

EARLY CHILDHOOD TRAINING INSTITUTE UPDATE

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2004

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Summer Training Institute—July 13, 2004

The Penn State Early Childhood Summer Training Institute 2004 will be held at the Holiday Inn, Grantville on Tuesday, July 13, 2004. This one day training event is presented by the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute and the Central Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute of the Department of Psychiatry, Penn State College of Medicine. This training event for early childhood professionals will provide an advanced level of training on relationship building, obesity, cultural competency, parent

relations, brain development, and behavior challenges with young children. Large group presentations and workshops will include practical and intensive training for caregivers. This training program is free, but registrations are limited to the first 200 participants. Please visit the CAECTI Website at www.caecti.org to download a registration form. The deadline is July 6, 2004. For additional questions, please contact Kelly Kring at 717-233-5026 or at kak273@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.



STARS Technical Assistance Available July 1

Starting July 1, 2004, the Early Childhood Training Institute will be offering technical assistance services to Keystone Stars providers in the 8-county region, which includes: Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Franklin, Adams, and York. When technical assistance is requested by child care providers who are participating in the Keystone Stars Quality Improvement Program, CAECTI staff will serve as consultants and offer support to providers

working through the 4 star levels. Through a simple application process, a consultant will be available to work with a facility as needed in the areas of Program Learning Environment, Administrative/Business Practices, Health and Safety, and Partnerships with Family and Community as defined by the Keystone Stars Performance Standards. These services will be offered at no cost and given solely to providers who are enrolled in the Keystone Stars

Program. For an application to enroll in Keystone Stars, please call Child Care Resource Developers (CCRD) at 1 800 346-3020. For an application for Stars Technical Assistance, please call CCRD and speak with your Stars Manager or call Kathy Stennett, Stars TA Project Manager at (717) 236-6108.

Penn State's Director Certificate Program

FINANCIAL AID NOW AVAILABLE FOR KEYSTONE STARS CENTERS FOR THE PA DIRECTOR CORE CERTIFICATE CREDIT SERIES. Please call your Stars Manager or the CCRD of Central Region at 1-800-346-3020 for further information on financial assistance.

In the fall of 2002, the Capital Area Early Childhood Training Institute (CAECTI), College of Health and Human Development, began to offer a series of non-credit workshops in Harrisburg for directors and assistant directors in an eight county region of Central Pennsylvania. These non-credit courses were offered based on the expressed needs of directors and assistant directors for additional professional development opportunities at a management level. Five series have been offered for administrators since September 2002 with an average of 21 participants from all eight counties in Central Pennsylvania. With the implementation of Keystone Stars performance standards focusing on improved director qualifications and on-going professional development in management and/or administration in an early childhood

education setting, CAECTI has developed a core and advanced series of credit classes to be offered through Penn State University.

The four courses provide a theoretical framework with real-world application and practice in a convenient environment for directors and assistant directors currently employed full time in the field.

EDUC 408 will be offered Monday nights from 5:00 to 7:30 PM starting Aug. 31 through Dec. 10, 2004 at the Penn State Harrisburg campus in Middletown. For Admission information, please contact the Admissions office at 717-948-6250.

EDUC 408/HDFS 454, a three-credit core course, focuses on administrative issues found in the management of child care programs. Participants will be challenged to assess, evaluate, and reflect on current practices and formulate action plans for further the goals and mission of their program.

EDUC 404/HDFS 330, a three-credit core course, introduces the ITERS and ECERS assessment tools for use by the directors in their programs,

Participants will review the conditions necessary to create environments that support children in all developmental domains, to create play environment that foster communication, problem solving and creativity and to foster the development of competence and self-confidence. Using a variety of evaluation tools, participants will assess program responsiveness to individual needs of children and families and create strategies for improving the environment's responsiveness to children's ages, abilities, interests and home cultures.

EDUC 410/HDFS 410, a three-credit core course, examines a variety of models that engage parent's involvement in early childhood programs and other community interventions. Participants will be asked to assess, evaluate and reflect on the different types of models and design developmentally appropriate activities suited to the needs of their programs and the families served.

EDUC 401 & 403/HDFS 430, a six-credit advanced course, offers a practicum experience in planning and facilitating developmentally appropriate child care programs from infancy through early childhood.

York County Certificate Program Update

During the 2003-2004 Fall and Spring semesters, six child care centers participated in Accreditation certificate programs led by Linda Kern in York County. Each center received six three-hour training sessions and on-site mentoring support to assist the center staff during the NAEYC self-

study process. The certificate program focused on using the principles of developmentally appropriate practice in classrooms to design the environment, plan activities and interact with families. This certificate program also guided the center staff through the self-study paperwork and

assisted the director in compiling needed documents and completing the program description.

For more information, call Linda Kern at 771-3812.

"Delight and liberty, the simple creed of childhood."

- William Wordsworth

“Listeners, Lookers, and Movers... The Power of Observation” Is The Theme For Fall 2004 Home-Based Child Care Certificate Program!

“Listeners, Lookers, and Movers... The Power of Observation” is the mini-series we will be offering to home-based providers in Cumberland County this fall. This three-part series begins by observing different temperament traits of children. Next we explore different ways to use written records and

sample children’s work. Our last session focuses on different learning styles of children. We will use this information to develop curriculum.

This series will be held at the United Way in Carlisle and will end with a group mentoring session. The in-

structor is Beth Whitman-Pitzer, M.Ed., C.F.C.S. Join us for this enjoyable and enlightening mini-series.

Call Beth at: (717) 236-8045 for more information.



Language and Literacy: The Focus of Two Spring Training Programs

Parents of children with communication delays often feel they do not know what to do to help their children improve their communication skills. Often the focus can become what their child can’t do, as opposed to the abilities their child has. *It Takes Two to Talk* - The Hanen Program® for Parents helps families focus on the skills that their child has and how to provide finely-tuned language models so the child can use these to progress to the next stage of communication. Parents assess their communication style and that of their child, and then learn and practice strategies and techniques that will help to foster growth in their child’s ability to communicate. The program empowers parents to make a significant difference in their child’s ability to communicate, often strengthening the relation-

ship between parent, child and other family members.

Completed in May, 17 parents and one grandparent of 14 children participated in this program, offered by the Institute and facilitated by Jill Miller, a Hanen-Certified Speech Language Pathologist. Parent response to the program was extremely positive as reflected in their written evaluations upon completion of the last group session. They reported ease in being able to use the strategies presented and value in being able to meet and share ideas with other parents dealing with some of the same child rearing issues.

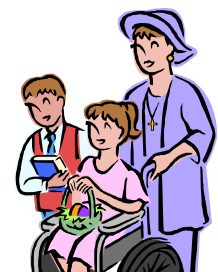
Also this spring, a dedicated group of 17 caregivers completed a Language and Literacy Certificate Program offered by Jill at the Capital Area Intermediate Unit in

Cumberland County. The group learned about children’s conversational 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 was shared as well as the importance of peer interaction to the development of language and viewing *circle time* as an interactive language-learning experience. Caregivers learned how to engage *all* the children in the reading activity, how to pave the way for young readers and writers by making print talk in the classroom, and how to creating an environment that promotes literacy in each activity throughout the day.

For more information, call Jill Miller at 232-9112.

"When I was very young, most of my heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me."

**Fred Rogers
(1928-2003)**



Centre County News—Roxie Nestlerode

STARS Technical Assistance Project – Region 4

Starting July 1, 2004, HDFS-Penn State will be offering technical assistance services to Keystone Stars providers in the 16-county region, which includes: Somerset, Cambria, Bedford, Fulton, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Snyder, Union, Columbia, Northumberland, and Montour. This project is a collaborative project of several Penn State Early Childhood programs including CAECTI.

When requested by child care providers who are participating in the Keystone Stars Quality Improvement Program, HDFS-Penn State staff will serve as consultants and offer support to providers working through the 4 star levels. Through a simple one page application process, a consultant will be available to work with a facility as needed in the areas of Program Learning Environment, Administrative/Business Practices, Health and Safety, and Partnerships with Family and Community as defined by the Keystone Stars Performance Standards.

These services will be offered at no cost and given solely to providers who are enrolled in the Keystone

Stars Program. For an application to enroll in Keystone Stars, please call Child Care Resource Developers (CCRD) at 1 800 346-3020. For an application for Stars Technical Assistance, please call CCRD and speak with your Stars Manager or call Roxie Nestlerode, Stars TA Project Manager at (814) 865-9156.

Training update


This spring several infant and toddler sessions were offered along with a director's series. Training was expanded to include sessions in Lycoming, Union, and Mifflin counties. Child Care Programs from Centre, Clinton, Lycoming, Snyder, Union, Mifflin, Columbia, Northumberland, and Clearfield attended trainings. Enrollment in several of the classes was larger than expected.

Presentations were done at several regional conferences: Early Years are Learning Years Conference (State College), CAAEYC Conference (Harrisburg), CSAEYC Conference (Williamsport), and Juniata College/TIU Conference (Huntingdon). In addition, Keystone Stars Core Series trainings and PA Pathways Training of Trainers trainings were done in Lycoming, Centre, Blair, and Cambria counties.

Accreditation Certificate Program

St. James Child Care in Gettysburg just completed the NAEYC accreditation certificate program facilitated by instructor/mentor Amy Zoellner. The certificate started in March and wrapped up in mid-May. During those three months Amy witnessed the entire staff at St. James grow and take giant leaps toward meeting the accreditation standards. Throughout the process the staff led by director, Suzan Siebel-Willard constantly reflected upon where they were and

where they wanted to go. Rooms that had not changed in years were rearranged in order to better meet the children's interest for exploration. Policies were reviewed and modified to better meet the needs of the staff. Conferences are in the beginning stages of implementation in order to ensure that the home school connection exists and to encourage parents and teachers to collaborate in order to best meet the needs of individual children. The staff at St. James are cur-



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!!

[Http://caecti.org](http://caecti.org)

rently working on their individual classroom action plans that were developed during the certificate program and looks forward to sending their paperwork into NAEYC by the end of the year. Their quest for quality and desire to offer children the best programming has proven to be a rewarding experience for all involved, children, teachers, parents!