



Children Are Our Specialty

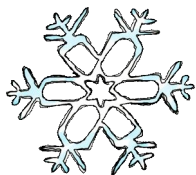
Supporting Child Care Providers & Advocates in Our Community



Jan 2011

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Want to help?
Help is always
welcome!

Hello! My name is Leah Zastoupil, and I am the new President of CHAOS this year. I have been an owner and operator of my family childcare, Zasty's Family Child Care of Milton, since June of 2005. I am licensed for 8 and stay pretty full throughout the year so I am very blessed.

As far as education history, I have my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education and was a Firefighter and EMT for five years as a volunteer in Footville.

I have been married to my husband, Todd, for almost 15 years and I have two kids, Aaron and Emily. Aaron is 11 years old and is in sixth grade, and Emily is 9 years old and is in fourth grade. They keep me busy with year round sports and I have been my daughter's Girl Scout leader for the past 4 years.

As far as my business goals, I have been feverishly busy getting ready for Young Star in my center. I am fortunate enough to be

working with 4C's to have had them observe me a few times now, which made me eligible for a grant for supplies for my daycare. I have been hearing mixed reviews on if family child care owners want to go through the hassle of getting rated by Young Star and only you truly know what is best for you and your site. But, I must ask you...is it worth trying to improve in order to get a raise from the state?

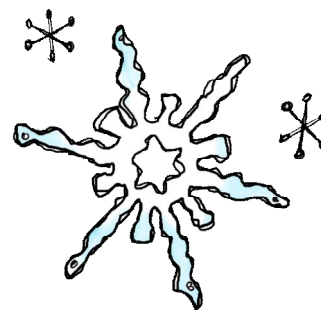
There are things that can be done that either doesn't cost money or little money that can make a huge impact on your space. Good will and the Dollar Store have great resources that are inexpensive to get started in the right direction, besides finding natural resources that are free or low cost. And, it only takes your time to move things around or research things on the internet, that are in the FCCERS book for higher ratings. What I am finding as I go through this process is yes, it is work and time consuming. But, I feel

that my site has REALLY improved and my kids are benefiting from the things that I am doing, which helps retain the kids that I have since the parents are happy. In the end of this process, I will get back the money that I am spending after the raises start in July, so it is a win win for everyone.

As far as CHAOS goals, I am hoping to have a positive, rewarding relationship with the board and members to have a successful year as we gain support, knowledge and continuing education needed for the upcoming year.

Have a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends and a safe New Year's Eve. I'll see everyone at the meeting in January!

Leah Zastoupil
President



January CHAOS Meeting

Please note the location of the CHAOS meetings has changed to Cargill in the Fireside Room, 2000 Wesley Avenue, Janesville 6:30 – 8:30.

We are also having a potluck. Please bring a finger foods or snack to share.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

- Thurs, Jan 13** **Raising Healthy Eaters:** Wishing your child would eat healthier? Not sure where to start? Join us and learn some tips from this workshop.
Exchange Family Resource Center,
Evansville High School, 640 S Fifth Street, Evansville, WI
6:30pm - 8:00pm
- Thurs, Jan 20** **CHAOS Potluck & Tax/Monetary Business Training for YoungStar**
Training Provided by Liberty Tax
Cargill (Fireside Room), 2000 Wesley Avenue, Janesville 6:30 – 8:30
- Thurs, Feb 17** **Multicultural & Disabilities: Ideas to Fulfill Requirements for YoungStar**
Cargill (Fireside Room), 2000 Wesley Avenue, Janesville 6:30 – 8:30
- Thurs, March 10** **Challenging Behaviors**
Training by Nancy Brooks, Exchange Family Resource Center
Cargill (Fireside Room), 2000 Wesley Avenue, Janesville 6:30 – 8:30
- Thurs, March 24** **SCAEYC: Portfolios for Children**
Rock County Job Center, Janesville, W Portfolios for Children
Rock County Job Center, Janesville, WI
6:30-8:30pm
- April** **Tour of Child Care Facilities**
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
- SCAEYC: Week of the Young Child**
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED
- May** **Blackhawk Tech Provider Night Out**
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

TRAININGS BY THE 4-C'S FOOD PROGRAM

Foods to Grow On	Wednesday, Jan 5	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Baraboo Public Library	Heidi Duren
Fit, Fun, Physical Activity with Kids!	Tuesday, Feb 15	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	4-C Training Room	Robin Hunter
Foods to Grow On	Monday, March 21	6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Jefferson County Workforce Development Building	Mary Schott



Heartbeat Conference 2011

Preparations for Heartbeat will be starting soon. Can you help? Do you have ideas?

Contact Lori Long: 608/757-0372 lorilong63@yahoo.com

Should Family Child Care Providers set up an LLC?

Tom Copeland's answer:

The short answer to whether or not a family child care provider should set up an LLC (Limited Liability Company) is no. Most providers consider setting up an LLC to try to reduce their personal liability risk in case a child is injured in their program. The problem is that it's not clear that having an LLC will give you some additional liability protection. Lawyers I've spoken with have said that being an LLC is not necessarily going to give you additional protection. Your best bet is to stay a sole proprietor (self-employed) and get a lot of business liability insurance coverage (\$1 million per occurrence and \$2-3 million aggregate). I cover the topic of LLC and other legal and insurance matters in detail in my book Family Child Care Legal & Insurance Guide (www.redleafpress.org). Tom Copeland

A bad attitude is like a flat tire. If you don't change it, you'll never go anywhere.

Make Dinosaur Eggs

- 2 1/2 cups salt
- 5 cups flour
- 5 cups sand
- 2 1/2 cups water.

Mix until like play dough. Then make eggs and put in coins, small animals or gems. Dry and children can break apart for a fossil hunt! Makes about 8 large eggs.

Online Resources

Milestone Mom

A therapist's guide to making milestone's happen
<http://www.milestonemom.com/>

Child Care Info

<http://childcareinfo.com/>

abc and 123 Learning

a Learning Cooperative
<http://www.abcand123learning.com/>

The Parent Report

Developmental Resources
<http://www.theparentreport.com/resources/ages/toddler/development/650.htm>

Kiboomu

<http://www.kiboomu.com/>
Kids songs & lyrics, crafts, printables, downloadable apps and sheet music

YoungStar Applications & Additional Resources for Providers

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm>

YoungStar Application Forms - Available Now

YoungStar providers must agree to accept children enrolled in the Wisconsin Shares subsidy program by completing the participation form below. In addition, providers must also complete the YoungStar participation request form and submit both forms to their [YoungStar Regional Office](http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm).
<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm>

YoungStar Provider Tip Sheet
http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/pdf/provider_tip_sheet.pdf

GOALS

The goals of CH.A.O.S. are in place to improve the quality of child care by providing our members the following support;

- * Monthly educational trainings and workshops, credited by The Registry to count towards continuing education hours, required by the county and state.
- * Monthly newsletter keeping you informed of upcoming events, child care issues, tips, ideas, recipes, important updates and more! Available on-line at www.childrenareourspecialty.org
- * Financial assistance, in the form of scholarships, to attend Local, State and National Conferences.
- * Annual Heartbeat of Child Care Conference, which is an all-day training opportunity for child care providers and advocates to learn about the latest topics, gain continuing education hours, and meet new people. Open to the general public. CH.A.O.S. members receive a discount on registration fees.
- * Opportunities to grow as leaders, mentors, and advocates in the child care field by holding a board position, chairing a committee, or climbing The Registry Career Ladder.
- * Social time in a positive environment to network, build friendships, share ideas and concerns and reap the rewards of being a part of a very important and needed profession...CHILD CARE!

CH.A.O.S.

CH.A.O.S. is a non-profit organization for Child Care Providers in Rock County and surrounding communities.

It was founded in 1984 as an in-home support group for Family Child Care Providers. Membership is open to all who advocate for providers, children and families.

We are a "by the provider, for the provider" led group, offering support, educational trainings, and professional growth opportunities for our membership.

The goals we have set forth are to benefit Child Care Providers, the children they care for, and the families in their communities.

If you have questions or comments regarding CH.A.O.S., or would like more information on how our organization can be of service to you, please feel free to contact us!

* Our membership trainings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month, September – May, with the exception of December.

* Non-members are welcome to attend one complimentary meeting, thereafter there is a \$5.00/training fee.

* For more information regarding CH.A.O.S. please contact:

Stacy Ransom
Membership Coordinator
608/290-3843

MEMBERSHIP

To become a member of CH.A.O.S. please complete this form and send with \$18.00 annual membership fee to:

Stacy Ransom
Membership Coordinator
3711 Teal Lane
Janesville, WI 53546
608/290-3843

editor@childrenareourspecialty.org

(Please make checks payable to CH.A.O.S.)

Name _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

Birthday: Month _____ Day _____

Can we include your name in our Membership Directory that is given out to each member?
YES NO

Would you be interested in volunteering your time on a committee or as a Board member?
YES NO

(Office use only)



Time to
renew your
CHAOS
membership
for 2011.
Membership
form
enclosed.

The Case of the Fading Receipt

From Tom Copeland's Blog Taking Care of Business

A family child care provider goes to a discount store, purchases an item for her business and gets a receipt. She carefully saves the receipt in a large envelope only to discover at the end of the year that the ink on the receipt has faded away until all that is left is a blank piece of paper.

What should the provider do?

Child care providers should be saving receipts for their business purchases for at least three years after filing their tax return. If the IRS audits this provider will they be sympathetic when they see an envelope full of blank pieces of paper? Probably not.

Here's what can be done.

Child care providers should report this problem to the store and ask that the store change the ink or paper on their receipts. Explain that you spend thousands of dollars per year at the store and that you may have to shop elsewhere unless they make a change. Or, ask the store to allow you to copy their receipts in their store (without charge).

If the store refuses to cooperate you can make a copy of the receipt on your own. (Save the photocopy receipt - it's tax deductible!)

Some child care providers write over the receipt with a ball point pen but this is time consuming.

You could purchase a scanner such as NeatReceipts and scan receipts directly into your computer.

There is no simple solution to this problem. As you review your receipts for 2010 check to make sure they are legible. If not, photocopying or scanning them is the only sure way to protect yourself.

CHAOS NEWSLETTER
3711 TEAL LANE
JANESVILLE, WI 53546



Happy New Year!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.childrenareourspecialty.org



NEW CHAOS MEMBERS WANTED!

Bring a new member (membership due at meeting) to the January CHAOS meeting and get a door prize! Membership form inside.