

Of the GSA centers eligible for NAEYC Accreditation, 84% are now accredited.

Congratulations to the following center on its recent accreditation:

- Kids on Broadway, San Diego, CA, managed by Bright Horizons

Congratulations to the following centers on their recent reaccreditations:

- Fedkids, New York, NY managed by Imagine Early Learning Center
- Children's Beginnings, Syracuse, NY, managed by Knowledge Learning Corporation
- Windy City Kids, Chicago, IL, managed by Easter Seals
- Rainbow Castle, St. Louis, MO, managed by Child Care Connection
- Clever Kids, Denver, CO, managed by Clever Promotions
- DOT Child Care Center, Washington, DC



Party Time at Memphis Center

The Children's Choice Learning Center in Memphis, TN recently held a "Fun Day" to celebrate the completion of their playground renovation and the receipt of a 3-star rating on the Tennessee Star Quality Program evaluation. The Tennessee Star-Quality system is a voluntary program that recognizes child care agencies that exceed minimum licensing standards. Child Care programs can receive a rating of zero to three stars. Children's Choice celebrated their accomplishments by hosting a 3-Star Day of Play March 23, 2008 complete with food, fun and a visit from their school mascot Choice Bear.



Why Children Act Out

In the Exchange Beginnings Workshop Book, Behavior, Karen Miller describes why it is often difficult to deal with children in early childhood programs who engage in challenging behavior. One of the difficulties she presents is that children are "anchored in the here and now".

"The child considers a situation only from what she can perceive at the moment. She has difficulty thinking about events that led up to something, or what might happen in the future because of an action. The sequence of cause and effect events is too difficult to project -- it requires abstract thinking and the child is still in a very concrete mode. The child has to be able to perceive something with his senses to understand it. Therefore, responses to behavior situations should be immediate. Waiting until the end of the day to discuss a problem with a child works less well."

"The child is not skilled at hypothetical thinking. For instance, the common adult response to a child's aggression -- 'How would you like it if someone did that to you?' -- is usually completely ineffective. The child doesn't 'get it.' In fact, it is usually taken as a threat. When a child throws sand and hurts another child and the teacher says, 'How would you like it if someone threw sand in your face?' the child hears it as an offer ('Would you like me to throw sand in your face?'). That typically causes fear and alienation rather than empathy."

ExchangeEveryDay is a free service of Exchange Magazine. View this article online at ChildCareExchange.com.

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Center News

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GSA Celebrates Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child celebrated April 14th – 18th is a time to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. This year's theme was "Bring Communities Together for Children—Children Bring Communities Together."

GSA Officials and others across the nation took part in a variety of activities in the centers in celebration of Week of the Young Child. Children at the Finger Prints center at the GSA Building in Washington DC were treated to a special guest reader everyday. Readers included Acting Administrator David Bibb, Chief of Staff John Phelps, PBS Commissioner David Winstead, PBS Deputy Commissioner Tony Costa and Customer Service Manager John Durrell.

The Northwest/Arctic Region celebrated with three events at GSA's child care centers. PBS's Rob Graf, Assistant Regional Administrator, read "Oh the Places You Will Go" by Dr. Seuss to children at Building Blocks in Auburn, WA. LuAnn Stokke, Director of Business and Financial Management shared time reading with children at Little Aviators in Renton, WA and Director of Customer Operations, Patrick Clark's visit to Growing Years, Seattle, WA, brought smiles to the children with his jokes and story time.

At the Kathy Herward center in Andover, MA, an officer from the Police Department reviewed bicycle safety with the children as they prepared for a Trike A Thon event where the children raised money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



Deputy Commissioner Tony Costa reads to children at Finger Prints.



Northwest Arctic Region Assistant Regional Administrator Rob Graf at Building Blocks



Andover Police Officer explains bike safety at the Kathy Herward Center.

Boards' Business

By Jill Rhea

Five Reasons to Send Staff to Child Care Conferences:

1. Studies indicate that offering professional development opportunities to employees increases job satisfaction
2. Continuing education opportunities are a valued by employees
3. It demonstrates an appreciation for staff and a willingness to invest in them
4. It shows your organization's commitment to quality and to staying professionally sharp
5. A commitment to a better trained staff identifies you as a "learning organization"



19th Annual GSA Child Care Training Conference

July 8-10, 2008

Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin Street, Market at Fifth, San Francisco, California

The conference begins Tuesday afternoon with Regional Child Care Coordinator meetings, followed by the Welcome Reception and Cornerstone Awards.

NEW SESSIONS ADDED SINCE THE REGISTRATION BROCHURE WAS MAILED

We have added three information sharing sessions to be lead by your peers in the GSA network. Leaders in GSA centers who have recently achieved NAEYC accreditation have agreed to share successful classroom and program portfolios. Sessions will be held on: Tuesday, July 8 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm; Wednesday, July 9 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm; Thursday, July 10 from 7:30 to 8:15 am. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please email Nancy Norris at nancy.norris@gsa.gov with the day you wish to attend.

There is still time to register on line for the conference. Early Bird registration is no longer available after June 14th.

Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 1.800.595.0507, ask for the "GSA Child Care Training Conference" room block. The daily rate is \$152.00 plus tax, single/double occupancy (each additional adult is \$20) and children 18 and under are free. The hotel reservation cutoff date is June 14, 2008 and the conference rate will be honored three days pre and one day post based on availability at the time of reservation.

For the most up-to-date information, visit our website at www.gsa.gov/childcare or call the conference hotline at 202.501.3965.

Don't Forget to Register for University Credit and CEUs with Portland State. www.ceed.pdxedu/gsa

Zorinsky Center Moves Back Home

On Monday morning, April 7th, the Zorinsky Child Development Center opened in their new home in the renovated Edward Zorinsky Federal Building in Omaha, Nebraska. Parents, staff, and children were thrilled with the beautiful new center which totally surrounds a secure, open air, park-like playground setting. Even on the first day in the new space, the child care provider, Bright Horizons Family Solutions, received numerous inquiries from federal families interested in enrolling their children in the center.

In April 2001, the Child Development Center was relocated as renovations began at the Zorinsky Building. Although the temporary location was much smaller, the center maintained their accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children. While in their temporary location and throughout the move process, the building management staff and Nebraska Property Management Center supported the center and ensured that they would meet all of the state licensing and accreditation requirements.

It is especially rewarding to the Field Office, Building Managers, and all who assisted in the construction, to hear the joyful cries of excitement from the children as they explore their new center. Our thanks to everyone that helped make the new center possible for the children.



Joyful Noise East in Portland Has New Playground

Spring has sprung for the children at Joyful Noise East Child Care Center located in the 911 Building in Portland Oregon. The center's playground nestled between two towering office complexes has received a "natural" makeover. The playground, with its trickling water, mosaic benches, sand beach, worm bench, climbing rock, arbor tunnel, musical wall, lush greenery and pebbled rocks provides a connection with the natural environment that is not easily found in urban settings. The executive Director for Joyful Noise Alice Smith and Center Director Patty Strobel embraced the design and vision for the playground and say "the children love it." The parents who work at the federal buildings are able to watch their children play while sitting in the cafeteria.

