

## Spring Trainings

A few openings remain in the last workshop from the QCCI Spring Training Series. The workshop provides 2 hours of credit. Registration is required, please call 540-245-5437 or email SarahFoster@ntelos.net.

### Transitions in Preschool

Wednesday, May 19th, 6:30—8:30 pm  
Staunton Public Library, 2nd floor  
Instructor, Sara Minigh

The QCCI Fall Training Series will be announced over the summer. All information regarding trainings and events is posted on our website at [www.FRCenter.org](http://www.FRCenter.org)

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## 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](http://www.FRCenter.org).

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Quality Child Care Initiative  
(540) 245-5437

Family Resource & Referral Center  
(540) 245-5899

1600 North Coalter Street, Suites 11 & 12B  
Staunton, Virginia 24401

[www.FRCenter.org](http://www.FRCenter.org)

## Transition to Kindergarten

Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley has designed an assessment tool as one step in creating a smoother transition to kindergarten for children and their families in the Shenandoah Valley. All local school systems in our area are participating this year.

A letter from Stacie Jackson is enclosed with this newsletter which explains how to download the assessment forms from the website. The assessment has a front and a back (larger drawing space) as well as a cover letter.

When you download the forms, make sure you download the cover letter as mailing instruction vary a bit with each school system. Please mail the assessments to the receiving school systems by JUNE 1 so the information can be used by schools as they are making class lists.

A couple of reminders:

1. Review the cover letter for details in completing the assessment in order to maintain consistency.
2. Share the results with parents and request their signature at the bottom.
3. When talking with parents, remember to record the name of the school their child is attending.
4. If parents have not registered their child, encourage them to do it now before the summer break.
5. If you already use the PALS pre-K, simply attach this assessment to the PALS record sheet and mail both to the school or central office contact (see cover letter).

If you have any questions about the assessment or process, please feel free to contact Stacie Jackson, Smart Beginnings Shenandoah Valley Coordinator, at 540-568-8968 or [jacks2sc@jmu.edu](mailto:jacks2sc@jmu.edu).

## News from Shen Valley Social Services

Effective May 1, 2010 significant changes to the state child care subsidy program administered through the Department of Social Services include:

- A standardized agreement developed by the state will be signed by all vendors receiving child care subsidy payments through social services
- Payment will only be authorized for Part Day and Full Day rates
- Time authorized will be based on the work/school schedule of the client
- Licensed, voluntary registered, and religiously exempt vendors will be paid for 10 national holidays defined by the state if the same is charged to the general public
- Only licensed vendors will be paid for up to 2 absences per child per month
- Unregulated vendors will only be paid when the child is in care
- Clients need to pay for additional care used above the DSS authorization

Thank you to the vendors who attended one of the two meetings hosted by Shenandoah Valley Social Services in April to discuss the changes. It was nice to meet everyone.

Thank you ALL for your continued support and service to the children in our community.



## Summer Fun



Almost any activity that can be done indoors can be adapted for the outdoors. Be creative, have some fun!

Dramatic play— add plastic animals, people, vehicles, etc. to the outdoor sand-and-water table.

Art activities— make collages using items found in nature. Offer messy art such as goop or finger-paints. Even better, how about letting the kids make mud out of dirt and water?

Blocks— why not? If rain isn't in the forecast, move the entire block center outside in the shade.

Science and Nature — introduce the children to birds, insects, worms. Provide opportunities to explore on their own, to design their own games, to build forts, to dig in the mud.

## 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. Each video will count towards one hour of training credit. There may be a waiting list, so please call Sarah Foster at 540-245-5437 or email [SarahFoster@ntelos.net](mailto:SarahFoster@ntelos.net) to check availability.

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## Provider Profile

**Debbie Mears** and her family moved to Virginia about 6 years ago and she's been doing home daycare ever since. She and her husband are blessed with 2 beautiful daughters, ages 14 and 16, and they currently have 2 wonderful foster children. Debbie decided to do home daycare and it has given her the opportunity to be an "at home" mom and also a chance to help raise so many wonderful children.

She says, "It is so rewarding to teach children and see them learn and grow. It is amazing to me the amount of love that children have to share. I think the most important thing to remember is that it is not the gifts you give a child that matter but the time and attention."

In her free time, Debbie enjoys scrapbooking, reading, being a Girl Scout leader, growing her Advocare business, and volunteering at both her church and the kids' schools. She claims that she may never have a perfectly neat home- toys are always everywhere, but they have a fun, loving home and she is truly thankful for all of the blessings God has given her family and for the chance to give back to a child! Thank you, Debbie, for all you do.