



Resource & Referral Center

a publication of the Quality Child Care Initiative

Children Count

September / October 2010

Congratulations, Bears & Blankets!!

One of our Stuarts Draft child care centers, Bears & Blankets (formerly known as Kids Under Construction), has received a 3-star QRIS rating.

This is a wonderful achievement for them and they should be commended for the quality they are providing to the young children in their care.



As part of the QRIS process, they will now have the opportunity to collaborate with a QRIS mentor to build on their strengths and expand their expertise in providing high quality care to young children.

If you see Stacey Nuckolls, Director, or Peggy Vaughn, Owner, be sure to congratulate them!!

Family Resource Center

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

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



BEST FIT Program Information

The Behavioral, Emotional, and Social Training for Infants and Toddlers (BEST FIT) program is part of a grant initiative through the Virginia Dept. of Social Services' Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Development. It is a federally funded program through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The BEST FIT program has two main goals: To improve the access of child care providers to community resources and to increase the capacity of child care providers to recognize and address the social, emotional, and behavioral development of infants and toddlers in their care. While the focus of BEST FIT includes all children, special attention will be placed on children at risk and/or exhibiting challenging behaviors.

In order to achieve these two goals, the BEST FIT program has three primary, interconnected components:

1. Expand & raise awareness of mental health services for infants and toddlers
2. Implement a 3-tiered professional development program for child care providers
3. Increase the availability and accessibility of mental health services for infants and toddlers through 3 levels of intervention.

BEST FIT will serve infants and toddlers ages birth to 36 months who receive care in center based programs, family day homes and family, friend, and neighbor providers in the cities of Staunton, Waynesboro and Harrisonburg; and the counties of Augusta, Rockingham, Page and Shenandoah.

For more information or to apply for mentor assistance, providers can download an application from our website at www.FRCenter.org under the "Info for Providers" section.

Specific questions should be directed to **Ginger Griffin** at the JMU Child Development Clinic, 540.568.3884, griffigl@jmu.edu or **Stacie Jackson** at Shenandoah Valley Smart Beginnings, 540.568.8968, jacks2sc@jmu.edu

*** The above information has been taken directly from the BEST FIT flyer, available to view on our website www.FRCenter.org.*

"Connecting with Parents" Training

This is part of a BEST FIT series designed to address infant/toddler mental health issues. This class will focus on the importance of the relationship between caregivers and parents.

Children are able to pick up on parents' emotional response to their child care settings and it affects the child's sense of trust and safety. Brainstorm barriers to parent-provider communication and explore ways to overcome them.

Cost is \$5.00. October 5, 2010 from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the Staunton Public Library.

Please note: this is not a Family Resource Center/QCCI event. You will need to call HealthSource at 800-433-4580 to register.

Child Passenger Safety

National Seat Check Saturday will be held on Saturday, September 25th. This event will host dozens of child safety seat checks around the state as a way to promote proper safety seat restraint for children.

Enclosed is a flyer about a local seat check that will take place at Walmart. Please make copies of this flyer to distribute to families at your location.



BEST FIT Conference—

Learning to walk: Baby steps through Infant and Toddler Development

Saturday, Oct 16th, 8:00-3:00 pm

This all day conference is for anyone who cares for or is interested in children under the age of 3. We will explore the world of infants and toddlers from a mental health perspective. Issues such as communicating with parents, red flags, how to access services, risk factors, social and emotional health as well as environment will all be addressed.

Lunch will be provided. Saturday, October 16, 2010. Cost - \$10. 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. Plecker Center, Blue Ridge Community College, Weyers Cave. **Please call HealthSource at 800-433-4580 to register.**

* 2011 Increase in CPR fees *

Due to a decrease in available grant funds from the Dept of Social Services, the cost of **CPR/First Aid** training offered through the QCCI will increase to **\$20.00 per person effective January 1, 2011**. The regular price for the class is \$65.00, so it is still a significant savings. You must register through our office to receive the reduced rate.

The cost for the **Daily Health Observation** class will remain at **\$10.00 per person** and there will still be **no charge** for our Spring & Fall QCCI Training Series.

Provider Profile

Patricia Hughes is one of six new Infant/Toddler Mentors through the BEST FIT grant. She will be working with Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro centers and family child care homes to provide training and support for children in their care under the age of three who are at risk due to behavioral or emotional issues.

Pat worked for the past two years at Project STAR at the Family Resource & Referral Center. As a Parent Educator, Pat made home visits and served as a monitor for supervised visits through DSS. Pat is also a tutor for the Beverley Manor Elementary School afterschool program and keeps very busy during the school year.

Prior to Project STAR, Pat was a teacher in the Augusta County Public Schools for 30 years, working in both home economics and as an elementary school teacher. She loves working with children of all ages, particularly those under the age of three.

Congratulations, Pat, on the new job!! The Resource Center will miss you.