



# Children Are Our Specialty

*Supporting Child Care Providers & Advocates in Our Community*

**April 2011**

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## CHAOS MEMBERS,

We had a WONDERFUL training in April that really inspired the ladies that went! We first went to the 4C office and used their resource room and are DEFINITELY going to plan that again in the fall! Then, we visited three accredited family based childcares that each had a different way of doing business. The first one was a mixed age group in a sunroom off the main part of the house, the second was a infant/toddler based age on the main level of the home and one bedroom upstairs for sleeping babies and the third was more preschool based in the basement of the home w/a separate entrance.

Some of the ideas that were brought away were:

- Printed out pictures of the kids that were laminated w/magnets on them for free play purposes
- Chalkboard on fence for outside time
- Different sized rubber ducks for spring theme and counting
- Stringing different sized and different colored buttons
- Water bottles filled with feathers, rice, corn, acorns, alphabet beads, chain, colored beads
- Homemade books of pictures of kids of youngest to oldest with counting 1-10, the number 10 being a picture of the provider and of books with different activities that the kids are doing
- Computer keyboard, business cards, real keychain and real keys for play in dramatic play
- Sea shells, sticks, pine cones, rocks for science area
- Safe place area w/sensory play bucket for kids that need a moment away from the group
- Kids exercise videos during rainy days that you cannot go outside
- Tree trunks at different heights for a balance beam
- Raised vegetable garden for science for the KIDS to plant and maintain
- Rubber connects for yard for babies to be outside so that it is open play
- Using referrals of actual parents w/family pictures on your business website
- Small containers with a letter on the outside with examples of it on the inside: B=ball, bell, button
- Visual baby monitors (I used Adams Security for mine 436-3997)

We have some great ideas flowing for next fall's training. One is another visit to 4C after a sensory training and a second one being a round robin at our own family daycares in Rock County with brainstorming and support for things that we are experience in our centers, both what works and things we need suggestions for.

If you have any other ideas that you would like to share, please feel free to get in touch with me at [zastysfcc@hotmail.com](mailto:zastysfcc@hotmail.com).

And, don't forget the Heartbeat conference in November. We had an awesome brainstorming meeting and will have a great training on either November 12 or 19<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know which date is chosen after it is confirmed at Blackhawk.

See you soon at the provider event at Blackhawk Tech in May! Remember, it is a free event for CHAOS members, so take advantage of this fun event!

Leah Zastoupil  
President

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

**Wed, April 13**      **Infant/Toddler CPR Training with AED**  
**6-9 pm at Mercy Hospital**  
**Prior registration is required to attend.**

**Thurs, May 5**      **Provider's Night Out**  
**Blackhawk Tech College, North Commons**  
**Keynote speakers: Colleen & Uncle Squaty**  
**6:00-9:00 pm Dinner will be provided**  
**Registration deadline: Friday, April 24**

**Fill out the form sent to you from Blackhawk Tech or RSVP to Michelle Riley [mriley@blackhawk.edu](mailto:mriley@blackhawk.edu)**  
**THIS EVENT IS FREE FOR CHAOS MEMBERS!**



**CPR/AED Trainings: Many dates, most in Madison, open to the public:**  
[http://arcbadger.org/media/First\\_Aid\\_-\\_CPR\\_-\\_AED\\_Courses.pdf](http://arcbadger.org/media/First_Aid_-_CPR_-_AED_Courses.pdf)

### TRAININGS BY THE 4-C'S FOOD PROGRAM

#### PR/AED Classes

*Presented by: Instructors from Pulse Check Plus*

Date: May 4 Time: 6:00 to 9:30 pm Location: 4-C Conference Room

Cost: \$80.00\* 4-C Members: \$60.00\*

Late Fee (workbook will not be mailed): Add \$5.00 per person

#### Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) & Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)

This workshop meets DCF (Department of Children and Families) requirements for Certification and Licensing.

Dates: April 21, May 26, June 16, August 18, September 22, October 20, November 17

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Location: 4-C Conference Room

Cost: \$20.00\*



### April is Autism Awareness Month

This is an especially important topic for early childhood professionals, as children with autism are often diagnosed as toddlers or during their preschool years. A preponderance of evidence indicates that including children with special needs in classrooms with their same-age peers has positive effects on all of the children in the setting. Early childhood classrooms should be welcoming children with autism by adapting the curriculum and daily activities to accommodate a variety of learning and behavioral needs.

The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) lists [five behaviors that signal further evaluation](#) is warranted:

- Does not babble or coo by 12 months
- Does not gesture (point, wave, grasp) by 12 months
- Does not say single words by 16 months
- Does not say two-word phrases on his or her own by 24 months
- Has any loss of any language or social skill at any age

So what can preschool administrators and teachers do to help recognize some of the behaviors associated with children with autism? They can ask questions and take anecdotal notes as tools for documenting and presenting information about a child. Download a [list of identifying questions](#) and [general tips](#) for interacting with children with autism. Early childhood administrators should make sure these tips are available to teachers to aid them in determining whether or not a child should undergo further evaluation.

## How to Bounce Back After a Bad Day

By: Mike Reading Site: <http://www.teacherstraining.com.au>



### Regain Perspective

Tomorrow is a new day. The worst thing about a teacher who has had a bad day is that the students go home and don't give your lesson another thought, yet we go home all tense and lose sleep over it. There is no point carrying yesterday's burdens into today – today will have enough of its own troubles without us needing to compound the problem.

### Reflect

What was the point where you lost control, or that you became aware that you had a battle on your hands? It helps to think through what were the events leading up to the tipping point. It is a fact that 95-99% of life is made up of habits or routines. Success psychologists say that 99% of all results (both good and bad) are built upon routines. If this is true then there is a 99% chance that something in your routine is causing your classroom management problems. Now I understand that we can all have one off bad days, but if you are constantly seeing the same results you need to change your routine!

### Refocus

What are you going to try or re-enforce? Once you have looked at your routines what are you going to try and implement? What are you going to change? Maybe it is the way the students enter the room. Maybe it is the way you state your expectations up front. The truth is there are almost an unlimited amount of things you can try, and the only way to find out what works for you is trial and error. Now don't go changing everything at once (that is a recipe for disaster!), but rather use your reflection time to narrow down on what is the number one thing you should change and start there.

### Relate

Talk to someone who is outside the profession about something that is completely unrelated to school and teaching. One of the biggest problems I see in the teaching profession is that teachers become so myopic and insular. Teachers hang out with teachers on the weekends, all they talk about in the staff room is what this student is up to and even when they go out for a staff dinner all they do is talk about students. One of the healthiest things you can do is talk to someone about anything other than teaching or classroom management. It will take your mind off your woes and give you another focus for a while.

### Rest

Don't lose sleep over this – your students aren't! After you have regained some perspective, reflected on your day, refocused on what you are going to do differently and related to someone outside the teaching profession get a good night's sleep. Your best chance of not repeating the dramas of today is to go back refreshed, full of anticipation that tomorrow things will be different.

*For a free eBook on this topic as well as other free resources on teaching and classroom management go to [www.teacherstraining.com.au](http://www.teacherstraining.com.au) and fill in your details.*

### Easter Egg Song

(to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star)

**Easter eggs, Easter eggs**

**Where are you?**

**Yellow, red and green and blue**

**Hiding here and hiding there,**

**On the table and under the chair.**

**Easter eggs, Easter eggs**

**Where are you?**

**Yellow, red and green and blue.**

## Kidlutions

A great online resource to teach social emotional development! Free articles and printables.

<http://www.kidlutions.com/>

**Helping you help kids  
with tough stuff:**

**Anger Management**

**Grief & Loss**

**Challenging Kids**

**Divorce**

**Self-esteem**

**Social-Emotional Development**

## 10 Things to make with FREE paint swatches

1. [Collage](#)
2. [Bookmark](#)
3. [Paint chip word family activity](#)
4. [Post It Note Pad cover](#)
5. [Color Matching Game](#)
6. [Sorting By Color Activity](#)
7. [Cards](#)
8. [Punch out shapes](#)
9. [Flower Project](#)
10. [Fine Motor Color Match Activity](#)

Other ideas: color poster (think Micky Mouse shaped chips), color flip book, brown colorways for feathers

## FREE Spring Ebook Crafts & Activities for Kids

<http://yourway.net/printables/spring-crafts-activities.pdf>



April hath put a spirit of youth in everything. ~William Shakespeare



<http://www.earlychildhoodwebinars.org/>

Recently I've found ECI. I've "attended" two online webinars. These are excellent webinars. Educational, inspiring and motivational.

- Webinars are FREE. Registration is required. A personal link is emailed to access the webinar.
- Webinars are interactive
- Recorded so you can login later
- Slides are available for download & reference
- Webinars are usually 1.5 hours
- Certificates of attendance are provided.
- CED's are not offered at this time (but webinars could be considered for independent study credits)
- Additional resources from professionals on their blog, Facebook and Twitter

Anyone who is interested may attend, but our presenters assume that the primary audience is early childhood administrators, program leaders, college instructors, researchers and/or other practitioners. Teachers and parents are always welcome to attend.

## Top 3 Methods to Communicate with Parents

1. Text messages
2. Mailboxes
3. Door Signs



Friday,  
May 6, 2011

## April 18

By Tom Copeland from his *Taking Care of Business* Blog



You've filed your 2010 taxes for your family child care business and are ready for a break! But wait, don't forget about the April 18th deadline for estimated taxes for the first quarter of your 2011 taxes!

It's true that April 18th is same deadline for your 2010 taxes and estimated taxes for 2011. Some child care providers get caught in this double whammy and end up owing lots of money.

Most child care providers, however, don't have to worry about filing estimated taxes. This is because their spouse withholds enough in federal income taxes to cover them.

Child care providers who most likely need to file estimated taxes are those who are single or who have a spouse who is unemployed or self-employed.

To file estimated taxes fill out [IRS Form 1040 ES Estimated Tax for Individuals](#).

If you are not sure if you or your spouse has paid in enough taxes for the first three months of 2011 you should make a tax payment with this form. Your goal is to have paid in at least 90% of the taxes you owe for this quarter to avoid paying a penalty. If you pay in too much you will get a refund.

How do you know how much you will owe in taxes? If you were in business in 2010 use last year as a guide. If this is your first year, use 20% of your gross income (parents fees plus Food Program income) as a conservative guess of how much you will owe.

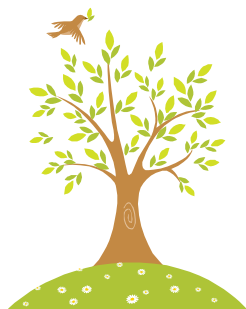
Lastly, check your records to see if you will owe any state income taxes. If so, make a state estimated tax payment by April 18 as well.

For more details on filing estimated taxes see my [2010 Family Child Care Tax Workbook and Organizer](#).

Won't we all be glad when April 18 is over?

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions about estimated taxes - [tomcopeland@live.com](mailto:tomcopeland@live.com).

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### We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.childrenareourspecialty.org](http://www.childrenareourspecialty.org)

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