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Vol. 11 No. 4
Fall 2008

GSA Nationwide Network of Child Care Coordinators

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Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 86% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent reaccreditations:

• Zorinsky Child Care Center, Omaha, NE
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Eco-Healthy Child Care

Eco-Healthy Tip: Art Supplies
Some art and craft supplies contain toxic ingredients. Below are some tips for choosing and using art and craft supplies:

• Use only non-toxic art supplies approved by the Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (AMCI).
• Read labels and identify precautions.
• Keep the workspace well ventilated by opening windows and using fans, or work outside.
• Do not allow children to eat or drink while using art and craft materials.
• Ensure children wash their hands thoroughly after using art and craft supplies.

Non-toxic Art Supplies Resources on the Internet

• Art & Creative Materials Institute: www.acmi.org
• Teacher’s classroom checklist: www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/pdfs/kit/checklistseaboardchkit.pdf
• Guidelines for the safe use of art and craft materials: www.oehha.ca.gov/education/art/artguide.html
• Games, Arts, and Crafts: www.cheecnet.org/healthhouse/education/articles-detail.asp?Main_ID=137

For more information on the Eco-Healthy Child Care program please contact your GSA Regional Child Care Coordinator or visit http://www.oceonline.org/our-work/kidshealth/ehcc.

Congratulations to the following centers which received Eco-Healthy endorsement:

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Baby Bottles

Concerns are on the rise about the chemical bisphenol A, or BPA. It’s used to make a variety of food containers, including some plastic baby bottles. The federal government has issued a draft report on BPA’s health risks for infants and children. And Canada recently moved to ban BPA in baby bottles. Consumer Reports has just run tests to find the best options for parents.

Consumer Reports’ medical adviser, Dr. Orly Avitzur, says newer studies suggest health risks for children from BPA. Based on the latest laboratory research, the National Institutes of Health has discovered that BPA exposure during development may affect the brain and the reproductive system (through its ability to mimic activity of the hormone estrogen), and may cause other health problems.

Bisphenol A is found in many kinds of containers, including baby bottles made of polycarbonate. Polycarbonate is a hard, translucent plastic that can be clear or colored. Containers made of polycarbonate may have the recycling code #7 on the bottom, and sometimes the letters “PC.”

Some stores and Web sites now sell plastic baby bottles labeled “without BPA,” or “Bisphenol-A Free.” Consumer Reports used an outside lab that specializes in plastic analysis to test several of these bottles, and found that BPA levels in them were negligible. Another option for parents concerned about BPA is to use glass baby bottles. But you have to handle those with care, of course, because they may break.

Preventing the Flu in Child Care Settings

The National Association of Child Care Professionals (NACCP), Families Fighting Flu and the Childhood Influenza Immunization Coalition (CIIC) have launched their nationwide flu awareness campaign, “Fighting Flu in Child Care Settings: Building Blocks to Increase Influenza Awareness.”


SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 20th ANNUAL GSA CHILD CARE CONFERENCE

Hold July 21-23, 2009 for the 20th annual GSA Child Care Training Conference at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

The Buena Vista Palace Hotel is located in the Walt Disney World Resort directly across from the Downtown Disney Area. Rates at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel are $109 plus $7.50 (resort fee), plus tax, per night single/double occupancy, children under 18 free. For more information about the hotel check out their website at: buenaistpalace.com.

Boards’ Business

As the New Year approaches many boards will be looking for new members. Here are some tips for successful Board recruitment:

• Have a real job description — not just a list of responsibilities.
• Maintain a current, strategic profile of what you have and what you need in board members and maintain the board recruitment process all year long.
• Share as much information as possible and honestly during the recruitment process.
• Conduct real interviews with each candidate; not just tours or social presentations.
• Don’t go begging — make it a selective competitive process to be invited to your board so that service is seen as an honor and a privilege.
• Check references.
• Make it clear to the candidate why you want him or her — what is it about this person that you value and want need on your board.
• Do not hesitate to say no, thank you, if you determine this person isn’t right for your board right now; you could have committees on which that person can serve instead.
• Let a candidate know up front the expected time commitment.
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• Let a candidate know up front the expected time commitment.
• Keep the workspace well ventilated by opening windows and using fans, or work outside.
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