The Dan

Professional



A newsletter for the early learning and care professional, creating a bridge between research and practice in the field

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The Keys to Satisfaction Lead to Quality Care

Samantha Harper, RECE. Professional Resource Coordinator, Conestoga College

Research tells us that, in the field of early childhood education, job satisfaction is directly linked to the quality of care provided. There are also numerous studies that support the benefits that quality care provides for young children. This information has been available to us for quite some time. Even though this information has been around, we struggle with retaining staff and attaining personal job satisfaction.

Job satisfaction and staff retention is an intricate construct that is affected by numerous elements. Some of these elements outlined by the Quality by Design Project (2007) include leadership, continued education, wages, working conditions that encourage good morale and low turnover, systems of support, as well as respect and recognition for the work we do. Some of these elements are very complicated, and resolving them requires a lot of consultation, discussion and action on many levels of community and government. Other elements, while also complex, seem to have a more direct connection to individuals and therefore we can comprise attainable steps toward achieving

Continued Education: Research tells us that early childhood educators value professional development and ongoing education. According to the *You bet I CARE*

(2000), Canadian wide study, 76.2% of educators participate in professional development. According to Debbie Jones, Supervisor of Quality Initiatives for the Region of Waterloo, last year 83% of childcare centres participated locally in Raising the Bar, a quality initiative. Of those child care centres, 39% obtained a gold status for professional development meaning that each staff member participated in a minimum of 8 hours towards training and professional development. This information tells us that early childhood educators in our community recognize the value of ongoing learning. We at the PRC are excited to be a part of this process with you. We invite you to attend workshops and seminars that you view as beneficial to your growth. Continuing education is

growth. Continuing education is one attainable step that supports confidence and professional competence and keeps us moving toward change.

Get Involved: Employee participation is directly linked to employee commitment, job satisfaction and productivity (Bhatti & Qureshi, 2007). Employees who participate in organization events feel more connected and valued within

that organization. Getting involved could include; attending staff meetings, becoming part of a professional organization and attending local branch meetings, or joining networking and mentoring systems. Being a part of these groups contribute to your overall sense of value, and in return this effects your perception on the value of the work you do. The PRC is eager to bring you more opportunities to meet new people, build connections and create new networks. Getting involved is just one more step towards a sense of commitment, directly affecting your job satisfaction.

Systems of Support: In this profession we often find ourselves in the role of caring for others and we often forget about ourselves. It's important that we develop systems of support that encourage each other and offer opportunities to embrace relationships, share knowledge and reflect on our practices.

We invite you to work with us to make the PRC a place of networking and collegial support, building on a foundation of respect for each other and our profession.

Leadership: In addition to continuing education, attending

Continued on next page...

Building an effective work team

1. Define responsibilities:

Everyone should have a clearly defined role and understanding of their job responsibilities

- 2. Communicate goals: This way everyone begins in the same place and can see where the centre is going
- 3. Provide training: Equal training allows for everyone to grow. Training should be ongoing and reflect your current goals
- 4. Encourage relationships: Positive interactions amongst staff will carry over into their professional work.
- 5. **Provide Feedback:** Let people know where they stand, don't keep them guessing. Open communication helps staff to feel secure.
- 6. Help staff set personal goals: Where do they see themselves growing and moving? Help staff create goals that are measurable and attainable. This will also help you recognize what staff are seeking change or more responsibility from you.
- 7. *Meet regularly:* This provides a time and a place to reflect, create new goals and action plans.
- 8. Squash gossip and "back door" reports: It's important to avoid getting involved in gossip. Make a point of knowing what's going on in your centre to avoid others having to fill you in.

Reference: AllBuisness.com Inc. (2010). Accessed July 2010 from www.allbusiness.com/humanresources/employeedevelopment-teambuilding/11366-1.html

continued from page one...

workshops is a great opportunity to meet new people, build new connections and create new networks. While attending a workshop you may be surprised that you leave with more than just new found knowledge. You may discover that your contributions during the workshop were embraced by others as new information. We encourage you to exude your leadership skills and share your expertise and creating and delivering a workshop or seminar. Let us help you find the www.childcarequality.ca "inner leader" within!

Job satisfaction doesn't have to be the illusive mirage of our profession. Although we don't have all (2000). You Bet I Care! A Canadathe answers today on how to achieve total contentment, we do have plenty of steps to send us in the right direction. With opportunities to continue education, get involved in our community, cultivate our leadership skills and develop systems of support, we are well on our way to increasing our confidence within ourselves and for our profession. The Professional Resource Centre is the place for professionals to gather in support, share knowledge and strive for excellence. Together we can take these steps towards quality care, making a difference in the world of early learning and care professionals within our region.

References:

Bhatti.K., & Oureshi, M. (2007). Impact of Employee Participation On Job Satisfaction, Employee Commitment and Employee Productivity. International Review of Business Research Papers, 3(2), 54-68.

Childcare Resource and Research Unit. (2007). Quality by design: Elements of a high quality early learning knowledge with your colleagues by and care system. Retrieved July 9, 2010, from http://

> Doherty, G., Lero, D.S., Goelman, H., LaGrange, A., and Tougas, J. Wide Study on Wages, Working Conditions and Practices in Child Care Centres. Centre for Families, Work and Well-Being, University of Guelph, Ontario.

AWESOME READ!

Trying to see things positively can be difficult, but author Neil Pasricha, has captured moments in time with a renewed perspective. The book of Awesome asks it's reader to reflect back on life in a whimsical way, or look at the current world with a refreshed view. Either way this book will reel you in with its charm, witty analogies and stories.

Remember the childhood super jump?

"Close your eyes and let your brain slip back ...

You're a tiny tot holding big hands walking down a sandy beach. As the sun sets over the glittery water the salty ocean breeze hits your hair and your feet squish into cool sand as somebody suddenly vells out "1-2-3 Wheeeeeeeee!"

Your eyeballs pop, your chest

lifts, your hands are squeezed tightly, and up you go...

AWESOME!" (Pasricha, 2010). For more blog entries or information on how to purchase this book



visit www.1000awesomethings.com This book is a guaranteed smile, a flashback in time and a jump forward towards a positive outlook. Quite simply...it's awesome!

Raising The Bar News for Waterloo Region







A Quality Initiative for Waterloo Region

6TH ANNUAL FALL FOCUS OCTOBER 20TH, 2010 AT BINGEMANS MARSHALL HALL **MEET AND GREET: 6:30 PM PROGRAM: 7:15-9 PM**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, THIS IS AN EVENT YOU WONT WANT TO MISS!

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped with peer review. 2010/2011 ELCC binder recharge packages have been distributed. HCC, SA and SNR versions will be distributed this month.

> Raising the Bar on Quality WEBSITE is being updated this month There are 2 ways to access the RTB website: www.region.waterloo.on.ca Social Services >> Children >> Raising the Bar Or http://tinyurl.com/yd5d7da

Debbie Jones Supervisor, Quality Initiatives can be reached at 519-883-2111 ext 5044



Beginning with Books

Laura Dick, Literacy Librarian and Laura Reed. Coordinator of Children's and Teen Services. Kitchener Public Library.

of fun and exciting books in your space and programs.

Vocabulary or I Know Books! - Vocabulary is knowing the names of things. Choose books with a variety of words: familiar words, unfamiliar words, fun words.

Print Awareness or I See Words! - Noticing print, knowing how to handle a book and knowing how to follow the words on the page constitutes print awareness. Choose books that use print in a variety of ways, making the text a prominent feature of the book.

Phonological Awareness or I Hear Words! - Phonological awareness is being able to hear and play with the smaller sounds which make up words. Research indicates a strong relationship between phoneme (the individual sounds that make up a word) awareness and later reading success. Choose books that help children to hear and play with sounds.

Narrative Skills or I Can Tell a Story! - Being able to describe things and events and tell stories are all examples of narrative skills. Choosing books that are repetitive and that encourage children to predict what is going to happen next are ideal.

Letter Knowledge or I Know Words! - Knowing letters are different from each other, knowing their names and sounds and recognizing letters everywhere make up letter knowledge. Choose books which help children identify individual letters.

In subsequent articles, we will take a closer look at each of these skills and suggest books and activities to help you develop more literacy rich programming for the children in your care. Next month we'll get started by looking at print motivation.



before they actually start reading. According to the American Library Association's Every Child Ready to Read program, there are the 6 pre-reading or early literacy skills that children need to start learning from birth. By focusing on building these skills and by incorporating activities based on these skills into your programs, you can help to build capable, competent readers. Over the next few months we will be discussing each of these

What is Early Literacy? It is

everything that children know

about reading and writing be-

fore they can actually read or

dren get ready to read years

write. Research shows that chil-

skills, but for now let's have a brief look at each skill:

Print Motivation or I Like **Books!** – It all starts with print motivation – an interest in and enjoyment of books. This one is easy, just be sure to include lots

Getting Connected for Early Literacy Learning

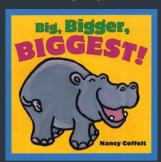
Full Day Conference Saturday October 16, 2010 At Conestoga College

Presented in partnership by: The Early Literacy Alliance of

Waterloo Region and Conestoga College For more information about early literacy events including this upcoming conference visit our blog at:

www.earlyliteracyalliance.blogspot.com

Children's Book - of - the Month



Big, Bigger, Biggest! by Nancy Coffelt

We love this book. It is a simple book that encompasses many of the six preliteracy skills. You can see on the cover that BIGGEST is also the biggest word, an excellent concrete connection for print awareness. Inside, it is full of fantastic vocabulary. For each adjective it provides creative synonyms and antonyms. Words the children have probably never heard before, words we probably can't spell, words that are fun to read, to say, to learn. A dinosaur is not just the biggest, it is humongous, it is colossal. Imagine a precocious preschooler saying she is somnolent instead of sleepy. Too fun.

If you have any questions about books or early literacy, please send us an email!

Laura.Dick@kpl.org Laura.Reed@kpl.org

Symbolic representation for visual recipes

Support early literacy skills by using symbolic representation for recipes. This can be done by drawing the recipe out, using visual aids and labeling the recipe using words, letters, numbers, symbols and pictures.

Use programs like *Boardmaker* (available at the PRC), or images pulled from the internet to create your picture recipe. You can even draw the recipe.

Start simple:

Print the recipe for all children to see. Use pictures with the words.

For each ingredient have a photo or a drawing of the item.

Flour =



3 cups of flour becomes:





3 Three cups flour
Add pictures to describe actions



"Mix"

Have children draw their own experiences from cooking. Post their reflection and representation of the project. This is also great for documentation purposes!



Samantha Harper, RECE Professional Resource Coordinator

Pull out the whisks, the measuring spoons and aprons because it's time to get cracking and create some tasty science and tangible math experiences right in your very own kitchen or classroom!

Cooking provides many opportunities for young children to build and develop math, beginning literacy and independent living skills. Its a science lesson without the text book and exotic components, instilling a sense of magic in the common kitchen ingredients children encounter daily. Cooking is an opportunity to hypothesis outcomes, experiment with scale, taste, and combinations.

Let's take a closer look at the opportunities for learning cooking presents and link it with the early learning frame work.

- when children measure and scoop ingredients they are *determining quantity* and *counting*. Add a scale as well as measuring spoons and cups, make them accessible for children to use independently.
- When children use multiple ways to reach the same measurement (i.e. two half cups of flour to create one full cup) children are *comparing quantities*. Try making two or three batches of the same recipe finding different ways to measure your ingredients.
- They are also *representing numbers* from the printed recipe to physical volume when following directions for measuring ingredients. Physical involvement using materials can

Cooking connections

Where can you create hands on experiences that are full of opportunities for developing math skills? Bring out the whisk... it's time to get cooking!

- greatly enhance the understanding and retention of difficult concepts. (Scarlatos, 2006)
- When children separate the dry ingredients from liquid they are *classifying*, comparing, sorting and grouping those ingredients according to common properties. Try graphing your recipe ingredients, what do you use the most?
- When children begin to describe relationships between objects like "different", "smaller" and "bigger" than... or organizing the ingredients according to what comes next they are *seriating*.

Creating a visual recipe board using movable ingredient pictures and Velcro can help children to map out the recipe or-

der, labeling objects as "first", "then" and "after".

When children identify problems, like "there is egg shell is in the batter" or "there are three cookies and six children" it provides an opportunity for problem solving. Information is gathered and brainstorming solutions can take place. Get the group of children to count how many people will be eating the snack, and come up with a plan on how make sure that everyone

- gets a piece. Will they be equal?
- When children become inquisitive and feel safe to express their ideas, ask why and ask for clarification they are *questioning*. Invite children to ask questions. If you don't know the answer express that maybe you can look it up on the computer or in a book afterwards.
- Hypothesize what will happen if you add more, less or a different ingredient. Allow children to experiment with combinations and explore their results.

The benefits of cooking with young children are insurmountable.

Skills go far beyond developing basic math skills and can be linked to every domain of development as outlined in the early learning

framework (ELF). So raid your kitchen cupboards, and break out the mixing bowls because learning never tasted so good!

References:

Best Start Expert Panel on Early Learning (2007). Early Learning for Every Child Today: A Curriculum Framework for Early Childhood Settings in Ontario. Toronto: ON.

Scarlatos, L.(2006) Tangible Math, Interactive Technology and Smart Education, Vol.3 Iss:4, pp293.



Changing the Fall menu!

Dreaming about your summer still? Recapture the taste of a sunny destination to add to your menu!

Samantha Harper, RECE, Professional Resource Coordinator.

Mexican Black Bean Pizza

Listed below are the ingredients for one large pizza (10 slices). Change the amount to suit your child care centre!

1 large pizza crust (multigrain works well too!) 3 tbsp cream cheese 3/4 cup salsa

3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese 1/2 cup cooked black beans

1/2 cup cooked black beans (rinsed if they are from a can) 1/2 cup cooked corn

- 1. Preset your oven to 425* degrees
- 2. Spread your cream cheese evenly over the pizza crust
- 3. Spread salsa mix over cream cheese layer
- Sprinkle half the amount beans and corn over the salsa

5. Sprinkle the shredded cheese to cover the whole pizza

- 6. Add the remaining corn and black beans over the top of the pizza
- 7. Place in the oven to cook for 10-12 minutes or until crust is golden brown
- 8. Turn oven to broil for the last 2 minutes to melt the cheese completely

These is a great vegetarian meal that is packed with protein and tasty!

Did you know?

"It takes children 5-6 times seeing and tasting something new before kids will decide they like it"? (Madson, 2010)

Reference:

Madson, D.(2010) Training children's taste buds, Ezine articles. Retrieved July 5, 2010, from http://ezinearticles.com/? Training-Childrens-Taste-Buds&id=3519497

Make your own salsa! Serve with nacho chips as a zesty afternoon snack!



5 large tomatoes (chopped)
1 small onion (chopped)
Hand full of cilantro (chopped)
1 tbsp lime juice
2 tbsp chopped garlic
1 tsp salt

Finely chop all ingredients and combine in a large bowl. If you have picky eaters in your class get them to help make the salsa! Using a tool like the "slap-chop" means that children can chop ingredients without touching a sharp blade! Serve with nacho chips and enjoy!

Want to know more about cooking with kids?

Check out these websites: www.childrensrecipes.com

http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/ cooking-with-kids/

http://ezinearticles.com/?Training -Childrens-Taste-

Buds&id=3519497

For more resources on cooking experiences check out these titles available in the PRC:

The Cookie Jar
Kit#MT001

This kit has everything you need to bake a batch of cookies, from recipes, to a cookie press, even stories about cookies. This kit relates math skills to cooking.



Cooking With Young Children Kit#MT002 This kit looks at visual recipes, and relates cooking to math.

Food Allergy & Intolerance Kit#HS001
This kit was created by RTB as a self learning kit for childcare centre cooks.

Nutrition Kit#HS002
This kit was created to look at healthy choices for young children. This is a self learning kit containing articles and research for review.

What's New in the Resource Centre Spotlight

Sony *SnapLab* Digital Photo

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and now you can have plenty to say with the SnapLab! The PRC is proud to offer it's members access to our photo kiosk where all your documentation photos can come to life. This machine has a variety of options and editing tools to enhance your photos. The PRC is ready to offer guidance and support for all of your documentation needs. We even have digital cameras available for loan!





Conestoga College ECE Apprenticeship Program

Are you currently working with young children in an ECE setting Do you hold an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent? Is your employer willing to sponsor your training and professional development? Interested in earning a College diploma in Early Childhood Education? Conestoga College and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities may have the solution for you! Explore this unique ECE Apprenticeship program--offering you the option of learning while continuing to work!

Part-time evening classes
College level credit courses offered at a
nominal fee.
Receive an Early Childhood
Education Certificate of
Apprenticeship from the Ministry
of Training, Colleges and Universities.
Explore this alternative pathway to a
Conestoga College ECE diploma!

Ready to Register?
Ministry of Training
Colleges and Universities,
Apprenticeship Branch
519-653-5758
or drop in at MTCU
4275 King St. East, Suite200
Kitchener, ON
N2P 2E9



For more information contact Cathy O'Toole Coordinator, Early Childhood Educator Apprenticeship 519-748-5220 ext 3603 cotoole@conestogac.on.ca



Full day Kindergarten is a hot topic for Ontario as our schools are moving forward with phase one

Schools in our area that will offer full day learning come September 2010 will be:

Cambridge
Chalmers Street PS
Dickson PS
Parkway PS
Ryerson PS
St. Ambrose CES
St. Gregory CES
St. Michael CES

this September.

St. Michael C St. Peter CES

Kitchener
Bridgeport PS*
Franklin PS*
Howard Robertson PS
J.F Carmichael PS*
King Edward PS*
Queen Elizabeth PS
St. Anne CES
St. Bernadette CES

Waterloo Cedarbrea PS Sir Edgar Bauer CES

Woolwich Floradale PS

Guelph Willow Road PS Brant Avenue PS Gateway Drive PS Priory Park PS

*will offer extended care, before and after school programs Schools that will offer full day learning come September 2011, part of phase two, will be:

Kitchener
Wilson Avenue PS
Forest Hill PS
Blessed Sacrament CES
St. John's CES
St. Teresa CES

Waterloo Winston Churchill PS

Guelph Laurine Avenue PS Tytler PS

Township of North Dumfries Ayr PS Cedar Creek PS

Extended care opportunities will be determined later on this school year for the year 2011.

For more information on full day learning check out these websites:

Waterloo Region District School Board:

www.wrdsb.ca/programs/ kindergarten-information/fullday-kindergarten

Waterloo Catholic District School Board: www.wcdsb.ca

Upper Grand District School Board:

www.ugdsb.on.ca

Early Learning Program Curriculum Link: www.tinyurl.com/2edo5c



What's New in

Childcare

Links to the news in Early Learning and Care

The AECEO for Waterloo-Wellington will now have a place to call home. The Local branch will be joining the Professional Resource Centre this September to create a home base for executive and branch meetings. The Professional Resource Centre will be working with the AECEO to keep all of our members informed of the happenings in the early learning and care community, provincially and locally. Look for the AECEO to have their own article in upcoming issues of our newsletter. As well as working together collaboratively to bring you the latest news, we will also join together in bringing innovative workshops and seminar sessions. The AECEO will be hosting meetings every third Wednesday out of the PRC. All upcoming events will be described in our Fall Professional Development Calendar.

In addition to meeting space, the AECEO will also have a collection box housed in the PRC. Any notes, questions or comments can be dropped off during operating hours. A messaging system has also been set up in the AECEO's name. Voice messages can be left at:

519-748-5220 ext 8026

Executive Board:

President......Cathy Barrie
Secretary....Sue Mathers
Treasurer.....Tracy Rees

For more news from the AECEO please check out their website at

www.aeceo.ca

Private Home Child Care (PHCC) Certificate Program

Are you interested in starting home child care or looking to strengthen your skills? If so, Register now for the PHCCC September 2010 semester and become a certified private home child care provider.

This part-time program consists of 11 PHCC courses (including 2 in home placements and 3 courses delivered in workshop format to cover

contemporary issues). Courses are currently being offered in the evenings at Doon campus.

Graduates will also have the opportunity to apply for Conestoga's ECE full

time diploma program with advanced standing. Successful completion of the PHCC certificate program allows students to enter the second semester of the ECE diploma program.

Available for registration:

ECE1200: Early Learning and the Developing Child 1 (45 hours)

In this introductory course students focus on understanding the physical. cognitive, and psychosocial development of infants, toddlers and preschool children. Students will gain knowledge about theories of child and human development, and current issues related to the process of human

development. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of play, environment and developmentally appropriate and responsive care and education.

ECE1230: Contemporary Issues 1 (15 hours, 13 hours are earned through personal attendance from professional development workshops)

Delivered in workshop format, this course will focus on specialized knowledge and skills specific to the home child care practitioner. Introductory exploration and analysis of selected topics with a specific theme will be indicated by title and Special topics will reflect contemporary issues relevant to the home childcare provider and will include but are not limited to business administration. work-life balance, professional communication, marketing, diversity, and reducing environmental impacts. The seminars provide an opportunity for caregivers to connect with each other and their faculty advisors for feedback, problem solving, and reflection relevant to each caregiver's placement experiences and the selected special topics.

ECE1260: Curriculum within the Home Childcare Setting (45 hours)

This course provides a comprehensive survey of methodology, materials, and environment required in order to provide curriculum that is sensitive to individual and group needs. The principles involved in planning, implementing and evaluating curriculum based on the needs and interests listed in college class schedules. of young children in group care are emphasized. The adult's responsibilities in developing and implementing curriculum in nature, science, blocks, mathematics, motor coordination, literacy, dramatic play, art, construction, social studies, music and movement, and the sensory activities will also be explored.

How to Apply to the program

Students may obtain a Conestoga College Program Application Form from any Conestoga College campus, OR by writing directly to the Registrar's Office, OR by using the college website at www.conestogac.on.ca/ registrar/forms

Send completed applications to:

> Conestoga College **Admissions Office** 299 Doon Valley Dr Kitchener, Ontario Canada N2G 4M4

Or Register On-line

www.conestogac.on.ca "Continuing education", then select "current offerings". "Community and Social Services" will lead you to "Private Home Child Care". Selecting this will lead you to registration (scroll down) for the courses that are available (ECE1200, ECE1230, ECE1260). You may register for one, two, or all three of the courses by selecting "Register" and then "Open", "Add to Cart" and finally "Checkout and enroll".

For course information Please contact: Tricia Dumais M.A Associate Faculty ECE 519 748 5220 x8269 tdumais @conestogac.on.ca

Members can now enjoy the benefits of Scholastic!

Scholastic Canada is coming to the PRC!

Scholastic Canada has always supported schools and childcare centres with their reading programs. In the past home childcare and smaller centres were often left out due to limited numbers in children participating in the program. This fall the PRC will be offering Scholastic to it's members. What does this mean for you? It means that you can now have access to placing orders and enjoy the discounts on educational books Scholastic offers. It also means that home childcare provid-

ers can pick up order forms to share with their families, collecting points with each order they place to put towards free books! This means new resources for your programs. Book Clubs include 3 main age groups, ELF for toddlers and Infants, SEE SAW for preschoolers, and LUCKY for older preschoolers and kindergarten children. The PRC will also be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair October 14—20. Join us for prizes, and literacy events. More details will be announce in the Fall 2010.

Hours for Sept 2010 PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

> Monday 10-6pm Tuesday 10-6pm Wednesday 1-9pm Thursday 10-6 pm Friday 10-4pm

Closed weekends

Conestoga College
ECE Building
299 Doon Valley Drive
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4M4
519-748-5220 ext 3388

The Early Childhood Professional Resource Centre Become a member today!

Did you know that being a member of the Professional Resource Centre is recognized as belonging to a professional organization? Our evidence based resources combine current research and quality materials to enhance your programs, and understanding of learning. Our members receive a monthly newsletter, discounts on in-house workshops, lending privileges for our library and access to our data bank of research and early learning and care articles. Members also receive updates on current information in the ELC community and have access to our work stations and equipment (laminator, computer, binding machine etc). Join today and discover the value of belonging to a professional organization that is invested in your professional growth, our community, and the future!







