

Supporting those who nurture the early years

Professional praise

Congratulations to the following teachers from Chapel Hill. They were a part of ETP's first CDA class last year. These candidates have successfully earned their Child Development Associate Credential! Sheryl Laughlin, Jo Rohn, Shelly MacIntosh.

Way to go Silverdale Childtime! Nearly 50% of their teaching staff is currently enrolled in the Silverdale CDA Program. Keep up the strong commitment to the profession!

Yippee! A group of approximately 20 teachers from the Muckleshoot Childcare Center have successfully completed the CDA program in Auburn. Good luck on the Early Childhood Review!

MORE Sensory table ideas

So many of you called and e-mailed about the list in the last issue of our newsletter that we decided to give you more ideas. Sensory play can be messy, but that's part of the fun! A substantial amount of guidance problems occur because children are bored. Add something new to redirect and focus behavior where you want it. Lots of issues can be solved just by opening the sensory tub!

Encourage a few children at a time to get involved. Allow 30-45 minutes of uninterrupted play for full exploration and enjoyment. Keep towels or a few small brooms and dust pans nearby for the mess. If it's fun, children love to help clean up.

What to choose: Consider developmental levels and safety or choking hazards relevant to your group. For health and family value reasons, refrain from using food items to play with.

Suggestions:

- Volcanoes: Baking soda, vinegar, and food coloring
- Gelatin molds: Use the recipe on the box of Knox gelatin (inject the molds with eye droppers full of food coloring)
- Packing peanuts
- Fabric strips (various textures)
- Balls of socks (fun in large tubs/swimming pools)
- Pea gravel and small plastic animals

Early Years Review

Transition quiz

Every teacher has difficulties from time to time with transitions. When you're in the middle of the situation, sometimes it is difficult to see where a problem lies. Answer the following questions to evaluate your transitions.

Do children have to wait more than 2 minutes to start the next activity?
No Sometimes Yes

Do you feel overwhelmed before and during your transitions?
No Sometimes Yes

Do you have behavior problems around the transition times?
No Sometimes Yes

Do you think of ways to move the children through the transition vs. having it planned out? No Sometimes Yes

Are all the adults in the room during the transitions working independently of each other to support the children through the process?
No Sometimes Yes

Give yourself 1 point for every NO, 2 points for every SOMETIMES, and 3 points for every YES.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ (See inside for what your score means.)

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You can now get STARS approved
trainings in the comfort of your
own home and workplace.

”
see "Support, networking..." inside

Transition resources

Transition Magician; Transition Magician 2: More Strategies for Guiding Young Children in Early Childhood Programs; Transition Magician for Families: Helping Parents and Children with Everyday Routines all by Nola Larson, Mary Henthorne and Barbara Plum

Transition Time: Let's Do Something Different; Transition Tips and Tricks for Teachers by Dr. Jean Feldman

After School Transition Activities: The Ready, Set, Go! Guide To Strategies That Work by David Whitaker

Question from the field

Question:

The preschoolers in my room are having a difficult time with the routine. We are spending a lot of time moving as a large group from one place to another and they are waiting more than they like. Do you have any suggestions to help make our day run smoother?

Answer:

Transitions can either make or break your routine. It is important to have a set routine for the child, as consistency gives children expectation and understanding of their day. They feel in control.

Count the number of times you stop one thing and move to another as a group, for example, moving from free choice to clean up is considered one transition. Moving from clean up to outside is another.

Once you have identified your transition times and the total number of them, evaluate their necessity. Can you combine activities to eliminate a transition? The fewer transitions you require of the children, the more successful your day will be.

Finally, evaluate your plan for the transitions. Do you even have a plan? How do you move from one place to another? If there are more than two adults in the room, what are your duties at that time? Remember: if you make where the children are going to as much fun as where they are coming, the transition becomes much easier.

If you have a question for ETP, send us an e-mail or write a letter. We may select it for publication!
amber@educationaltrainingpartners.org
P.O. Box 1973, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Support, networking, and STARS credit training

STARS scholarships are accepted. Please have STARS ID number available at time of registration.

Directors forums

We are holding Directors Forums in Bremerton and Tacoma this quarter. Through small community-based forums we will discuss issues relevant to administrators and directors of early learning programs. STARS training, working effectively with families, program development, staffing support and licensing issues are requested topics.

Tuesday, January 25, 2005 10-12 noon

Fraiche Cup (coffee shop)

105 Washington Ave., Bremerton, WA

(across from ferry terminal)

RSVP by 1/18: 253-853-3499

Thursday, January 27, 2005 10-12 noon

Bertilino's

105 Washington Ave., Tacoma, WA

RSVP by 1/20: 253-853-3499

Teachers forums

Upcoming Teacher Forums are happening in Bremerton and Tacoma. The goal of this group is to offer support to teachers who are working with young children. Join us for networking opportunities, activity ideas, guidance and discipline support and much more. Snacks provided.

Saturday, February 12th from 10-12 noon

Fraiche Cup (coffee shop)

105 Washington Ave., Bremerton, WA

(across from ferry terminal)

RSVP by 2/04: 253-853-3499

Saturday, February 12th from 2-4 pm

Bertilino Bros. (coffee shop)

2421 S Union Ave., Tacoma, WA

RSVP by 2/04: 253-853-3499

Child Development Associates

Beginning in January, our third CDA Training Program will be up and running in Olympia, Silverdale and Tacoma. For information on what the CDA is and how to obtain this national credential, call ETP today!

253-853-3499

STARS on the go!

You can now get STARS approved trainings in the comfort of your own home and workplace. ETP offers two and four hour STARS approved trainings you can complete at your own pace. Choose your interest topics and order the training box from us. We will deliver it to your doorstep and you can work on it when you have time. Once the assignments are completed, return it to ETP for review. We'll send your STARS certificate of completion within two weeks. Topics to choose from include guidance and discipline, transitions, environments, child development, curriculum ideas, working with parents, administration, and lots more. Call us to get started.

Training just for you

ETP offers STARS approved training customized for you and your staff. Many programs have requested a specially designed training to address specific needs. Our trainers travel to your site and deliver exactly what you need. We encourage the sites to invite other local programs to join in and share the cost. ETP provides all workshop materials, STARS paperwork, and trainer travel expenses for a two-hour workshop. Up to 30 participants can share the cost of just \$300. Trainings can also be customized for any length of time from two to ten hours. Please call for pricing on longer workshops.

Online classes

In collaboration with Puget Sound Educational Service District, ETP is offering a fun and interesting three college credit course called "Heads Up Reading." This program will focus on literacy and early learning. For those in need of renewing your CDA credential this class would be a perfect fit. Start date will be January 10, 2005.

Tacoma CDA - Meets every Monday night from 6:30-8:30

Where: University Place Latchkey

Schedule: January 10th through March 28th

Cost: \$255.00

Silverdale CDA - Meets every Wednesday night from 7:00-9:00

Where: Silverdale Childtime

Schedule: January 12th through March 30th

Cost: \$255.00

Olympia CDA - Meets one Saturday a month from 9:00-1:00

Where: Perry Street Preschool

Schedule: January 15th through March 26th

Cost: \$255.00

WAEYC and NAEYC conferences

It has been a busy quarter for our trainers. At the end of October, we traveled across the state to Spokane for WAEYC's state conference. Taffy Gallagher's workshops on marketing and professionalism have helped programs statewide increase enrollment, boost revenue and align their staff's professional level with the program's core goals. Due to over enrollment in her first session, Shannon Schinagl was asked to present her workshop on interactive read-alouds twice. Amber's workshop on Biting was a huge success, as others conference participants noticed vampire teeth worn by her workshop attendees.

After leaving Spokane it was off to NAEYC's National Conference in Anaheim, CA. Amber presented her Biting 101 workshop and the topic was a hit, once again. Over 700 participants discussed the issues surrounding biting and left with useful solutions to their own biting concerns. Overall, approximately 1200 participants gained valuable knowledge and creative solutions from ETP trainers this fall.


advertisement

2005 Childhood Matters Conference

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 Renton Technical College
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April 23, 2005

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You make us blush

Several of you have sent us thank you letters and e-mails commending our trainings. Thank you for the kind words. We are going to share them with our readers from time to time.

"The part I liked best was your energy and good source of information."

"I feel confident that I can and will implement redirection and allow more activities for movement."

"The part I liked best was your honest, sense of humor, information, preparedness and obvious passion for this field."

"You provided more info. to me in this one class than I've received at some seminars. Thank you - I enjoyed your class."

"Next time please stay longer."

"You're very knowledgeable and personable."

Transition quiz results

5 - 8 points: NEEDS SOME SUPPORT

Consider reading some articles or books on the topic. Attend a training that focuses on transitions and routines.

9 - 12 points: DOING WELL, COULD USE SOME NEW TOOLS

Evaluate the number of transitions. (see "Questions" on cover) Try to eliminate a few and create structured plans for these times of the day. Seek advanced training on the topic.

9 - 12 points: LOOKING GOOD!

Explore all resources to keep your ideas fresh. Consider working with others who are having trouble with their routine.