



Resource & Referral Center

a publication of the Quality Child Care Initiative

Children Count

March / April 2010

Early Childhood Leadership Summit

The **2010 Smart Beginnings Early Childhood Leadership Summit** has been rescheduled for Thursday, April 29th from 8:30 am—1:00 pm at the JMU Festival Center.

This year, the goals center on raising awareness of early childhood



development as a key economic and education strategy for our region; sharing the results of the recently conducted needs assessment; and providing time for networking while building our strategic planning capacity looking ahead to the next three to five years.

For more information, contact Stacie Jackson at jacks2sc@jmu.edu. To register online, visit www.ValleySmartBeginnings.org and click on the SUMMIT button.

Quality Child Care Initiative
(540) 245-5437

Family Resource & Referral Center
(540) 245-5899

1600 North Coalter Street, Suites 11 & 12B
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www.FRCenter.org



Celebrating Families Conference

Thursday, April 15, 2010

5:15-7:45 pm

Simms Building, Harrisonburg

Visit ValleySmartBeginnings.org for more information

Kids Matter Day

Saturday, May 1, 2010

10:00 am—1:00 pm

Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton



If you would like to be a vendor at this event, contact Sarah Foster immediately at 540-245-5437 to request registration forms as the deadline is March 15.

Kindergarten Registration

Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer announcing important Kindergarten registration information for all of the public school systems in our area. Please post this information at your location and feel free to make copies for distribution to parents. The Spanish and English versions of the flyer can also be viewed or downloaded from our website at www.FRCenter.org.

Family Resource Center

Our offices are located at 1600 North Coalter Street, Suites 11 & 12B, in Staunton. Resource Center hours are 8:30—5:00 daily. The QCCI operates on a limited schedule; please call ahead 540.245.5437. Additional information can be found at www.FRCenter.org.

DSS Training Update

The Dept of Social Services Spring 2010 Professional Development calendar is now available. There are several courses offered throughout the state, including Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave. These classes will likely fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible. Cost per class 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.

Week of the Young Child

The National Association for the Education of Young Children has proclaimed that this year's Week of the Young Child will be April 11—17.

The theme for 2010 is Early Years Are Learning Years® This event is held each year to honor young children and thank teachers and all those who make a difference in young children's lives. For more information on how your program can promote Week of the Young Child, visit www.NAEYC.org.

Lending Library—Training DVDs

The Quality Child Care Initiative has a collection of early childhood training videos which may be checked out for self-study. Topics include infant development, outdoor play, day care administration, working with parents, and many others. Each video counts for one hour of training credit and includes a worksheet which must be completed and returned. Please call Sarah Foster at 540-245-5437 or email SarahFoster@ntelos.net to check availability.

Provider Profile

Peggy Jennings is the Director of the Covenant Presbyterian Church Nursery School in Staunton. Peggy has been a dedicated teacher in early childhood development for over 30 years. She received her BA degree in Psychology from the University of Mary Washington, with NK-4 certification. She thoroughly enjoys experiencing a child's wonder at learning new things. Peggy, you are certainly in the right field! Hobbies include skiing, hiking, pets, and cheering on her favorite teams - UVA, Virginia Tech & Duke. She welcomed her second grandchild last year and she loves spending time with the kids.

Way to go, Peggy!! Keep up the good work.

Activity Corner

Spring is right around the corner!! If you're looking for a fun, indoor/outdoor activity, try making "Goop". You can even add food coloring to the water before you mix it with cornstarch, and the colors should turn out to be lovely pastels. Have fun!!



Goop Recipe

1 cup cornstarch

½ cup water
(tinted with food color)

Add cornstarch to a large bowl, followed by water.

Mix lightly. The consistency you are trying to achieve is great – when first pressed, the mixture will feel hard, but it will instantly “give” to pressure. Hold some in your hand; it stays hard for only a split second before “melting” in your hand!

To make a large batch of goop, use 2 parts cornstarch to 1 part water.

This is a wonderful activity for experimentation. What happens when you add more water? Then more cornstarch? Can you scoop it with a spoon? Will it pour from one bowl to another?