. Certificate programs offered included programs for directors, center-based child care, infant and toddler care and home-based providers. We are continuing to offer certificate programs in 2003 with some exciting additions. We are also offering classes in accreditation and inclusive child care. The certificate programs will satisfy the annual training requirements for the Department of Public Welfare. These certificate programs are funded by Pennsylvania Pathways.

The unique combination of classroom instruction paired with the on-site mentoring component gives the participants a more complete learning experience. Participants are encouraged to apply the knowledge given through classroom instruction time in their own program settings. The mentor is on-site to provide support, guidance and resources to enhance the quality of the learning and interactions in the center. Several certificate programs will be highlighted in this issue. For specific information regarding any of the certificate programs, please contact Amy Zoellner, Registration Coordinator at 717-233-5036 or at alk207@psu.edu.



The Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute is funded by Pennsylvania Pathways and the Capital Area Funders Group, through the Greater Harrisburg Foundation.



PACE: A Way To Involve Parents In Your Program

Parenting Our Children to Excellence or PACE is off to a good start! Six sites in the Harrisburg area have already completed the PACE program last fall. The feedback from parents and directors at each of the child care centers has been very positive, and even some of the children have said that they miss the weekly meals. The PACE program involves

parents of three to five year old children attending a two hour meeting for eight consecutive weeks to discuss practical parenting issues with a trained group leader and assistant. The program is held at the child's child care center. PACE is free and a meal is provided as well as child care each week. Transportation is reimbursed to the parents for

mileage. There is still room for centers to participate in the spring session. If you are interested in becoming involved in the program, please call Barb Willier, Project Coordinator at 717-233-0476 for more information.

Meet Our New Staff: Jennifer Pelkowski, Beth Whitman-Pitzer and Barb Willier

Jennifer Pelkowski is working out of the Early Childhood Training Institute offices, but she is actually an employee of the University of Pittsburgh. Jennifer is an Evaluation Manager with the Planning and Evaluation Division of the Office of Child Development. The Office of Child Development is working with its partners in the Universities Children's Policy Collaborative, Penn State University and Temple University, to conduct

a process evaluation of Keystone Stars, the child care quality improvement program being implemented statewide through DPW.

Beth Whitman-Pitzer began working with the Institute in July of last year. In the Fall semester 2002, Beth taught and mentored participants for the home-based certificate program. Beth will be teaching the second phase of the program this spring. Beth has a background in Family and

Consumer Science Education. Her Master's degree is from Penn State University in Extension Education.

Barb Willier is the Project Coordinator for the PACE project. She has a BS degree in Elementary Education. Barb has 15 years experience in child care, including 5 years experience as a director of a NAEYC accredited program. Barb administers the PACE program and assists in other Institute projects.

Infant-Toddler Certificate Program

The Infant-Toddler Certificate Program started out with a BANG!! There were 29 participants in the Carlisle certificate program and 22 participants in the Harrisburg Program. The instructors, Molly Wilson and Amy Zoellner, presented and discussed a variety of infant-toddler topics. Temperament, responsive caregiving, emotional develop-

ment, room arrangement, routines and creativity were just a few of the topics explored. During the last class, participants became toddlers themselves and dug their hands into some innovative sensory experiences such as tapioca pudding and food coloring, instant mashed potatoes and food coloring, Knox gelatin and homemade silly putty.

They gave up their personal time to develop themselves professionally and better themselves as teachers. One director stated, "I saw improvement in my staff, the change has been tremendous. The staff was always good, however, as a result of the certificate program, I witnessed them providing higher levels of quality."

Inclusive Child Care Certificate Program

The Inclusive Child Care Certificate Program, taught by Jill Miller, provides caregivers with training, resources and support to help them provide quality care for children with special needs. Participants will become familiar with the term Inclusion and Federal laws supporting individuals with special needs. They will

become aware of their philosophy of inclusion and how they can serve as inclusion facilitators in their classrooms. They will learn how to develop partnerships with families and the roles and responsibilities of team members who provide support to children with disabilities. Additional topics to be presented include: guide-

lines for selecting and adapting toys and play materials; learning how to organize the environment to support inclusive child care; how to lift, carry and position young children and developing strategies to promote interaction and communication.

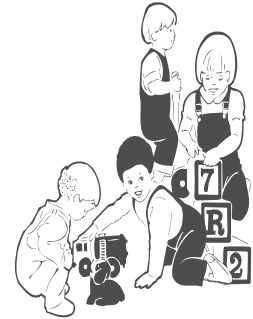
Certificate Programs in Centre and York Counties

In the fall 2002, two sessions of the NAEYC Accreditation Certificate Program were offered in Centre County. Nine centers participated and are going through the self-study process. In spring 2003, an infant-toddler and center-based certificate programs are being offered. In the summer of 2003, a NAEYC Accreditation mini-series is being planned for directors and lead staff focusing on completing the program description and

preparing for validation.. Certificate programs will begin in February and continue through April. All classes will be held at the Bennett Family Center, Penn State University from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Please call Roxie Nestlerode at 814-865-9156 for further information.

In York County, a Director Certificate Program will be offered beginning February 3, 2003 and a Preschool Caregiver Level 2 Certificate will

begin April 7. The Director Certificate includes a comprehensive look at the role of the director in program assessment, team-building and creating partnerships with parents. The Preschool Level 2 Certificate will be a continuation of the Level 1 program that was offered in Fall 2002. It will provide practical training in how to plan individualized experiences for children in literacy, language, math, science, art and music. Please call Linda Kern at 717-771-3812 for additional information.



Certificate Programs in the Harrisburg Area

The Child Care Director Certificate Program Level 1/2 was offered in October 2002. It consisted of eight three-hour workshops covering topics ranging from Assessment, Connecting with Families, Team Building, Health and Safety Practices and Developing Leadership Qualities. Kathy Stennett and Kelly Kring had over 25 directors in the program and each director that was enrolled on a full-time basis received 6 hours of mentoring onsite. The Director Certificate Program Level 1/2 will be offered again starting in February 2003. Level 2/3 of the Director Certificate Program will begin in April 2003 and will focus on Adult Learning, Creative Curriculum, and Retaining Staff.

Lisa Heintzelman facilitated a Child Care Certificate Program including workshops and onsite mentoring with child care staff from Grace Christian Child Care and various centers in the Carlisle Area in the Fall of 2002. Topics included play, guidance, creativity, observation and assessment, developmentally appropriate practice and professionalism.

Michele Black worked with the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg and Pride of the Neighborhood Academies on a Child Care Provider Certificate Program. This series covered Illness in Child Care, Positive Guidance, Lesson Planning and Creating Partnerships with Parents. Everyone worked very hard and

should be commended for the time and effort they put into the program!

CAECTI is offering an exciting program for home-based child care providers in Carlisle in the Spring of 2003. It is a six-part series on "Brain Development and Sensory Experiences for Children." Participants will learn about the exciting new research on brain development and take home fun ideas to do with the children. All classes are interactive and Beth Whitman-Pitzer is teaching and mentoring the participants. The program is a collaborative effort with Diane Halstead of the United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!
<http://www.caecti.org>

Research Projects

Harrisburg Center for Healthy Child Development is conducting several evaluation projects within the Harrisburg School District: these include:

REACH (Reaching Early Achievement for Children in Harrisburg) . This is a quality, Head Start based preschool program for three and four year olds. Child developmental assessments are being conducted on 180 preschool children and their counterparts in kindergarten to determine future academic gains. This project has a process evaluation component which identifies how multiple systems are working in this project and how they can work better in the future. Lisa Heintzelman and Michele Black will be facilitating a Certificate Program including workshops and mentoring with staff in the REACH program in the Spring of 2003. Topics will include play, guidance, creativity, observation and assessment and inclusion.

Upcoming Events

February 28, 2003– Creative Curriculum for the New Year
Director's Roundtable at CAECTI. Call Kathy Stennett at 717-236-6108 to register.

March 28, 2003 CAAEYC Administrators' Pre-conference Day at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center. Call Kathy Stennett at 717-236-6108 for details.

March 29, 2003 CAAEYC Early Childhood Conference
Keynote Speaker: Bev Bos., plus 30 workshops in early childhood topics. Radisson Penn Harris Hotel

June 15-18, 2003 NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development www.nayec.org

November 5-8, 2003 NAEYC Annual Conference



HOPE GRANT (Harrisburg Outreach for PATHS Expansion) The goal is to expand the PATHS model, a social and emotional competence program, to behavioral providers. The intention is to build linkages between school personnel, mental health and social service providers. This project has a student evaluation component, which will be completed by their teachers, as well as a process component that identifies what is working and what is not.

SSHS (Safe Schools Healthy Students) This is a comprehensive, universal intervention designed for use with 6th to 12th grade students. Starting in the Fall 2003, four projects will be implemented in the Harrisburg Schools. These include Life Skills Training, Time Wise, Health Wise and Teen Outreach. These projects target multiple risk taking behavior, such as substance abuse, school drop out and teen pregnancy.