

EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING INSTITUTE UPDATE

Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute
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New Projects at the Institute

The Early Childhood Training Institute now serves as the Service Delivery Area Coordinator for SDA #6, which covers an 8 county service area for child care providers in Dauphin, Cumberland, Perry, Lancaster, Lebanon, York, Franklin and Adams counties. In this role, CAECTI works side by side with the PA Pathways training organizations in the 8-county region to ensure that high quality, well-coordinated training events are being offered to child care providers. The primary goal of the Service Delivery Area (SDA) is to meet the training needs by offering a broader spectrum of training

opportunities for all providers - Family, Group Home, and Center-based programs. Another task is to ensure through a new PA Pathways trainer approval system that all trainers are qualified to lead a high quality workshop.

Another exciting new project from DPW and CCRD is in the beginning stages. The Early Childhood Training Institute has been chosen to coordinate and provide consultation services to child care providers in this 8-county region that have been accepted as participants in the Keystone Stars pilot program. Through an application process, Keystone Stars provid-

ers will have the opportunity to request consultation services in support of their successful achievement of a higher star rating. Institute staff will partner with other experts in the early childhood field to offer technical assistance to these providers. Keystone Stars providers can contact their CCRD case manager for further details.

New Faces at the Institute

We are excited to welcome two new faces to the Institute. Dr. Michael Maddox has joined us for a four month rotation from the Hershey Medical Center's Pediatric Psychiatry department. Dr. Maddox is completing his residency in pediatric psychiatry, and has been accompanying the Institute mentors on some of their mentoring visits to local centers. This allows Dr. Maddox an opportunity to

observe children in an other than clinical setting. Dr. Maddox brings a wealth of experience to the institute as both a child psychiatrist and also as a family physician, which was his previous specialty.

Cara Poon joins us from Penn State's College of Health and Human Development, where she is completing her Ph.D. Cara

has a wide range of experience in working with children, as she has also worked as a preschool teacher. She will be joining institute staff in certificate program classes as well as mentoring visits. We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with both Dr. Maddox and Cara Poon as they bring additional resources and expertise to the Institute.



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



Infant/Toddler Certificate Programs

Last year over 100 infant and toddler teachers completed the Infant/Toddler Certificate program Level 1. Since the program was so successful, CAECTI staff Amy Zoellner and Molly Wilson designed and currently teach the Level 2 Infant/Toddler Certificate Program. Participants who completed Level 1 receive first priority into the program. Last fall Level 2 was offered in Cumberland County at the Carlisle Early Education Center and it is currently being offered in Dauphin County at the Early Childhood Training Institute. The Level 2 Infant/Toddler Certificate Program consists of 8 Core Body of Knowledge Level 2 trainings that include topics like culture, assessment, behavior, transitions, activities, and communication. Participants also learn how to use the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale (ITERS) as an assessment tool to improve the quality of their classroom. Similar to all the certificate programs that CAECTI offers, throughout

the certificate program participants are mentored by the instructors on issues that affect their individual classrooms. The mentoring has proven to be extremely beneficial for teachers as they work on their major class assignment, an individual child portfolio that they present the final night of class. The portfolio is a compilation piece that combines everything they have learned in both Level 1 and Level 2.

The infant and toddler teachers that attended the certificate program are true models for the field of early childhood. They give up their personal time to develop themselves professionally and better themselves as teachers. The teachers come from various centers and backgrounds, which is beneficial because they are able to share their experiences, suggest solutions, or give ideas to help one another.



“What distinguishes a human being from a computer? The ability to add up numbers? The ability to understand language? The ability to be logical? It is, of course, none of the above. It is the ability to play. Computers cannot have fun. They cannot fantasize. They cannot dream, they cannot experience emotion or summon intuition. These rare, precious qualities come naturally to every child on earth yet they tend to be seen, by well meaning adults, as faults, foibles, and failings. In pushing tiny toddlers to ‘perform’, we rob them of the ability to imagine.”

-Jonathan Cainer

What’s New Fall 2004

The Online CAECTI Child Care Center Director Certificate program will debut in Fall 2004. Topics will include program assessment, connecting with families, child assessment, team building, leadership skills, health and safety practices and program administration. Upon completion of the series, including submission of assignments, participants will receive PA Pathways/DPW training hours. Please check our website, www.caecti.org or call Kelly Kring at 717-233-5026 for further information.

CAECTI and Penn State University will also offer a new Early Care and Education Director's Certificate Program starting in the Fall 2004 through Penn State University, Capital Campus in Middletown. A core credential program consisting of 3 three-credit courses will be offered. Information will be posted shortly at www.caecti.org.



A reminder to certificate program participants...

Please be sure that your instructor/mentor has current contact information for you in the event that weather causes the instructor to cancel class.

Also, if you should need to reschedule a mentoring session, please contact your mentor as soon as possible so that she may rearrange her schedule.

“Literacy” and “Caring for Children” Are The Themes For Home-Based Child Care Certificate Programs This Spring



This spring we are kicking off a new literacy program with home-based providers in Cumberland County. This three-part series begins by communicating with children from ages 1-3 as they learn to understand language and then to speak. Next we will explore fun ways to promote language development with young children through rhyming books, animal puppets, and more. We wrap-up the

series with a field trip to Triumph in Mechanicsburg. We will explore fun, inexpensive ways to include literacy in a home-based day care setting.

Another new feature we are offering this spring is a mini-certificate program starting in New Bloomfield called, “Caring for Children.” Home-based providers will be exploring these exciting topics: Positive Play Experiences, Brain

Development & Sensory Experiences for Children, Planning Your Day, and You Are A Professional – You Are A Business. This series begins on March 30.

Both the series in Carlisle and the series in New Bloomfield end with group mentoring, giving participants the opportunity to network and integrate what they learned in the classes. Both series are taught by Beth Whitman-Pitzer, M.Ed., C.F.C.S.

What’s New in York and Centre Counties



*Knowing that we
can be loved exactly
as we are gives us all
the best opportunity
for growing into the
healthiest of people.*

Fred Rogers

In York County, Linda Kern is working with four centers who are in the process of applying for NAEYC Accreditation. The Accreditation certificate program includes 18 hours of on-site instruction plus mentoring support as each center works their way through the NAEYC self-study process. A total of 64 staff members from the four cen-

ters are participating in the Accreditation certificate programs.

In Centre County, Roxie Neslerode is busy offering several mini-certificate programs. She will be offering two programs in collaboration with Snyder Union Mifflin Child Development (SUMCD) and Penn College—an infant curriculum program and a toddler cur-

riculum program. The Toddler program will be held at the SUMCD Lewisburg center and will be transmitted to the Lewistown center, so Roxie will be training in two counties at the same time!! Roxie will also be offering a Directors certificate program in State College, as well as presenting at several regional Early Childhood conferences.

Additional Offerings in the Capital Area

Jill Miller, our speech and language pathologist from the Intermediate Unit, has developed and is offering a Language and Literacy certificate program this Spring with 21 registered caregivers. The program focuses on techniques to encourage language development in young children, and strategies to facilitate pre-

reading skills.

In addition to offering the Language and Literacy program, Jill is working with families in the It Takes Two to Talk Hanen Program for Parents. The class includes parents and grandparents of 12 children who have been identified as having a language delay.





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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

<http://caecti.org>



“To look into some aspects of the future, we do not need projections by supercomputers. Much of the next millennium can be seen in how we care for our children today. Tomorrow’s world may be influenced by science and technology, but more than anything, it is already taking shape in the bodies and minds of our children.”

—Kofi Annan

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Upcoming Events!!

March 6th—CAAEYC Early Childhood Conference—Holiday Inn, Grantville PA. Call Molly Wilson at 233-5279 for more information

March 12th—Director’s Roundtable—“Developing an Emergency Plan” 12:00-2:00 pm at the Early Childhood Training Institute. Call Kathy Stennett at 236-6108 for more information.

April 16th—Director’s Roundtable—” 12:00-2:00 pm at the Early Childhood Training Institute. Call Kathy Stennett at 236-6108 for more information.

June 19th-23rd—NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development—Baltimore MD. Visit www.naeyc.org for more information

July 13th—Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute’s Summer Institute—Call Kelly Kring at 233-5026 for more information.

Self-Care for the Caregiver

Childcare professionals are very good at caring for others, but often lack self-care skills. Author Sue Baldwin, in her book *Lifesavers For Early Childhood Managers* suggests letting go of the guilt associated with self-care, and the added stress that goes with it. Think about the following questions:

- **Do I come to work feeling upbeat and ready or tired and drained?** Everybody’s sleep requirements are different—however, don’t count on the weekends as your time to catch up on the sleep you missed during the week. Make a conscientious effort to get the sleep you need on a daily basis.
- **Do I rely on sugar and/or caffeine to make it through the day?** Be aware that sugar and caffeine give you an instant boost that you think you need to keep going in the middle of the afternoon, but remember that after every boost, a bigger slump occurs. Try instead to eat a healthy and varied diet and monitor your daily sleep.
- **Do I set aside time for recreation and leisure?** When working with young children, we set aside many times in the day for the children to play—do you do the same thing for yourself? If you don’t place a high value on these activities, they will be the first to go when life gets busy or there is a crisis. Remember to build time in your schedule for fun activities that you enjoy.
- **Do I go to work when I am really too sick?** How often have we looked at a child and thought “Her parents shouldn’t have brought her today—you can see she doesn’t feel well”? Do you do the same for yourself and your co-workers? People who work in childcare settings are more susceptible to contagious diseases because they are around young children and their germs. Because of staff shortages, they are often hesitant to call in sick. Remember that the children in your center and your co-workers do not need your germs as well!!