



Resource & Referral Center

a publication of the Quality Child Care Initiative

Children Count

April 2008

Fee Assistance for Courses

The *Quality Child Care Initiative* is working with the Dept of Social Services to make two distance learning courses more accessible to caregivers. We will also pay the \$10.00 cost of each course (subject to available funding).

The two programs offered through our office are **DSS 101**: "The Whole Child: A Caregiver's Guide to the First Five Years" and **DSS 201**: "The Program for Infant and Toddler Caregivers". These courses are video based (DVD or VHS), self-paced and can count for up to 8 hours of annual training credit upon successful completion of all materials.

Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to reserve the videotapes, contact Sarah Foster at (540) 245-5437.

"Child Abuse & Neglect" Training

This online course for educators describes the child abuse reporting process and provides 2 hours of training credit. The course may be accessed at www.vcu.edu/vista/training/va_teachers.

Quality Child Care Initiative

Family Resource & Referral Center
934 North Augusta Street
Staunton, Virginia 24401

www.children-count.org
(540) 245-5437



Wanted: Happy Homes

Does your child care setting need a soft and cuddly friend? The *QCCI* Lending Library has the following beautiful Folkmanis® puppets available for loan:

- large Golden Retriever dog
- black Labrador Retriever dog
- large Palomino pony
- large brown horse
- orangutan
- chimpanzee
- raccoon
- snowy owl
- baby gorilla



How would you like to spruce up your Language Arts Center with a new flannel board? We have for loan two large flannel boards. One must be wall-mounted; the other is a fold-out easel with one side flannel, the reverse side dry erase board.

Are you ready for spring bug catching? Also available are two new small plastic cages, just perfect for housing all of the spring critters that your children gather. Suitable for short-term care of insects, small mammals or small turtles.

Do you sometimes wish you had some fresh materials for your child care children? The *QCCI* Lending Library has a small collection of other toys, manipulatives and learning materials available.

All items can be checked out for up to one month on a first-come basis. To reserve an item or inquire about inventory, call Sarah Foster at (540) 245-5437 or email SarahFoster@ntelos.net.

Puppets, Puppets, Puppets!!

Why should you use puppets in your classroom? Because they are fun, exciting and loved by children of all ages! Plus, puppets can be quite effective when it comes to meeting the cognitive, emotional, social and physical needs of children.

There is a list of puppets available for loan on the front of this newsletter. Things to consider when working with puppets include:

- Who will use the puppets: the teacher, the children, or both?
- What type of puppet play is most appropriate for the age/development level of the group?
- Will we use the puppets with a theme or unit?

Puppets can sometimes be used in conjunction with children's books to help a child work through difficult issues. For example, a child who is having a hard time separating from his parent in the morning might relate to The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn. Perhaps after you read the book, the child could be responsible for the Raccoon Puppet for the remainder of the day.

Other popular children's books which can be tied to the puppets we currently have available for loan are:

The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses by Paul Goble

Owl Moon by Jane Yolen

The Little Raccoon by Elizabeth Ring

Little Gorilla by Ruth Bornstein

The Last Puppy by Frank Asch

Arthur, the Chimpanzee, series by Lillian Hoban

Good Night, Gorilla by Peggy Rathmann

Little Monkey Says Goodnight by Paul Walker

Spring Training at BRCC

There is still space available in the Dept of Social Services child care courses being offered at Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave this session, but **register as soon as possible**. Courses are listed below and the cost per trainee ranges from \$10-\$50.

If you did not receive the catalog and registration forms in the mail, email SarahFoster@ntelos.net for an electronic version of the Training Catalog.

April 12
Preschool Learning Environment

April 19
Preschool Activities

April 26
Preschool Guiding Behaviors

May 17
Child Abuse & Neglect Recognition

May 31
Virginia's Milestones of Child Development

June 7
Health Screening for Child Care Professionals

Lending Library Update

We have dozens of wonderful teachers' activity books in the Lending Library. Many are related to puppetry, homemade toys, drama and creative arts. An updated inventory book listing will be mailed out later this spring. In the meantime, let us know if there are specific topics or titles that you need and we'll check to see what we have!!

Provider Profile

Connie Harding has operated the Harding Family Day Home in Stuarts Draft since April 1996. Before getting into this she spent time volunteering and working full time in elementary school and raising three beautiful grown daughters. Connie is now expecting her 7th grandchild and she loves being a Grandma! She has always loved children. She has her CDA credential and specializes in preschool. She loves to watch children learning through fun, hands on activities. She spends lots of fun time together with the children in her care — cooking, doing art activities, reading and singing. Connie and the children can be found most any day outside, and they love to walk down her half mile driveway and ride the tree swings. She highly recommends that teachers take time to see what makes each individual child tick and to build on their strengths. Most of all... have fun together!!

Thank you, Connie! Keep up the good work!