

# Chatham Child Care News

Monthly Newsletter

November 2001

## PROVIDER SERVICES PROJECTS FOR 2001-2002

As you may have heard, Child Care Networks' provider services projects for this year were on hold until the state legislature passed a budget and we knew how much money we would have from Smart Start. We will be doing most of what we did last year, but there are some changes due to budget cuts and other restrictions. The things we will **NOT** be able to do this year are:

- Grants to increase the number of infant/toddler spaces (but call Marilyn about another source of infant/toddler grants)
- Scholarships to attend child care **conferences** (but the T.E.A.C.H. and TTSP scholarships to take early childhood **courses** are still in place)
- Grants for playground equipment, repairs, or maintenance (but we will still have health and safety consultations, and we've been told that this is a one-year hold on grants)
- Grants to programs that already have 4 or 5 star licenses (this is also a one-year restriction)

Details of what we **will** be doing are in the boxes on the next two pages.

As usual, we are doing visits, called "Play and Share Visits" this year, to introduce our projects. Marilyn or Brenda will come to your program to do a 3-D art activity and give you a bag of children's books. Information about these visits has already been mailed to you.

**To schedule your Play and Share Visit, center directors should call Marilyn Grubbs, and family child care providers should call Brenda Foxx.**



## UPGRADE PROJECT

CCN's provider services staff can help your center or home **increase your licensing level (star rating)** or **achieve national accreditation**. You sign a contract making a commitment to work toward one of these goals. In return, we offer:

- Written information to help you with upgrading
- Periodic visits and consultations
- Information about training available to meet upgrade requirements
- Access to quality improvement funds

When the upgrade is achieved your program will receive a bonus.

**Call Marilyn Grubbs (centers) or Brenda Foxx (homes) for more information about upgrading your program.**



## HEALTH AND SAFETY PROJECT

This project is done in collaboration with Health Directions, Inc. and involves an in-depth assessment of the indoor and outdoor environment at a facility, and recommendations about how to correct hazards and create a better outdoor environment. This year we will add a training session on outdoor learning environments and "prop boxes" of indoor gross motor materials.

**Call Marilyn Grubbs (centers) or Brenda Foxx (homes) for more information about this project.**



## UNREGULATED CARE PROJECT

This project targets unregulated child care providers, who are visited by CCN's provider services staff to share information about state licensing, training, and community services; and give them a kit of business and organizing resources. Reimbursement of some startup costs is also given after becoming licensed. We are especially looking for providers in the eastern part of the county. ***If you know of unregulated providers or potential providers who are interested in this service, have them call Brenda Foxx.***

We can also assist people who are setting up child care centers by giving them technical assistance, connecting them with resources, and reimbursing some expenses for purchase of materials (NOT the cost of purchasing or remodeling a building). ***If you know people who are interested in this service, have them call Marilyn Grubbs.***



## MENTOR PROJECT



This year, CCN has a group of five experienced mentors to help other centers and homes in Chatham County upgrade their license level. They will visit your program, invite you to visit their program, and/or consult with you over the phone.

**Call Marilyn Grubbs or Brenda Foxx if you want to have a mentor work with you.**



## TEACHER TRAINING AND SUPPORT PROJECT



The Teacher Training and Support Project is a collaborative project between CCN and Central Carolina Community College. Center and family child care staff who are taking Early Childhood courses receive reimbursements for release time and bonuses for course completion. You must be enrolled in the T.E.A.C.H.® Early Childhood scholarship program as well, so you receive even more financial benefits. **Call Marilyn Grubbs for more information.**



### Subsidy News

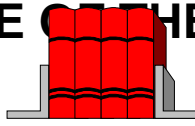
The first quarter of this year was filled with uncertainty. Without a state budget, we started the year by continuing to serve the families who were enrolled in the subsidy program at the end of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. In the 00-01 year we spent a total of \$1,843,662.64 while serving as many families as possible. We began this year with a total "interim budget" of only \$1,438,644. This included a \$302,488 Smart Start allocation. Last year we spent \$584,658.10 in Smart Start subsidy funds. We were directed by the Division of Child Development to "not terminate subsidies for families currently receiving services." Obviously with this information, and these numbers, we have been overspending at a significant level for this quarter. We have added 189 children to our waiting list since April 1, 2001. 94 of these were added between July 1, 2001 and September 30, 2001. We have just gotten verbal notice of our funding authorization for Smart Start and DSS funds for the new year. As a result we anticipate being able to remove only a limited number of families from our waiting list. We will continue to add new families to the waiting list.  
-Connie McAdams/Melanie McBryde

### CHATHAM CAREGIVERS ASSOCIATION

The Chatham Caregivers Association meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday of the month. Call Linda Elkins at 898-4133 for more information.



## FEATURE OF THE MONTH



This month's feature:

**“QUIET TIME”: MUSIC FOR RESTING,  
RELAXING OR ENJOYABLE LISTENING**  
by Harrell Lucky

This carefully selected collection of musical compositions may be used as background music for any period of rest or quiet activity. The textures, melodies, keys, rhythms and orchestrations have been carefully planned and controlled to create a subdued and restful atmosphere, void of excitement or sudden changes of mood. There are some traditional tunes included. The arrangements for piano, strings and woodwinds are some of the most beautiful classical arrangements.

*Our Resource Library is available to Chatham County child care providers. To check out items, call Brenda Foxx at 542-6644, extension 16 or Marilyn Grubbs at extension 21. We may be able to deliver items if you have trouble coming to pick them up.*

*Items in the Resource Library were purchased with funding from the Chatham County Partnership for Children.*



In addition to the training listed here, we have information about workshops in nearby counties sponsored by other agencies. Call Marilyn Grubbs at 542-6644, extension 21 for this information.

## CPR AND FIRST AID



CPR or First Aid classes are taught by Sue Morrow, RN, monthly at Child Care Networks. Here is the upcoming schedule:

- November 27      First Aid                      \$15\*
- December 3      CPR                                      \$22\*

*\*Classes are \$3 each for programs currently on contract to upgrade their quality.*

All classes begin at 6:00 p.m. at our office, 117 E. Salisbury Street in Pittsboro. **Call Brenda Foxx to register for classes. Register early, since classes fill up quickly.**

## THE GAME CORNER

### Move-Your Body Cubes

These simple body-parts cubes will help keep children active and moving. On one cube attach pictures of different parts of the body that move. On another cube stencil numbers. Standing in a circle and taking turns, have each child throw the body parts cube and then the numbers cube. The child then moves the body part that was rolled in any way he desires, the number of times that was thrown on the numbers cube (for example, nod your head five times).

#### What You Need

For this game you will need two cubes, tagboard ((to cut body shapes out of), a marker, and number stencils.

#### How to Make It

Trace simple body shapes on the tagboard. Each body shape should be the same size, but can be different shades or colors. On each body figure, specify a body part by writing its name on the specific area (e.g. – write “Arms” on each arm of one figure). The most common parts to specify on the six sides of the cube are arms, legs, head, hands, feet, and hips, but feel free to use the entire body. On another cube, stencil the numbers one through six in bold permanent marker.

#### What It Does

This activity encourages the development of early counting skills, as well as association. It also serves as a fun way to give children short bursts of exercise, whether indoors or outdoors.

*-From Family Child Caring, Redleaf Press*

# HAPPY

## THANKSGIVING!

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CHATHAM CHILD CARE NEWS is a resource publication for caregivers, parents, and other persons interested in child care. It is published monthly by Child Care Networks. Suggestions, information, and articles are welcomed and printed as space permits. Mail information to:

Marilyn Grubbs, editor  
Chatham Child Care News  
P.O. Box 1531  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

or call (919) 542-6644, extension 21.

Contributors: Brenda Foxx, Marilyn Grubbs, Connie McAdams, and Melanie McBryde

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Pittsboro, NC 27312

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