



Children Are Our Specialty

Supporting Child Care Providers & Advocates in Our Community



March 2014

President News

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CHAOS members,

Is it spring yet?? I think today it might officially be here now. Let's hope. I don't like to complain about the weather but I realize now that the sun is out how much is really affected me, and probably all of us in this great state of Wisconsin. I hope the warm weather keeps coming so everyone can feel better. We had a lot of illness here in February and into March so our days can only get better I think!

I'm sorry for the delay in the March newsletter and lack of newsletter in February. Lots of reasons and excuses but I'll leave it at that. It's not the way I like to do things!

There's much to look forward to in the next few months. The WFCCA conference is next month. It's always a great conference, check it out and register early. The discounted early bird registration is available until April 1: [BROCHURE HERE](#). CHAOS contributed a raffle basket this year. It's a basket of colorful craft supplies, worth about \$75. Lots of fun stuff in there! Here's a picture: Raffle tickets are 3 for \$5.00. The drawing will be held Saturday, April 26th at the WFCCA conference.



Next month the training will be provided by the Exchange Family Resource Center on child abuse prevention. The topic is Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth Serving Organizations. Lots of good information for all of us working with children. Please note the training STARTS at 6pm. Please make arrangements to be there early so you can attend the full training for your certificate.

In May we'll be celebrating Provider Appreciation Day! More details to follow.

Thanks for all you do for children, families and the community.

Stacy Ransom
President

CHAOS TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES 2014

Thurs, March 20 Green Cleaning
 Kathy Hetzel, UW Extension
 Room 1315 Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville
 6:30 – 8:30 PM



Thurs, April 24 Child Abuse Awareness Training
 Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Within Youth Serving Organizations
 Getting Started on Policies and Procedures
 FOR ORGANIZATION LEADERS

This training will enable organizations that work with children and youth to create safe environments for program participants, employees, and volunteers so that young people can grow, learn, and have fun. Organizations will have the opportunity to apply for policy and procedure technical assistance provided by the Exchange Family Resource Center upon completion of this training.

Room 1315 Blackhawk Technical College, Janesville
6:00 - 9:00 PM

Thurs, May 8 Provider Appreciation

YoungStar Training

Where: 4-C
 5 Odana Court
 Madison, WI 53719
When: Saturday, May 17, 2014
 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fee: \$25, lunch included
Funding: DCF – Race to the Top

Topic: Ages and Stages Questionnaire-3 (7 Hours)

Developmental screening is a proven strategy for identifying children's strengths and opportunities for growth. Come learn more about the Ages and Stages Questionnaire and how to empower parents to meet their children's needs.

Hours: 7.0

Registry Tier Level: 3

Quality Area: Learning Environment and Curriculum

Learning
 Objectives:

- Understand the purpose of developmental screening and the role of child care providers
- Understand how to use ASQ materials and have strength-based conversations about child development with parents
- Understand how to partner with community agencies and learn the referral processes for children with developmental delays

Nutrition Notes from Minute Menu Kids Pro

The human body is over 60% water, but research shows us that most people, including children, don't drink enough water during the day. If children are used to sugary drinks they're even less likely to ask for water. To encourage them to drink water during the day, consider keeping a pitcher that you've flavored with fresh fruit like orange, lemon, or lime slices ready. Watermelon balls and other fresh fruit might also encourage children to drink more water. Many people enjoy the flavor of sliced cucumbers in their water so don't be afraid to try something different.

Remember to wash the fruit or vegetables you want to use before putting it in the water. Try making up a pitcher of flavored water the night so the flavors meld and put it where everyone can see it so they remember to drink water during the day.

Childhood Obesity Rate Down

Although not strictly "nutrition" information, recent news is that the obesity rate in young children has decreased. No one single factor is responsible for this decrease but chances are it's the result of several things.

1. An increased awareness from parents and caregivers about the dangers of a diet high in fat and sugar content.
2. Renewed emphasis on serving fruits and vegetables at every meal.
3. Increased physical activity for young children.
4. A decrease in reliance on screen time to "entertain" children.

The child care field plays an important role in making this decrease - even a slight one - happen for young children. Keep up the good work. Continue to ensure that every child in your program is physically active every day. Remember to serve fruits and vegetables every day. Watch the fat and sugar content of the foods you serve.

Updated Plain Talk Brochures

Our nine Plain Talk brochures, written to help parents learn more about a child's patterns of growth and development (divided into age ranges from age one to six), have recently been updated and redesigned. Visit our YoungStar webpage for Parents <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/parents.htm> and scroll down to the bottom of the page for the list of Plain Talk brochures for parents.

What's New

While you might not consider yourself "political," there are several important things happening this year that directly impact the early childhood field. The first one is something you've likely been hearing a lot about on the evening news - the President's Early Childhood Initiative. This includes funding for an exciting new grant opportunity partnering Early Head Start - children birth through three - and child care. It's called the Early Head Start/Child Care Partnerships and is often referred to as EHS/CC Partnerships in news stories. This initiative has been funded for one year and offers communities incentives to form partnerships between Early Head Start programs and community based organizations. Watch for it - hopefully, to a collaboration near you.

You probably already know that the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) is scheduled for reauthorization this year - watch for more news and be prepared to e-mail or call your senators and representatives to support reauthorization efforts.

A third item for you to be aware of is that the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) is also up for reauthorization, possibly in early March. CCDBG has not been reauthorized since 1996. Whether you work with children in the child care subsidy program or not, this impacts you. CCDBG across the country supports quality improvement and professional development efforts in communities through the mandated quality set aside that is part of CCDBG. When you get an e-mail urging you to contact your folks in Washington, D.C. this is what you're being asked to support. Please make those calls - it's important to child care. It's important to families. But, most importantly of all, it's important to the children you work with every day.

YoungStar Related Trainings<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/training.htm>**Tips and Tools to Help Providers Prepare for YoungStar**http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/provider_tips.htm**YoungStar Frequently Asked Questions**<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/faq.htm>

CHAOS Membership/renewal fees will be \$20.00 for the membership 2013/2014 year that runs Sept - May. Individual trainings will be \$10.00 each for non-members. Please note the change.

CHAOS NEWSLETTER

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**We're on the Web!**

See us at:
www.childrenareourspecialty.org



NEXT MEETING: Thurs, March 20: Green Cleaning
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Technical College, Janesville 6:30 – 8:30 PM