

Free State News

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2010

Quality Rating and Improvement System

Special Points of Interest:

- Five Places to Advertise Your Daycare Besides Craigslist
- The Learning Collaborative—*School Readiness and You!*
- America After 3PM
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The development of QRIS began in the 1990s with States rewarding higher quality providers through higher subsidy reimbursement rates to those that were accredited. The first statewide QRIS was implemented by Oklahoma in 1998. Since then, 20 States have implemented, or are developing, statewide QRIS and most States are developing or exploring QRIS as a mechanism for organizing quality initiatives into one coherent system.

Awarded \$1,060,163 by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Child and Families, Maryland has now established a Council to help guide the development of the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS). The Council is chaired by MSDE Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmik and comprised of 31 members representing state and local agencies, early care and education provider associations, higher education, business and non-profit groups. Its principle goal - *the coordination and expansion of available high-quality early care and education across Maryland for children of all abilities*, by means of a statewide roll-out of the

QRIS, expansion of training on the social and emotional foundations of learning in young children, and increased access to early literacy, *all areas of need among early care and education providers.*

Over the coming months we will explore this "powerful policy trend" that according to the Alliance for Early Childhood Finance, "has the potential to unify distinct sectors of the early care and education market into a coherent system that is focused on producing quality services for children and families." **In the meantime, do your homework and feel free to send in your questions. Your question just might be chosen as the topic of next feature article!**

Sources:

<http://www.earlychildhoodfinance.org/qrisc>

<http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov/qriscresourceguide/index.cfm?do=qriscabout>

**"The QRIS will bring under one umbrella all of the various quality initiatives already in place."
- Liz Kelley**

MSDE, Facebook and You



That's right! It's not a misprint. The Maryland State Department of Education is on Facebook—the most popular social networking website today.

By means of MSDE'S Facebook page, users have access to "real-time information about MSDE initiatives and links to important education news." So, if Facebook is your thing, visit MSDE's page and choose "like" to become a fan and get up-to-the-minute news and information about the nation's number one ranked public school system.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Maryland-State-Department-of-Education/>



Message from President Janice Gray

MARYLAND PROVIDER

Maryland State Family Child Care Association

October 30, 2010

As I write this report, we are at the end of yet another successful and wonderful MSFCCA Conference, which we owe in large part to Cathy Greer, who has been nothing short of a hard working dedicated conference chair. For the past couple of conferences she has generated new ideas in which to shake things up and keep the conference new. This year I must confess that I had my doubts about the success of a Friday, Saturday conference, but it proved completely successful, so I apologize for any doubts I may have had. Another sign of success for this conference is that in the past, especially last year, we had many grant recipients going to the conference because it was being paid by the grant, this year we did not have that, and still had a great turnout.

Sadly however, this will be Cathy Greer's last year as Conference Chair, she has served us well and is now ready to move on to new endeavors in her life. We wish her well and want her to know how much we appreciate all she has done for this association.

I want to thank Frederick County Family Child Care Association for having us here today and hosting our meeting and providing lunch. I think it helps to take the meetings around the state and give all the local associations a chance to see what we are all about. Unfortunately it doesn't give all their members that opportunity, so I and several other Executive Board Members will be attending their membership meeting on November 16, 2010. I appreciate when local associations, our members, allow us to address their members and let them know what we are all about. I think this can only serve to foster continued support the MSFCCA which will keep us strong and successful and enable us to fulfill our "Mission Statement".

5 Places to Advertise Your Day Care Besides Craigslist

By Sheena Brockington

Let's face it, Craigslist is flooded with advertisements posted by home day care providers, nannies and stay-at-home moms, so you need more options as you set out to advertise your home day care. Before you begin advertising, be sure that you have colorful, well-designed business cards and brochures.

Grocery Store - Visit the customer service windows at your favorite local grocery stores, and ask if you can leave your brochures or business cards on their bulletin boards.

Facebook – Set up a business page for your home day care, or simply

use your existing Facebook account. Let your friends and family know when you're enrolling children. Encourage them to suggest your page to their friends and family, too.

Children's Boutiques – Moms frequent kiddie boutiques and consignment shops to pick up unique clothing and accessories for their little ones. Ask to leave your business cards or brochures on the counter, or ask to place an advertisement on the boutique's website.

Your Car – Advertise your home day care as you drive around your community running errands. Companies such as Vista Print offer magnetic car signage that can feature your day care's name, logo,

website and your contact information.

Community Fairs and Events – Rent a booth or a table, hang your day care banner and meet and mingle with the parents of the community. Prepare activities for kids to do at your table, or create a mini-coloring book kids can take home with them. Handout your business cards and brochures to interested parents.

No matter where you advertise, remember to make your home day care stand out from your competition. If you offer special hours, organic meals, Parent Date Nights, a kiddie fitness program or weekly language classes, let parents know.

Did You Know ...

That there are more children expelled from preschool than from grades K—12?

In most instances, the expulsion is due to behavioral issues. Fortunately, should you find yourself confronted with difficult behavioral issues there is help available.

The Maryland Committee for Children, which has a di-

rect relationship with the Early Childhood Mental Health Program (ECMH) offers behavioral consulting services to providers in Maryland. To receive consultation on how to deal with difficult behavioral issues, contact your local Child Care Resource Center (CCRC).

A listing of CCRC's can be found on page 7.

Major Recall: Drop-Side Cribs

On December 15, 2010, the U.S. Product Safety Commission's 5-member panel decided to ban the drop-side designed cribs which have been linked to at least 32 infant deaths from falls or strangulation since 2000. As a result licensed daycare centers and family providers, and hotels have two years to replace drop-side cribs with sturdier cribs, which also gives crib makers time to meet the anticipated surge in demand and to ease costs.

For more information visit:
<https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>

Sign Up for Email Announcements (Español)
Get free recall and safety news by email as part of CPSC's "Drive for 1 Million" campaign.

<https://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.aspx>

CPSC's Most Wanted:

- [MagnaMan Figures](#)
- [Delta Cribs \(Spring Peg\)](#)
- [Stork Craft Cribs](#)
- [Playskool Tool Benches](#)

Legislative Briefing: Budget, Budget, Budget

By Donna Fowler

Yes, the budget will have to be our main focus this year when it comes to the 2011 legislative session. In 2009, Maryland received federal stimulus funds (ARRA) which were used to fill gaps in the budget for the 2009 and 2010. Governor O'Malley and our legislators were hoping that we would once again receive stimulus funding from the feds; it is likely that this will not happen. At the federal level the House did not introduce any new appropriations bills with additional funding, we are

expecting them to approve a CR (continuing resolution) without the ARRA funds. This means that they will continue to fund our program, but without the additional funds we need to maintain all of our programs.

What does this mean for Maryland? We will most likely see our professional development funds reduced to the 4% of the Child Care Development Block Grant that is required by the federal government. This means that we may lose some of our Resource and Referral offices, those provid-

ers who received a 3% increase under the union contract will most likely see that go away, we may see a freeze on intake into the child care subsidy program. These are just a few; every program will be on the table. We will have to be very vigilant when it comes to the budget this year, we will have to make sure that when we are called upon to call, email, or visit our legislators that we do so.

The Learning Collaborative—*School Readiness and You!*

By Dewanna Knight

Recently, I attended a School Readiness Symposium entitled, 20/20: Creating An Early Childhood Vision and Process for Maryland" Symposium. The keynote speaker for the event was nationally and internationally acclaimed Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan.

During her hour long presentation, Dr. Kagan stressed the importance of adaptability and the development of integrated systems that allow for the identification and resolution of evolving needs. Dr. Kagan emphasized the importance of adopting a new vision of change that will: (1) incorporate the best of current concepts; (2) encourage experiential learning; (3) facilitate the sharing of information; and (4) allow for more tailored approaches based on context.

As professionals providers of licensed family child care, we have a unique opportunity to make a lasting and positive impact in the lives of the children that we serve and society-at-large. We are indeed a part of a learning collaborative and must do all that we can to ensure that our charges enter school prepared to succeed.

Visit http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/MMSRDE1_toc.html, and learn more about Maryland's Model for School Readiness (MMSR) Pre-K Standards in Language & Literacy, Math, Science, Personal & Social Development, the Arts, Physical Development and Health.

http://www.mdk12.org/instruction/ensure/MMSR/RDE1_toc.html

America After 3PM

The After School Alliance (ASA) recently published *America After 3PM: From Big Cities to Small Towns*. In this report, the ASA examines how kids' after school experiences differ from one community to another. Divided into three community types—rural, urban and suburban—they analyzed the differences in after school participation, access, barriers,

satisfaction and more of nearly 30,000 households.

They found that the nation has a long way to go when it comes to meeting the needs of kids and families in urban, suburban and rural communities when schools are not in session. While there are some distinctions regarding availability and access to after school opportunities among the three community

types, they all shared clear similarities: Children and families in all community types need more after school programs.

Is this an area where you could possibly serve? If so, try promoting your Before/After Care Services more vigorously. There is a definite need. Help to fill the void.

To see the report in its entirety, visit: <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>.

Community Connections ...

What a fabulous way to start the holiday season!

The Carroll County Family Child Care Association made an appearance at the Westminster "Miracle on Main Street" parade on November 27, 2010!

The float themed, "Home Sweet Home: Family Child Care," was ridden by five gleeful children and four providers waving bubble wands. It featured a child-sized gingerbread house decorated with streams of lights, homemade candies and a chimney with bubbles floating out! There was a lighted Christmas tree which displayed ornaments handmade by children.



Despite the 38 degree temperature, wind and snow flurries, the streets were lined with children and adults of all ages! Our float "ooed and ahed" the crowd as they would stretch up and pop bubbles!

Many thanks again to the members of our committee: Angie Grim, Kathy Knatz, Erin Mullinix, Brenda Potash, and Marcie Vedrani.

Cooking with Kids ...



REINDEER SANDWICHES

Directions:

Ingredients:

- Pieces of square brown bread
- fillings (peanut butter, egg salad, cheese spread)
- stick pretzels
- maraschino cherries

1. Make your favorite sandwich between two slices of square shaped brown bread. Trim off the crusts and cut the sandwich in two diagonally.
2. With the longest cut side across the top, and one tip facing you, decorate the sandwich with two stick pretzels on each side of the top for antlers, two raisins for eyes and a half maraschino cherry for the nose.

PAINTED TOAST

Directions:

Ingredients:

- Milk
- Food coloring
- Toast

1. Fill 5 glasses with a 1/4 cup of milk.
2. Then take your 5 food colorings and in each glass put 5 drops of food coloring in the milk and stir till color shows.
3. Use a small paint brush and dip the brush into the food coloring. Then take your piece of bread and paint a face or picture of choice on it.
4. Now place your bread into a toaster and wait till the bread is toasted.
5. Butter lightly to give taste.

COCONUT BANANAS

Directions:

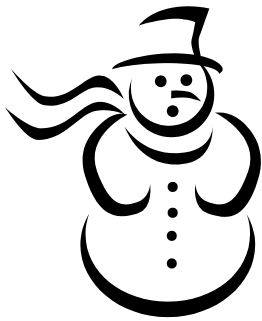
Ingredients:

- 1 orange
- 2 bananas
- 1 cup of shredded coconut
- maraschino cherries

1. Cut bananas into several chunks.
2. Cut an orange, squeeze some of the juice onto a saucer and roll the banana in it's juice. (Then eat the orange).
3. Then roll the banana into coconut, cover well.

Craft Central

Credits: Content Copyright © **Preschool Sunday**



Snowman Stamping Technique

Materials:
Packing bubbles
Paint
Dark paper

Instructions:

Use packing bubbles to make a snowman. Cut the bubbles in to a snowman shape, then the kids paint the bumpy side with white tempera and press onto dark paper.



Paint with Ice Cubes

Materials:

Food coloring, Water, Ice cream sticks, Coffee filters,

Paper

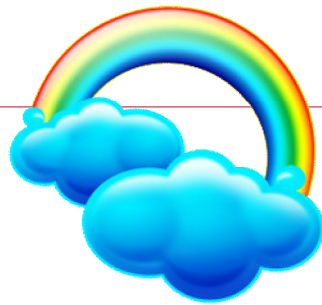
Instructions:

Put colored water in ice cube trays, put in ice cream

sticks to make the cubes easier to handle. Freeze.

Let the children paint on the filters with the ice cubes.

For something different let them use other textured paper and ask them what happens.



Rainbow Stew

Ingredients:

1/3 c. sugar
1 c. cornstarch
4 c. cold water
Zipper baggies

Instructions:

Cook until thick. Put in bowls, add food coloring, let cool. Put in zipper baggies. Let the kids play with it while it is in the bags for a neat sensory experience or use it to mix colors.

Veggie Tales Pencil Bag

Materials:

Veggie Tales fabric, Plastic pencil case (Zipper Carry-All - which can be purchased at Wal-Mart), Craft glue

Instructions:

1. Cut rectangles of fabric the appropriate size to cover the pencil cases.
2. Glue fabric rectangles onto the front of the pencil case.
3. Give Veggie Tales items (toys, erasers, pencils) as prizes for games, that the children can put in their carry-all pencil case.

Happy Little Helper Craft

Materials:

Paper, Paper fasteners, Crayons

Instructions:

1. Cut five 1" x 4-1/2" strips of paper and a circle that measures 3 1/2" in diameter from sturdy paper.
2. Assemble pieces to make person, and fasten together with 2 paper fasteners.
3. Add features and lettering that say: (Child's name) is a Little Helper.



S&S Worldwide helps people play & learn with arts & crafts; school supplies; educational toys and games; party and novelty supplies; and sports equipment.

Visit them at:
<http://www.ssw.com/>

MARYLAND PROVIDER

Maryland State Family Child Care Association, Inc

www.msfccca.org

(301) 498-1516

Please Remember: If you have a change in your address, e-mail or phone number, send your changes to Janice Gray at karealot87@verizon.net so that she can update our rosters.

**Interested in joining the Newsletter Committee?
If so, contact:**

Dewanna Knight
MSFCCA Newsletter Editor
wematter@hotmail.com

Submissions are welcome!

Child Care Referral and Resource Centers

Arundel Child Care Connections
(Anne Arundel County)
410-222-1712

Baltimore City Child Care Resource Center
(Baltimore County)
410-685-5150

Child Care Links
410-288-4900

Child Care Links of Harford and Cecil Counties
443-512-0461

Child Care Choices
(Carroll County)
410-751-2917

Child Care Choices
(Frederick County)
301-662-4549

Howard County Child Care Resource Center
410-313-1940

Montgomery County Child Care Resource Center
240-777-3110

Prince George's Child Resource Center
301-772-8420

Promise Resource Center
(Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties)
301-290-0040 or toll-free 1-866-290-0040

Apples For Children
(Allegany, Garrett and Washington Counties)
301-733-0000

Lower Shore Child Care Resource Center
(Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester Counties)
410-543-6650

Chesapeake Child Care Resource Center
(Caroline, Kent, Dorchester, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties)
410-822-5400
(press 1 follow operators directions)

Trainings Near & Far ...

Upcoming member association training/schedules:

Charles County Family Day Care Association (CCFDCA):

- Jan—Signing Times
- Feb—Multicultural Childcare Settings; Gardening with Kids
- Mar—Children with Food Allergies
- Apr—USDA Child & Adult Food Program
- May—Autism Syndrome; Understanding Business Plans

Meetings will be held the **second and fourth Thursday** of each month.

Meeting location and time: Huntington Community Center, 3281 Huntington Circle, Waldorf, MD 20602., from 6:30 pm until 8:30 pm.

Professional Child Care Association of Washington County (PCCAWC):

- Jan- Organizing Your Child Care Business
- Feb- The Baby Factor: Working with Maryland's Infant and Toddler Requirements
- Mar-Building Successful Relationships with Blended Families

- Apr-Autism: Preventing the Bounce Around

- May-Star Me Up! The 1,2,3's of Credentialing and Accreditation

Meetings will be held the **fourth Tuesday** of each month.

Meeting location and time: St. Ann's Church Manalis Center, 1525 Oak Hill Ave, Hagerstown, Md 21742. Up the hill from St. Maria Goretti High School from 6:30 pm until 9:00 pm.