



Spring 2011

Child Care News

South Carolina Child Care Association (800) 445-8629

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President's Message *by Vicki Hoover, SCCCA President*



Perhaps the groundhog was correct and spring will arrive early! The weather certainly has been great lately. I hope that everyone is taking the opportunity to enjoy it!

The South Carolina Childcare Association has been working hard so far this year to make sure that it is representing its members well. I want to say thanks to all that attended our annual conference in Columbia. Lots of hard work and team effort went in to making the event a huge success! I want to add a BIG thanks to Cindy Walton-McCawley for all her leadership and talents in organizing this year's event and instructors. As usual, Cindy goes the extra mile each year to make it better than the last! Thanks to all the board members that put in extra hours preparing and setting up as well. Together any task is possible. With that said, we

continue to work together to ensure that the early childcare field is represented proudly and fairly in the state of South Carolina. We have many initiatives legislatively that we are working on. (See the legislative section) We have been busy meeting with legislators at receptions and other events to ensure that they are aware of the issues that affect our industry and businesses. I want to thank the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee for attending our dinner on the 22nd of February. We had great attendance and some very meaningful conversations about our industry. We appreciate their time to listen to our issues and had a great time celebrating Chairman Bill Sandifer's birthday. We have had meeting with DSS to help stream line the re-licensing process, and attending the Governor's Advisory Board Meetings to be your ears and voice with concerns regarding regulations. We will also be attending The Capital Hill Summit in Washington this year to ensure that South Carolina's voice is heard. The National Childcare Association is

keeping us up to date with the current issues revolving around the Consumer Product Safety Commission's ban on current cribs. . Please be sure you watch and respond to alerts to voice your concerns about current regulations.

Together we can make a difference...

SCCCA President, Vicki Hoover and the Board of Directors would like to extend a warm WELCOME to the newest SCCCA members:

- ~Joyce Baldwin
- ~Sonja Dill
- ~Amanda Kidd
Pfizer Vaccines
- ~Sarah Krueger
Environments, Inc
- ~Courtney Miller
Lakeshore Learning Materials
- ~Nancy Weaver
Teddy Bear Portraits



K I D S
Many thanks to the ABC Child Care Program for 300+ scholarships at Annual Conference!

Legislative Update *by Jeffrey Thordahl, SCCCA Lobbyist*



Lisa Fields
MPA Training Director,
Heath's Haven presenting on
"Care and Feeding in the
Zoo, Using Love Languages
to Understand Children's
Behavior"



Participants learn the newest
requirements for Records and
Reports for Child Care with
Don Wood Jr., SC State Fire
Marshal



Learning about "Prevention of
Bullying Behavior Among
School-aged Children" with
Patti Agatston, Ph.D., L.P.C.,
Author, Certified Olweus
Bullying Prevention Program
Trainer

Going into this year after rather interesting State and National elections in the fall of 2010, it appeared there may be an opening to press for less regulation/less government. Of course the SCCCA would not consider less government at the expense of the health and safety of the child. However, in an industry that is burdened with onerous and duplicative regulations there are some changes that do not negatively affect the child and at the same time would enhance the affordability of child care for the parents.

Therefore the SCCCA undertook the effort to press for several budget amendments and at least one bill to reduce unnecessary and unfair regulation.

Childcare Provisos (Budget Amendments)

The budget coming out of the House of Representatives the week of March 14 contains several provisos that will be beneficial. Not only was the ratio delay proviso kept in the House's version of the budget, but two additional provisos were adopted as well. The ratio delay again keeps the ratios at their current levels. This needs to also pass the Senate and ultimately avoid being vetoed but should be adopted again this year. The final budget should be known by late May or early June.

Representative Brian White proposed a proviso that extends for an additional year the DSS operating

license or approval for any child care center, church, group child care home, or licensed family child care home. Registered family homes must continue the registration process yearly, and facilities undergoing a DSS investigation for possible revocation, or those already involved in the revocation process, are not eligible for the extension.

Representative Shannon Erickson also proposed a proviso which was subsequently adopted that would move the licensing and inspection functions for child care centers from DHEC to DSS. Additionally, the authority to impose fees related to the licensing and inspections would be transferred to DSS. The fee amount will not increase.

The hot water proviso from last year will be offered for adoption in the budget in the Senate and we are confident that this proviso will be retained for another year.

All of these provisos are effective for the State's fiscal budget year beginning on July 1, 2011 and ending on June 30, 2012.

4 Hour Exemption Legislation

This bill should be introduced by the time of publication of this newsletter. The idea behind it is of course to make sure all children in child care settings are sufficiently protected. Currently many after school

programs in public and private settings along with summer programs are completely unregulated from a child care perspective. In addition this also allows these programs to charge much lower rates as they do not need to comply with the requirements of the DSS/DHEC/Fire Marshal Licensing regulations. The 4 hour exemption is the loophole that allows these programs to operate unregulated by the state.

Many parents are unaware of this and many legislators are unaware of this as well. This is a perfect issue to find the time to explain it to your local legislators.

Legislative Interaction

The SCCCA was able to spend some quality time with the House Labor, Commerce and Industry committee in February. Chairman Bill Sandifer, a majority of the committee as well as Speaker Bobby Harrell were in attendance and were terrific in focusing on the challenges within the industry. It is opportunities like this that help draw attention to your needs and frustrations.

Continue to look for opportunities to educate your local elected officials. In this time of less money for local governments and public schools to continually expand their pre-k education, there is a wonderful opportunity to remind elected officials that we have been there doing this for years and we should be the primary option for the state going forward.

Conference Report *by Cindy Walton-McCawley, Program Chair*

The 23rd Annual SCCCA Conference “Raising Responsible and Caring Children” was a tremendous success as well as being the largest conference in SCCCA’s history. Registration for the conference actually closed out prior to the conference because we met the maximum number of participants we could accommodate. Including presenters and vendors, our conference had 576 attendees. A special thanks to the ABC Child Care Program who provided scholarships to a little over 300 participants in addition to sponsoring our keynote speaker. Ms. Alyson

Schafer, parenting expert and psychotherapist, was the featured keynote and speaker. Her presentation “Child Guidance – The Democratic Way” was very well received. In addition to Ms. Schafer’s keynote, the conference offered participants 10 hour breakout sessions in the morning, 4 breakout sessions during lunch, and 10 breakout sessions in the afternoon. Presenters for the conference came from Canada, Georgia and throughout South Carolina. The conference program was very strong and received high marks from participants.

Congratulations!!!

Winners from the Conference were:

~Fran Bartlett

\$100 American Express gift card provided by SCCCA

~Trese Reed

\$25 Environments gift card provided by Environments

~Saresa Carroll

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Alyson Schafer, M.A.
Psychotherapist, Author. Parenting Expert, TV Host Presenting “Why Do My Kids Keep Doing That?” during the SCCCA Annual Conference



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Volunteers in Centers *by Child Care Licensing, Winter 2010*

Regulation 114-503 K(2)(a) states, "To be employed by or to provide teacher/caregiver services at a child care facility, a person shall first undergo a State fingerprint review from the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED)."

The issue we occasionally run into is background checks for people who are not classified as caregivers or other child care staff. Most of these people fall into two groups – volunteers and professionals who provide support services. Providers may certainly require a criminal background check for these people as part of their policy; however, it is not a DSS Regulation.

A volunteer is someone at least 16 years of age who

infrequently assists with the daily activities for children in a child care facility. A volunteer works without pay and is supervised by staff at all times when providing direct care to children. A volunteer is not required to undergo a fingerprint background check or health screening and cannot be counted in staff:child ratios. The definition of a volunteer can be found in **Regulation 114-501 A(37)**.

Professional support services personnel are people like therapists, early interventionists, tutors, art instructors, etc. who come from outside the facility to provide a service. These individuals are not directly employed by the child care facility, and there is not a DSS regulation that requires

them to have a background check. Qualified child care staff members must be present at all times when on-site services are provided by these individuals.

To summarize, anyone who is not in the facility on a regular basis, does not get paid by the facility, and is never left alone with children does not need a background check. Two key points to remember are that someone without a background check: **cannot** be counted in staff:child ratios and **must** be supervised by a qualified caregiver at all times.

Even though everyone who comes into a facility does not need a background check, providers should still be aware of who they allow in the facility.

**Classroom Management Technique-
Oil and Vinegar** *by Cindy Walton-McCawley*

At some point a teacher may find that she or he has two children whose play frequently ends in a fight or argument. The two children are the best of friends and the worst of enemies. By choosing to fight, they are trying to use misbehavior to either get unnecessary attention from the teacher, or to draw the teacher into a power struggle. When this occurs, the teacher can implement a logical consequence to help the children learn how to solve the problem of playing together in a cooperative and friendly manner.

At a neutral time, the teacher can pull both students aside and say, "Lately the two of you have

had problems playing together. That makes it unpleasant for the rest of the class. For the next week the two of you will need to play at different areas when we are in the classroom. When we are on the playground you may play together outside. At the end of the week, the 3 of us will meet and see if you've been able to play in a friendly way outside. If you have, then you may go back to playing together inside. If not, we can try it for another week and see how it goes."

For the next week, if one of the two children chooses to go to the art center the other may select any area but art. During the week,

the teacher needs to observe playground time carefully. When the teacher sees the two students playing in a friendly way, he or she needs to deliberately encourage the two children by interacting with them. For instance, if the two students are pretending they are driving to work on the tricycles, the teacher can ask if she or he can join the play. The teacher could role play filling the "gas tanks" of the tricycles.

At the end of the week the teacher and the children meet back to evaluate the progress the children have made. If they have succeeded in playing together outside without **Continued on page 6**

Square Foot Gardening *by Fairey Mock and Lisa Swick, Abner Montessori Schools*

Ah, spring! When I dream of spring, I think of bright sunshine, songbirds flitting through the trees singing like they're auditioning for American Idol and of course, gardening. After a seemingly endless winter of bitter cold, I'm ready for the balmy days of spring. I'm even looking forward to the blazing days of summer and complaining about what the humidity does to my hair.

The children are looking forward to spring, too. They're ready to play outside again and enjoy the freedom of running madly around the playground. It is very important for children to spend time outdoors and gardening with young children is a fun way to teach them to appreciate the beauty of the natural world. Even children who do not like planting in a garden usually enjoy caring for plants and watching them grow.

When most people think of the traditional garden, they picture a large area planted in long rows. But using an intensive planting method like square foot gardening is a simple way to introduce children to gardening that is easy, educational and environmentally friendly.

Square foot gardening is easy because you can design your garden to fit your space. A square foot

garden is also easier to maintain than a traditional row garden.

It's educational because it teaches mathematical concepts like fractions, division and multiplication. Learning the parts of a plant and the names of different plants introduces children to botanical science while also expanding their vocabulary. Growing food to eat also teaches children that food doesn't come from the grocery store but that it has to be produced.

It's environmentally friendly because the system uses less water than a traditional row garden. It's also easier to harvest your crops and practice crop rotation which means healthier plants for a bigger harvest.

Traditionally, in a square foot garden, the 1-foot squares are grouped together in blocks measuring 4 feet by 4 feet square but the layout can be changed to fit your space. When planning a garden for children, narrower, rectangular beds are better than wide, square beds.

If your center doesn't have the available space outside for garden beds, then container gardening may work for you. Many fruits and vegetables, like tomatoes, peppers, and

strawberries, can all be grown in containers. A window box filled with aromatic herbs like rosemary or lavender makes the classroom look more inviting and smells wonderful. A fun game to play at circle time is to pass a sprig of two or three different herbs so that each child has the chance to smell them and guess which herbs they are.

Not interested in growing fruits and vegetables? Try decorating the classroom with several houseplants and give the children the responsibility of watering the plants and keeping them healthy. Need a simple activity the children can observe and measure? Plant some bean seeds in a glass jar and watch the growth of the sprout and the roots. Or plant seeds from different plants and chart the progress of each one. Don't like digging in the dirt? Let the children do it. They'll be delighted to dig those holes for you.

Your classroom garden can be as elaborate as you choose to make it. Whether it's a group of several square foot beds or a window box planted with herbs, the children will enjoy working in their garden and watching it grow.



Learning the parts of a plant and the names of different plants....



Even children who do not like planting in a garden usually enjoy caring for plants...



Don't like digging in the dirt? Let the children do it.

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Oil and Vinegar Continued from page 4

fighting, they can return to playing together inside. If not, the consequences stay in place and they can continue to work on solving the problem for the next week. By coupling a logical consequence with deliberate encouragement, the teacher is able to stop the use of the misbehavior and encourage responsible and cooperative behavior in the children.



Don't Throw the Block!
Promoting Block Play in the Classroom with
Mickie Jennings, B.S., NAC
Director Educational Services,
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