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WINTER 2012

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TRAILS Program Celebrates Ten Years of Service

By WILLETTA BOLINGER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The TRAILS (Traveling Resource and Information Library System) program celebrated ten years of service to child care providers in West Virginia this year. TRAILS is a lending library that can be utilized for free by child care providers. Providers can borrow an assortment of resource materials, such as books, CDs, computer software, outdoor equipment, games, manipulatives, etc., from the program. TRAILS also has a variety of items such as highchairs, cots and pack and plays in stock.

The MountainHeart TRAILS program offers services throughout our 15 county service area. The Martinsburg TRAILS team of Janet Aitchison (Early Childhood Specialist) and Jennifer Gorman (TRAILS Associate) provides services to Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral, Morgan and Pendleton counties. Janet and Jennifer can be contacted at 304-262-1584 or toll free at 1-888-915-7653. The Grafton TRAILS team of Cheryl Wolfe (Early Childhood Specialist) and Lori Dameron (TRAILS Associate) provides services to Barbour, Lewis, Preston, Randolph, Taylor, Tucker and Upshur counties. Cheryl and Lori can be contacted at 304-265-0142 or 1-877-811-5437.

Lori Dameron and Janet Aitchison have both worked in the TRAILS program since its inception. They have provided 10 years of service to MountainHeart and the child care providers in Region V. Congratulations to Lori, Janet, Cheryl and Jennifer, as well as the TRAILS program statewide, in celebrating 10 years of service!



Jennifer Gorman & Janet Aitchison



Lori Dameron & Cheryl Wolfe



Earl D. Smith,
Executive Director
Willetta Bolinger,
Program Director & Editor
Tara Bowley, Melodee
Price, Publishers
Norm Miller, Design
Articles Submitted by:
MountainHeart Professional Development Team

Save The Date!

WHAT: Celebrating Connections
WHEN: February 21-24, 2012
WHERE: Charleston Civic Center, Charleston, WV

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

www.wvearlychildhood.org/Celebrating_Connections.html

Alyson Edwards at (304) 529-7603, ext. 401

or aedwards@rvcds.org



2012 Celebrating Connections
Feb. 21-24, 2012 • Charleston Civic Center
Keynote Speakers: Shawn Brown & Stevie Spangler



Using Pretend Play to Support Learning

By SUZI POLGAR, BEHAVIOR CONSULTANT

How would you like it if you knew that the preschoolers in your home or center could talk and play happily and cooperatively with each other, plan and carry out constructive play activities on their own, and manage their feelings without melting down? We don't expect smooth sailing all the time, but we all want to encourage the development of the children's social skills every day. One way to encourage social development is to provide rich opportunities for dramatic or "pretend" play. By planning for dramatic play, adults can offer "hands on" learning experiences that are truly meaningful to the children in their care. Dramatic play supports each child's effort to make sense of the world around them, on their own terms. And by observing dramatic play, adults are given an important glimpse into the world as the child understands it.

Here are a few of the things you can do to encourage preschooler's involvement in dramatic play:

- Schedule plenty of time for dramatic play. Preschoolers need time to agree on a topic of play and to develop the roles they will play. Extended planning and play time help children develop stronger language, literacy, and social skills.
- Help children plan what they will play, what roles they and their friends might take, and how to sustain their play. Shy or less skilled preschoolers may need the teacher's help to enter other children's dramatic play activities.
- Provide real, everyday objects (things like pots and pans, measuring tapes, eggbeaters, wooden spoons, measuring cups, hammers, wood, hard hats, baby dolls, cook books, curlers, a cooler). Many centers have kitchen areas and dolls for playing "house". With a few additional props, the children will enjoy pretend play around a variety of themes. Think about items that you can place in your setting to encourage children to pretend to camp, take a picnic, be a doctor, be a police officer, be a farmer, be a fire fighter – the possibilities are endless!
- Provide unstructured, open-ended materials (boxes, scarves, note pads, pencils).
- Books, field trips, and classroom visitors often encourage new dramatic play themes.

During the preschool years, pretend play helps children learn to make friends and to develop and practice new skills. By observing dramatic play, adults can learn a great deal about the child's development of social, communication, and cognitive skills.

"Learning is experiencing, everything else is just information." - Albert Einstein

INFLUENZA

By SARAH HICKS, NURSE HEALTH CONSULTANT

Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness. Don't get this confused with gastroenteritis (the stomach flu or stomach bug). The flu can cause mild to severe symptoms that come on suddenly. Someone with the flu may have some, or all, of the following symptoms:

- Fever and chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue or tiredness and vomiting and diarrhea (more common in kids).

Most people will recover in a few days. Some (especially those at high risk) will develop complications. One serious complication is pneumonia, which can be life threatening and has the potential to result in death. Other complications could be bronchitis, sinus and ear infections, and asthma attacks in those with a history of asthma. People considered at "high risk" are:

- The elderly (65 or older), people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, pregnant women and young children.

Infection control, vaccination, and healthy lifestyles are a few ways to help prevent infection with influenza. Good hygiene, such as frequent hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, can prevent the spread of infection, as can proper disinfection and cleaning. Healthy habits and lifestyle such as regular exercise, good nutrition, and getting plenty of rest allows your body to fight off infection more readily.

And last but not least GET YOUR FLU SHOT! The flu vaccine will help protect you and contains 3 different strains of flu. Contact your licensed health care provider about getting vaccinated, or look for flu vaccine clinics held by your local health departments.



Snow Experiences

By WILLETTA BOLINGER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Winter will soon be upon us resulting in a four letter word that some people just love....SNOW! This time of year gives child care providers, parents and grandparents an excellent opportunity to use the abundance of snow for learning activities. Experiences with snow could include:

- Texture analysis (soft vs. hard)
- Acquisition of language skills by use of descriptive words (the snow is cold, white, fluffy, soft, etc.)
- Scientific observations, such as what happens when the snow is brought into the warmth
- Looking at the snow with a magnifying glass and describing what they see
- Adding powdered tempera paint to change the color of the snow and then painting with it
- Creating items from the snow
- A game of Toss the Snowball into a Basket
- Measuring the temperature of a pan of snow (noting that as the temperature gets warmer the snow begins melting)

Follow up activities could include:

- Drawing pictures of snowflakes using different art supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils, ink pens with silver or white ink, chalk, etc.)
- Creating snowballs from available art materials
- Having books about snow and winter available to read
- Going outside and observing the falling snow
- Observing the snow clouds
- Building a snowman or fort

This is just a small sample of ideas using snow. Use your and the children's imaginations to think of additional ideas that prove to be educational and FUN for everyone. Keep warm and enjoy the snow!!

"Play is the highest form of research." - Albert Einstein

Imagination Library

By LORI STUTTS, CASE MANAGER

Children across West Virginia are receiving free books thanks to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a non-profit organization that sends books each month to children up to age five. There are currently 36 counties across West Virginia participating in the Imagination Library Program. Grant, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton counties each held a separate event to promote eligible children to come out and sign up to receive age-appropriate books.



Amy Smith

In an effort to meet the goals of the Imagination Library, each event promoted excitement about reading by having kid-friendly entertainment, including reading corners, magicians, balloon artists, and even exotic animals from a local zoo. While the kids were having fun, parents gathered information from the booths by state and local agency representatives, which included agencies such as MountainHeart, WIC, and local colleges. Hundreds of children signed up for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library across Grant, Hardy, Mineral, and Pendleton counties, making each event a huge success!



ACDS Instructors Academy

The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist (ACDS) is preparing for the annual Instructor's Academy to be held June 25 – 29, 2012. Participants must complete an intensive five day training to teach the ACDS class. They also must attend a one day update every other year to continue certification. The Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist program is always looking for new instructors all over the state. From a personal perspective, being an instructor has been a wonderful experience. It is very rewarding to witness the growth and development of students as they begin the program to completing fourth semester and then ultimately graduating. Many gain the confidence to continue their education and receive their associate and/or bachelor's degree. What a testament of the success of the program!

If you are interested in this wonderful opportunity to continue your professional development and sharing your knowledge, please contact Sherrie Barrett at 304-523-0433 or sbarrett@rvcds.org.

Health and Safety Grants Still Available

There are still grants available for the 2011-12 provider health and safety grant period.

This grant is available to family child care facilities and family child care providers **who accept subsidy payments** for children in their care. (The grant **may** be available for unsubsidized providers in the future. If this occurs, a notice will be posted on our agency website.)

For more information and the grant application, please visit our website at www.mountainheartwv.org/ccnorth.

The grant period will end March 30, 2012 or when funds are depleted.

Read Across America

Those who are six, sixteen, sixty-four, and more have all kinds of great events in store for the National Education Association's annual observance of NEA's Read Across America. NEA is calling America's children, both young and old, to reward their learning by celebrating the joys of reading on Dr. Seuss's birthday.



Readers of all ages are encouraged to celebrate, so please mark your calendars now! For more information about how to generate excitement for reading among America's children and their families and about best practices for motivating and teaching reading, visit:

www.nea.org/readacross

Tri County Association

The Tri County Providers Association meets on the fourth Monday of the month, January thru June and September and October. Meetings are from 6:30 – 8:30 at the Inwood Family Worship Center, 28 Lafayette Lane, Inwood. Tricia Sheely will present "Total Quality Care", providing 2 hours STARS training, January 23rd. More information or to register, contact Paula Wahler at Wahler1@frontier.com or 304-274-3467.



2012 Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference

April 27 & 28, 2012

Big Sandy Superstore Conference Center

You won't want to miss keynote speakers
Gaia and Terry Smith!

Leadership Institute

April 26, 2012

Marshall University

Speaker: Karen Penetta



VITA/EITC Program

By CATHY FISHER, EASTERN PANHANDLE
EITC SERVICE MANAGER

VITA is a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program in which volunteers are trained to file income tax returns through an IRS program called TaxWise. MountainHeart staff are proud to be volunteers again this year. This program is not limited to MountainHeart staff. Anyone can become a volunteer. Volunteers are needed for all aspects of the program— from being greeter/screeners to being tax preparers. IRS provides free tax law training, e-file training and all the materials needed to prepare basic individual income tax returns. The hours can be flexible. Volunteers are asked to volunteer an average of three to four hours per week from mid-January through the tax deadline which is April 17, 2012. Sites are located throughout all of our areas. This service is free to the customers having their taxes filed. There is no charge for preparing the taxes or for filing the taxes. This program offers the option of having your return direct deposited which results in quicker access to your refund. The return does not have to be direct deposited if the customer does not wish to use this option. Because this is a volunteer program, the preparers are waived of liability issues. Also because of this being a volunteer program, the preparers are focused on the “simple” returns. Volunteers are not expected to learn complicated returns such as self employment and other complex situations. If you would like to volunteer with this program or would like to use this service, you may contact any of the MountainHeart offices for additional information.



Attention Providers!!!!

Have questions about your check?

Try **FACTS PLUS!**

FACTS PLUS allows you to check the status of your check on the Web.

For more information and to request a new account, please visit:

<https://facts.wvdhhr.org/factsplus/>

SECA Conference



63rd Annual SECA Conference
Hyatt Regency San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas
February 2-4, 2012

For more information, please visit:
www.southernearlychildhood.org



MountainHeart News & Notes

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the following providers for completing the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Program in 2011. The children and parents of WV appreciate their hard work and dedication to improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers.

- Erynn Johnson-Kid Care CDC
- Amber Triplett-Kid Care CDC
- Holly Thompson-Youth Health Service
- Gabriela Chapman-Youth Health Service
- Krystle Gluck-Small Discoveries Preschool
- Johanna Lawson-Tiny Tots Village
- Sarah Hurlock-Facility
- Danielle Ayuso-Teddy Bear Preschool
- Megan Fisher-Little Eagle Child Care Center
- Martha Crouse-Little Eagle Child Care Center
- Melissa Britner-Little Eagle Child Care Center
- Nina Mazelev-Children First CDC
- Stephanie Chuvaes-Children First CDC
- Marjorie DeHaven-Happy Hands Childcare
- Sadie Welburn-Romney Little Rascals Daycare
- Stephanie Buckley-Romney Little Rascals Daycare
- Jessica Lowery-Romney Little Rascals Daycare
- Ashley Lewis-Romney Little Rascals Daycare
- Diane Dinoso-Little People Daycare Center
- Zabrina Mabin-Little People Daycare Center
- Heather Shirk-Teddy Bear Daycare Center

Congratulations to Small World Preschool in Fort Ashby for completing the year-long Infant/Toddler Quality Improvement Program (ITQuIP). They worked hard and it shows. The children and families will benefit from your dedication to quality care.

Welcome To Our Team!

Suzanne Hess is the new clerical for the Grafton Office. She grew up in Bridgeport, WV, and attended All Saints Grade School and Bridgeport High School. She graduated from Fairmont State College with a Associates Degree in Business and Computer Information. She was employed for fourteen years with HUD as a Housing Specialist/Inspector. She resides in Bridgeport with her husband Kerry. She enjoys spending time with their 4 children and 9 grandchildren. She also enjoys decorating, traveling, camping, and golfing. She is looking forward to meeting and getting to know everyone at MountainHeart.

Amber Swisher is the new case manager in the Grafton office. She graduated from Fairmont State University in May 2011 with a Bachelors of Regents Degree with a concentration in Business and Family & Consumer Sciences. As a previous employee at Community Action in both Barbour and Taylor County, she has experience with case management. She resides in Grafton with her three boys, Noah, Aden and Bentley. She loves spending time with her family, scrapbooking, singing and playing bingo. She enjoys helping others and looks forward to serving the community!



Early Childhood Specialists Offering Technical Assistance

As a child care provider in an early childhood setting, you may find that you need some extra help setting up your classroom, preparing for activities, or maybe handling stressful situations with parents or children. It's important to know when to ask for help, and that the staff at MountainHeart Child Care Resource and Referral can assist you. The Early Childhood Specialists at MountainHeart offer technical assistance visits to early childhood teachers employed at child care centers, as well as family child care providers caring for children in their home. The purpose of a technical assistance visit is to increase the quality of care that is provided to the children in our community. Through the process of technical assistance, child care providers will work collaboratively with an Early Childhood Specialist. Depending on the child care provider's individual needs, the Early Childhood Specialist will assist through the use of different resources, such as materials from the TRAILS van or modeling specific activities to try in the classroom/home. If you are interested in a technical assistance visit, please contact Tara Bowley, Early Childhood Specialist (304) 269-5332 or Melodee Price, Early Childhood Specialist (304) 637-2840.



MountainHeart News & Notes

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children

By TARA BOWLEY, EC SPECIALIST

Research has shown that fathers can have an enormous impact on children, from how well they succeed in school, to how they get along with their friends. Studies also show that when fathers are involved in their children's lives, their kids tend to be more independent and self-reliant. Yet society's stereotypes, and their own upbringing, often makes it hard for fathers to play an active role. However, this generation of dads is taking a more active role in everything from changing diapers to helping with homework, and it's paying off.

Research also shows the importance of having men in early childhood education. For more information on this topic, register to attend "The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children" in an area close to you or contact Tara Bowley, Early Childhood Specialist, at 304-269-5332 or toll-free at 1-866-232-9227.

MIND IN THE MAKING

The *Mind in the Making Modules* are a 12-part learning process that uses research on children's development on how children learn and how teachers can encourage engaged learning.

WV STARS Registered—45 hours

Training Credit worth 2 years!

Welcome to a very different kind of learning experience!

The *Mind in the Making Overview* is a quick look at the series and is **required** for child care center/facility directors to attend before sending their teaching staff to the 12 module series. By completing this class you will receive the *Mind in the Making* by Ellen Galinsky!

If you are interested in the *Mind in the Making Modules*, please contact Melodee Price at 1-877-862-3103 by March 1, 2012 for more information. The class will be held April-June 2012 and the location will be chosen based on the county with the most providers interested and will likely be the county in which class will be held.

Helping to Understand the Child Care Approval Process

By DIANA GILLISPIE, SUPERVISOR

When the parent comes into MountainHeart on day one, the parent will sign the Parent Service Agreement and all the demographic information is entered into the child care computer system.

If the parent does not have all the necessary verifications (such as, photo identification, proof of WV residency proof of child's citizenship, income/school verification, child support verification, etc.) at the time of application (DAY ONE), they are given 13 days to submit the necessary verifications. The parent is provided with a list of information they need to submit and the date they are to submit the information before they leave MountainHeart.

If the parent submits the necessary verifications within the 13 days, and are determined to be eligible, the case manager will open the case and mail the approval notification and Child Care Certificate to the parent and an approval notification to the provider. In this case, the parent's eligibility for subsidy begins on the date of the application or the date of DAY ONE.

If the parent fails to submit the necessary verifications within the 13 day period, the case manager will mail a denial letter to the parent on DAY THIRTEEN. In this case, notification is not mailed to the provider. Any child care used within the 13 day period becomes private pay between the provider and the parent.

Note: it is up to you, the provider, if you accept children during the 13-day approval period. There are some providers who accept children without a Child Care Certificate and some that do not. It is your choice.



MountainHeart News & Notes

MountainHeart Participates in “Take a Flower to Child Care Day”

By CHERYL WOLFE, LEANN ANDREW AND WILLETTA BOLINGER

MountainHeart Community Services celebrated *Take a Flower to Childcare Day* throughout Region V on Tuesday, October 18, 2011. The annual event was the inspiration of WV KIDS COUNT to show child care providers how much they are appreciated and the importance of their work. The goal of *Take a Flower to Childcare Day* is to raise public awareness about the important role high-quality childcare plays in the future of West Virginia.

Since 2008, WV KIDS COUNT has organized the annual, statewide celebration. WV KIDS COUNT is a non-profit organization whose goal is to make West Virginia a great place to be a child! To achieve that vision, for the past 21 years, WV KIDS COUNT has provided the most trusted data about the well-being of West Virginia's children and has built alliances to advocate for children's needs.

The regional *Take a Flower to Child Care* event was held at the Child Development Center in Buckhannon, WV. Flowers were donated by Anita's Flowers of Buckhannon to be presented to child care staff of the center. Parents of the children also showered the child care staff with flowers. Chuck Loudin, Director of CDC, and Janna Ware, Assistant Director, provided tours of the center to those visiting for the event. WBOY Channel 12 and the Record Delta newspaper provided coverage of the event.

The Grafton TRAILS Early Childhood Specialist Cheryl Wolfe delivered flowers to those child care providers who were scheduled for TRAILS appointments that day. The first two visits were in Belington, to the facilities of Yvonne Howell, Kids R Us, and Michelle Foy, Play N Learn. The remaining visits were in Philippi to the homes of Tina Johnson, Kathryn Channell, and Regina Daft. Each of these childcare providers were very surprised and appreciative of the flowers that had been delivered to them with their TRAILS visit that day. The flowers were donated by Bloomers, owned by Jacci Maier, of Grafton, West Virginia.

The Petersburg MountainHeart staff members presented flowers to two child care centers in their area. Those centers were Teddy Bear Daycare and The Little Place.

While real flowers are greatly appreciated, some families were very creative with the flower theme. Some of the children made flowers from craft materials and some drew and colored pictures of flowers to present to their child care providers. With one simple flower, you can tell dedicated childcare providers their work is important and you appreciate **everything** they do to support working families.

While the *Take a Flower to Child Care* event happens only once per year, we greatly appreciate all of the child care providers in our region every day. MountainHeart is very proud to work with high quality childcare providers on a daily basis. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our children and families.



Cheryl Wolfe & Jacci Maier



Michelle & Janelle Foy



Janna Ware & Chuck Loudin



Angela Tallman & Yvonne Howell



Kathryn Channell



Tina Johnson



Regina Daft



MH News & Notes

Medication Administration Training

Medication Administration training is being offered in our region. As per center licensing requirements, staff members who work in child care centers or Head Start and who administer medication must have medication administration training. These trainings are conducted through the WV DHHR Early Care and Education office & are WV S.T.A.R.S. approved.

- January 17, 2012 (Tuesday) at 12:00 pm in Ranson (Ranson City Hall)
- February 2, 2012 (Thursday) at 12:30 pm in Berkeley Springs (Morgan Co. DHHR)
- March 27, 2012 (Tuesday) at 5:00 pm in Weston (Lewis Co. Bd. Office)

You **MUST PRE-REGISTER** at least five (5) days in advance of the training session by calling the Elkins MountainHeart office at (304) 637-2840 or 1-877-862-3103 (toll free).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Staff members must be registered on the WV S.T.A.R.S. Career Pathway before taking the medication administration training. You will not be permitted to attend the training session if you are not currently on the S.T.A.R.S. Career Pathway. All participants will need to bring their S.T.A.R.S. Pathway certificate with ID number and/or their feedback letter from WV S.T.A.R.S. stating that they have been approved and their certificate will be mailed soon. **If staff attend the training and are not on the S.T.A.R.S. Career Pathway, the training will not count towards licensing requirements.**

The training session is 4 ½ hours long (including two 15 minute breaks).

Each participant must bring the following materials to the training: pen, paper, 1 pair of non-latex gloves.

Reminder: Children may not attend the training session.

WV Elements of Family Child Care Series

The WVEFCCS was developed for trainers and family child care providers to improve the quality of early care and education for our state’s children. WVEFCCS is a seven part series that provides an overview of *The Creative Curriculum for Family Child Care* and the *Family Child Care Environment Rating Scale-Revised (FCCERS-R)*. The topics range from “Becoming a Professional” and “Organizing Your Day” to “What Children are Learning” and “Working with Parents.” The series is presented in 4-hour sessions with two technical assistance visits to ensure training objectives are met. This totals 30 hours of professional development. The WV Elements of Family Child Care Services is a special opportunity to engage with other family child care providers in a small group classroom experience. In addition, you will receive the Creative Curriculum manual and the FCCERS-R handbook.

You must be registered with WV STARS prior to being able to participate in this training, and you must be caring for subsidized children to receive free resources at the completion of the classes.

Elkins Site: Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church: 450 South Randolph Avenue, Elkins, 26241

Buckhannon Site: Fred W. Eberle Technical Center: Rt. 5 Box 2, Morton Avenue, Buckhannon, 26201

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| February 9, 2012 – Thursday, 5:00-9:00, Elkins | Module 1: Building a Firm Foundation |
| February 13, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Elkins | Module 2: Knowing How Children Develop and Learn |
| February 20, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Buckhannon | Module 3: Organizing Your Home and Your Day |
| February 27, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Buckhannon | Module 4: What Children Are Learning—Part 1 |
| March 5, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Elkins | Module 5: What Children Are Learning—Part 2 |
| March 12, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Elkins | Module 6: Caring and Teaching |
| March 19, 2012 – Monday, 5:00-9:00, Buckhannon | Module 7: Building a Partnership with Families |

If you have questions or would like to enroll in the class, feel free to call Melodee Price in the Elkins office (toll free) 877-862-3103 or use our local number 304-637-2840.



FREE RESOURCES UPON COMPLETION





Training Topics Offered January - March 2012

An Overview of the WV Early Learning Standards Framework for Infant and Toddlers. *Core Knowledge: Child Growth and Development.* Tier II. Target Audience: Child care providers working with infants and/or toddlers. This session provides an opportunity to explore the WV ELSF: I/T; its purpose, content, application, and benefits for professionals, programs, parents and children.

Making a Difference. *Core Knowledge: Health, Safety and Nutrition.* Tier I. Target Audience: All child care providers. This training will count towards two hours of child abuse and neglect that is required of center based staff within the first six months of employment; according to child care center regulations. Center staff need this training every three years after initially taking a child abuse class. Sarah Hicks will help you to know when and how to facilitate a family’s linkage to assistance and support before child maltreatment occurs. This training will focus more on preventative measures in regards to child abuse and neglect.

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children. *Core Competency: Positive Interactions & Relationships and Family and Community.* Tier I. Target Audience: All child care providers. Tara Bowley will teach this 4 hour training in which participants will learn about the impact fathers have on children and the importance of men in early childhood education.

Moving with the Brain in Mind. *Core Competency: Health, Safety and Nutrition.* Tier III. Target Audience: All child care providers. Moving with the Brain in Mind is a fun interactive training that focuses on how physical activity not only strengthens the body, but also helps to develop the brain and neural pathways throughout the body. Come and join Sarah Hicks, Nurse Health Consultant.

The Creative Curriculum and the House Corner/Dramatic Play. *Core Competency: Curriculum.* Tier III. Target Audience: All child care providers. The house corner is the area of the classroom dedicated to “playing house.” Melodee Price will teach what children can learn in the house corner, introducing themes in the house corner, how to arrange the house corner environment, and what materials/props are best for the area.

Toys for Toddlers. *Core Knowledge: Child Growth and Development.* Tier II. Target Audience: Child care providers working with infants and/or toddlers. As a child care provider of infants and toddlers, you have to make many decisions about toy selection, display and arrangements. The key is to match toys to the children’s abilities, interests and needs. Melodee Price will provide you with ideas for home-made toys for infants and toddlers. Make and take.

“Learning is experiencing, everything else is just information.” - Albert Einstein

TRAILS TIPS

By JANET AITCHISON, TRAILS EC SPECIALIST

It is amazing to me that 2011 is almost over. This year marked the tenth anniversary of the TRAILS program. It has been a fun and challenging ten years. I hope you have enjoyed the TRAILS program and benefited from it as much as I have enjoyed bringing it to you! Have a safe, and fun filled holiday season. Be good to yourself and keep it simple!



Tentative Schedule for Future WVIT Classes

If you are interested in attending the West Virginia Infant Toddler program, please contact Shannon Nichols in the **Weston office at 1-866-232-9227** for more information. Space is limited and filled on a first come-first serve basis. The county with the most providers interested will likely be the county/counties in which class will be held.

March-June 2011- James Rumsey Technical Inst.—Berkeley Co.

July-October 2011- Grant, Hardy, or Mineral County

November 2011-February 2012 – Barbour, Lewis, Upshur or Randolph County

WVIT Classes beginning after January 1, 2012 will no longer be receiving stipends. Classes that start before the end of 2011 will still be eligible for stipends. Any new classes started after the first of the year will not be offered stipends.



Training Calendar for January-March 2012

Barbour County

Philippi Baptist Church: 107 Church Street, Philippi 26416

Toys for Toddlers	1/7/12 (Saturday)	9:30-11:30
The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play	1/7/12 (Saturday)	12:00-2:00

Berkeley County

James Rumsey Technical Institute: 3274 Hedgesville Road, Martinsburg, 25403

Moving with the Brain in Mind	1/17/12 (Tuesday)	6:00-8:00
The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	3/8/12 (Thursday)	5:00-9:00
An Overview of the WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers	3/12/12 (Monday)	6:00-8:00
Toys for Toddlers	3/27/12 (Tuesday)	6:00-8:00

Grant County

Grant County DHHR: 15 Grant Street, Petersburg, 26847

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	2/16/12 (Thursday)	12:00-4:00
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MountainHeart: 93 South Grove Street, Suite 1, Petersburg, 26847

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play	1/4/12 (Wednesday)	12:00-2:00
Toys for Toddlers	3/20/12 (Tuesday)	12:00-2:00

Hampshire County

Hampshire County Public Library: 153 West Main St., Romney, 26757

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play	1/11/12 (Wednesday)	10:00-12:00
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Bank of Romney: 95 East Main St., Romney 26757

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	2/9/12 (Thursday)	5:00-9:00
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Hardy County

Hardy County Public Library: 102 North Main St., Moorefield, 26836

Moving with the Brain in Mind	1/18/12 (Wednesday)	11:00-1:00
Toys for Toddlers	3/6/12 (Tuesday)	10:00-12:00
An Overview of the WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers	3/12/12 (Monday)	12:00-2:00

Jefferson County

Ranson City Hall: 312 South Mildred Street, Ranson, 25438

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play	1/3/12 (Tuesday)	12:00-2:00
Medication Administration	1/17/12 (Tuesday)	12:00-4:00

Lewis County

Lewis County Board of Ed. Building: 239 Court Ave., Weston, 26452

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	1/25/12 (Wednesday)	5:00-9:00
Medication Administration	3/27/12 (Tuesday)	5:00-9:00

Mineral County

Wee Care Day Care: 2084 New Creek Way S., Keyser, 26726

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	1/21/12 (Saturday)	10:00-2:30
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Mineral County DHHR: 18 North Tornado Way, Keyser, 26726

Making a Difference	3/29/12 (Thursday)	10:00-12:00
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Morgan County

Morgan County DHHR: 62 Regal Court, Berkeley Springs, 25411

Medication Administration	2/2/12 (Thursday)	12:30-4:30
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Preston County

First Presbyterian Church Day Care Center: 106 E. High Street, Kingwood, 26537

Moving with the Brain in Mind	2/28/12 (Tuesday)	12:00-2:00
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Preston County DHHR: 18531 Veteran's Memorial Highway, Kingwood, 26537

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children	3/22/12 (Thursday)	10:00-2:30
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Training Calendar for January-March 2012 continued

Randolph County

Youth Health Service, Inc. 971 Harrison Ave. Elkins, 26241

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play 1/16/12 (Monday) 5:30-7:30

Randolph County DHHR: 1027 North Randolph Avenue, Elkins, 26241

The Importance of Men in the Lives of Children 3/15/12 (Thursday) 10:00-2:30

Taylor County

Taylor County Public Library: 200 Beech Street, Grafton, 25354

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play 1/10/12 (Tuesday) 10:00-12:00

Toys for Toddlers 2/14/12 (Tuesday) 10:00-12:00

An Overview of the WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers 2/27/12 (Monday) 12:00-2:00

Tucker County

Board of Education/FRN building: 501 Chestnut St. Parsons, 26287

Making a Difference 1/30/12 (Monday) 6:00-8:00

Moving with the Brain in Mind 2/27/12 (Monday) 6:00-8:00

Upshur County

Upshur Co. Public Library: RR 6 Box 480, Buckhannon, 26201

The Creative Curriculum: House Corner/Dramatic Play 1/24/12 (Tuesday) 10:30-12:30

An Overview of the WV ELSF for Infants and Toddlers 2/27/12 (Monday) 5:00-7:00

Toys for Toddlers 2/28/12 (Tuesday) 10:30-12:30

To register for trainings, please call the Elkins office at 1-877-862-3103 or 304-637-2840.

You must register at least 5 days before the scheduled training. It will be rescheduled for a later date but, if schools are closed in the county that a training is being held, then the training is automatically cancelled.



Child Care Resource & Referral Division

1200 Harrison Avenue, Suite 220

Elkins, WV 26241