New Accreditations
- Magic Years, Richmond, CA
- Government Center Child Care Corporation, JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA

Reaccreditations
- Government Center Child Care Corporation, Thomas P. O’Neill Federal Building, Boston, MA
- BSC Kids Place, Holtsville, NY
- Little Eagle Child Care Center, Martinsburg, WV
- Indianapolis Day Nursery, Indianapolis, IN
- Start Smart 4 Children, Indianapolis, IN

Congratulations are in order for the following centers: summer!
- We had a very exciting and fun filled drama with a special performer!
- cream truck visit, and African music and pizza making, karate lessons, an ice cream and imaginative lesson plans based on India, and of course, North America!
- Each child traveled to Africa, Australia, and the seven continents! Creating individual passports complete with their pictures, they learned to dance to hula music and had a limbo contest, but the most fun was had making a fresh and very healthy fruit salad. Thanks to the parents for contributing all the fruit for the party!

Courtyard Kids Summer This year, during the summer months of July and August, the children at Courtyard Kids packed their bags and rode on an “airplane,” as they traveled to the distant lands of the seven continents! Creating individual passports complete with their pictures, each child traveled to Africa, Australia, South America, Europe, Antarctica, and, of course, North America! Teachers created developmentally appropriate and extremely creative and imaginative lesson plans based on which countries they visited during the week. The children were introduced to new concepts and vocabulary, along with engaging special activities, such as pizza making, karate lessons, an ice cream truck visit, and African music and drama with a special performer! We had a very exciting and fun filled summer!

BSC Kids Summer Days We kept busy this summer with a variety of summer activities. We started our summer program off by inviting all the families to a “Summer Kick-Off BBQ” where a summer calendar of events was given to all the parents. Some events noted on the calendar included: all day water play, recycle/reuse day, show-n-tell, buying ice cream from the ice cream man, and music with Big Jeff. The weather this summer was incredibly nice, and the children were able to have water play every day. They went through the sprinklers, used the water tables and filled and dumped buckets of water. Summer days at BSC were FUN for everyone!

Sizzling Summer in Newark At Newark Federal Kids Care, Newark, New Jersey the children spent many days at the pool. They also found plenty of time for cooking and baking, and making their favorite food - Macaroni and Cheese! The Bears class enjoyed a Luau party where they learned to dance to hula music and had a limbo contest, but the most fun was had making a fresh and very healthy fruit salad. Thanks to the parents for contributing all the fruit for the party!

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More Information
Contributions and Comments on Center news are welcome and encouraged. To receive this newsletter electronically, Sign up at: www.gsa.gov/childcare

GSA Child Care Division
National Director Liz Thomels 1800 G Street, NW 88% of GSA Child Care Centers are Accredited

www.gsa.gov/childcare

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GSA Public Buildings Service Child Care Division

Volume 13 Issue 3
Summer 2010

An exhilarated crowd of 420 people attended the 21st Annual GSA Child Care Training Conference held in Las Vegas, Nevada, July 13 - 15, 2010. “Winning the Challenge for Excellence,” this year’s theme, signified our collaborative ongoing commitment to providing high quality care to the federal families in the communities we serve. Jeff Neely, Acting Regional Administrator, opened the conference by welcoming guests to the Pacific Rim Region. PBS Deputy Commissioner, David Foley, recognized this year’s 15 Cornerstone Award recipients for their outstanding contributions and support of the child care program.

During the opening luncheon, PBS Deputy Commissioner David Foley highlighted the achievements of the child care program and read a letter from President Obama that commended everyone for their dedicated service to Federal employees and citizens alike. Carol Weisman, author and trainer, intrigued the audience with humor and her thought-provoking message on “Raising Charitable Children.” At a packed general session, Amy Roloff, former teacher and, now, reality TV star of “Little People, Big World,” shared with the audience her story of “Overcoming Challenges and Obstacles” in everyday life.

The Child Care Division sponsors this training conference each year to provide up-to-date information on quality standards, and to recognize individuals and center excellence over the past year. The conference program is divided into five tracks, offering 25 breakout sessions specifically designed for child care directors, providers and teachers; boards of directors; facility, property and security managers; and Agency representatives.

Fourteen Child Care Programs were recognized for achieving accreditation from the National Academy for Early Childhood Programs, a division of the National Association for the Education of continued on page 2

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Lead and Pottery: continued from page 1

Lead and Pottery: continued from page 3

Lead glasses are safe so long as they are properly formulated, applied, and fired. Check your kitchen to identify risky items and ensure their use does not create health hazards.

• Avoid using raku-fired pottery for food or drink containers.
• Ceramic ware and glasses that are risky should not be used to serve food or drink. The longer the food is in contact with such glasses, the more the lead will leach into it.
• Highly acidic foods (for example citrus juices, fruit, sliced tomatoes, cola, salad dressings, vinegar, coffee, and tea) should not be served in questionnable china. Highly acidic wet foods leach the fastest, although any moist food should be kept out of suspect pottery.
• Dry foods like breads, crackers, tortilla chips, and chips and salsa and vegetables can be safely served in them.
• Questionsable china should not be used daily. Buying old coffee mugs, cheap, imported china and ceramic containers.
• Heating or microwaving questionable china is not recommended. Heated food or drink in an old mug in the microwave is a particularly risky thing to do.
• Pay attention to labels that warn “Not for Food Use. May Poison Food.” “Not for Food Use. Glass contains lead. Food Use May Result in Lead Poisoning,” or “Not for Food Use. Food Consumed from this Vessel [Plate] May be Harmful.”
• Home testing kits for lead are available on-line or your local hardware store.

Conference: continued from page 1

of Young Children. Linda Hassan Anderson, Senior Director of the NAEYC Academy, shared the attendees the value of providing a quality early childhood program and the efforts involved in achieving accreditation. Eighty percent of eligible child care centers in GSA space are currently accredited. A special treat was Nap Palmer, accomplished musician and Parent’s Choice Award recipient, as he entertained the audience with song and movement activities during the accreditation luncheon.

At the closing session, Carol Moore, RN, made us all laugh, focusing on how laughter can relieve stress and contribute to our health and wellness - a very positive send off message for the attendees.

As a leader in innovative, greener solutions, GSA did not print or distribute handouts at the conference. Handouts from this year’s sessions are currently posted on our web site at www.gsa.gov/childcare. Click on For Professionals & Providers > Annual Conference > Child Care Conference Library.

Lead and Pottery: Did you know?

Lead used in ceramic glasses can be a health hazard for potters, and for people using their products. A special concern is the intellectual development of young children.

The Eco-Healthy Child Care Program addresses this standard:

To avoid possible lead exposure, do not use imported, old or handmade pottery to cook, store or serve food or drink.

Lead is found in pottery glasses known as “lead bisilicate in frits.” These glasses are mainly used on earthenware and raku ware. If they are not properly formulated, applied and fired it is possible that they could leach into food or drink.

Lead glasses are most commonly used on earthenware, and on older bone china and porcelain. When the glasses are properly formulated and fired at a high temperature, the lead is sealed. However, if they are not properly prepared and fired, lead may leach into food stored in or on the ceramic ware. The degree of lead leaching can vary depending on how often the tableware is washed and used, and the amount of contact it has with food and drink. Cups and bowls will release more lead than glasses. Acidic foods will accelerate any leaching. The amount of lead released depends on how long the food and container are in contact. The only sure way to be sure a container is safe is to have it checked by a metal testing lab.

The FDA advises not using any pottery for food if the safety is questionable. Despite spot checks by the FDA, pottery that contains dangerous amounts of lead is still sold in this country, most is imported. You can tell if the pottery is dangerous by looking at it but dulled or cracked glasses, or designs painted on top of the glasses (you can feel a slight elevation), are clues. This does not automatically mean lead is present and leaching.