

CCR&R Region 5 Newsletter

**The latest information for:
Anson, Cumberland, Hoke, Montgomery,
Moore, Richmond, Robeson &
Scotland Counties**

Volume 1 Issue 2

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Important News!!!

**From
John Freudenberg
Government & Military Affairs Liaison**

In This Issue:

- Important News!!!
- Setting the Standard-Summer Camp Themes and Ideas for School-Age Programs plus Safety & Field Trips
- Centers in the Spotlight
- Classroom Strategies
- Did You Know?
- Professional Development & More
- News & Current Events-

There is so much going on with the budget at the time of this writing and great uncertainty exists about the ultimate outcome. The General Assembly has passed a budget and it has been sent to Governor Perdue for her consideration. Nearly everyone expects that she will issue a veto. If her veto were to be overridden and the budget in its current form were to become law, "special provisions" written into the budget would fundamentally alter the nationally-recognized early childhood system in North Carolina. Furthermore, 20% cuts to Smart Start and More at Four (MAF) would deeply impact the effectiveness of this proven system.

Cuts to More at Four would result in the loss of thousands of slots for children, at a time when there is already waiting lists. More at Four parents with at-risk children would be required to pay out of pocket fees and the fundamental structure of More at Four would be altered, moving MAF out of the Department of Public Instruction and into the Division of Child Development without providing additional funds for the new administration costs. Just how these proposed changes would ultimately impact More at Four is not truly understood but many experts believe the changes will do little to improve this award-winning pre-K program.

Experts also believe that the "special provisions" in the budget will hamstring Smart Start's model, resulting in a loss of effectiveness and reach across the state. Many communities would suffer as these cuts may force some local Partnerships to close or consolidate. In its current form the budget would result in countless jobs lost across the state and thousands of parents and children being impacted.

No matter the final outcome, it could not be more clear just how important education, engagement and advocacy have been throughout this process. Please don't stop making noise, and continue fighting the good fight for our children.

I am here to help you be an effective advocate for children throughout our region. Please call me anytime at 910.826.3122 or email JFreudenberg@ccpfc.org if you have any questions or would like to take action.

The support you need to help children succeed.

Setting the Standard

Summer Camp Themes & Ideas for School-Age Programs

When you are planning a Summer Camp, it is a good idea to have a plan of action. As a Camp Coordinator you have to plan events, activities, and entertainment for the participants. There are many themes you can come up with, but to get the most participation out of a theme you have to make them sound fun and attractive. Remember that Camp is about fun and enjoyment!

Now that you have the information on what capabilities your facility has, you can start making your plans. First, you have to make the decisions on what type of activities or events you are going to do. Play games, cooking, nature hikes and exploration, mystery excursions, and so on. After you have come up with everything you are planning on doing, you then need to name your events. To name your events, you really need to be creative. You want to make them sound fun and exciting. But at the same time, you don't want to over glorify the names as to lead to disappointment to the participants. You need to pick a name that will make the participants excited to participate without giving false expectations on what the program is about.

Listed below are some ideas that could be a theme for an event along with a suggested description of what that event might entail:

Wonders of Nature

For this event you might want to venture into insects, rodents, land formations, mosses, trees or birds. This type of event has many options to choose from.

All Stars

For this event you would set up sporting games. Be it football, basketball, soccer, water balloons, Frisbee events or whatever other activities in the sporting theme you can come up with.

Survivor

This is an event that could be set up on the television series "Survivor". You can set up treasure hunts, obstacle courses,

or play a creative game of survival.

Splash

This event name could be for your water adventures. You could play water volleyball, canoe, have swimming or diving competitions or snorkeling.

A Day in the Knight

This event could be geared to learning about Knighthood. You could get out the turkey legs and maybe play some Knight games.

American Idol

Since this event is so popular on television, it would be a great event for participants. They could all have a singing competition and let the participants be the judges.

The Red Light Special

This event could involve the Police & Fire Departments. They are usually more than willing to volunteer their time for events with children. If there are K-9 Units, they could give a demonstration. If there is a Rescue Diving Team, they could also give a demonstration. Try to be more original on this event as most schools already have police & firemen come to visit them on fore and protection issues. If they have access to the Survive Alive House, see if it would be possible for them to bring it.

Around the World

This event could involve learning customs from other countries. Another great idea for this would be to have participants make some ethnic foods and sample foods from different countries.

Pick Your Star

This event could involve some astrology and learning the constellations. Each participant could also pick a star that is their own, giving them a certificate of ownership.

The Sweet Tooth

This event could involve children's favorite foods. They might make cakes, cookies or candies.

So as you can see, there is a lot of time and effort that goes into the implementation of setting up Summer Camp themes. But, with due diligence you will get the job accomplished and the participants will have a great time and something they will remember for a lifetime.

Above article adapted from www.ezinearticles.com

Submitted by:
Mary Anders
Region 5 School Age Specialist



School-Age Specialist **Tip of the Month:**

One of the best life-long experiences and opportunities you can provide a child is to create activities based on the child's interests...

Safety & Field Trips

Field Trips can provide wonderful learning experiences for children of all ages. In order to make the most of this experience, it is important to keep safety a top priority.

Before selecting a field trip site or event, teachers should consider why they are taking children on a field trip. Is this an activity that can only take place away from the center, such as a visit to a children's theater? Or could this experience occur just as well in the center? For example, if you want children to see and touch animals, you can visit a petting zoo or you might ask a guest to bring baby goats, kittens or puppies to the classroom.

Safety concerns can arise when children get bored because the event is too long for their attention span. Children may also lose interest if they can't perform the activity, either because it is developmentally inappropriate or because there are too many children for the number of activities. When children get bored-look out! Children will find something else to do such as wandering off or climbing the stair railings. When planning a field trip, here are some points to consider:

The Site

Is the field trip appropriate for the age group? The age of your children can affect your safety considerations. For example, taking a group of 20 four-year-olds to a shopping mall to see a clown might not be a good idea because there are too many places for the children to "escape" and get out of your sight. However, other sites might be much better suited for a field trip such as visiting a fire station or dentist's office,

The Activities

Consider the developmental level of your children. Children enjoy hands-on and interactive activities rather than watching or listening to someone else. However, if it is hands-on, can the children perform the activity? Is the activity safe for children? Consider a visit to a petting farm. This can be an enriching

experience for children to see and touch baby lambs, goats, and ducks. However, there are still small hazards: some animals can bite, a goose can give a pinch, even a baby lamb who wants to "suck" on little fingers can hurt a small child! Some animals are too big for children. When visiting a petting farm, plan for extra adult supervision and be sure children are separated from large animals and/or dangerous animals.

Transportation

Transportation may occur by bus, van, or private vehicles driven by parents. All children should be securely buckled into car seats or booster seats approved for their age and weight. The safest place for all infants and young children is in the back seat of a car. Older children should buckle the lap and shoulder belts. Never double-buckle children in seat belts as each child should have his or her own seat belt to provide the best possible protection. Check out the loading and unloading area at the site. Children should exit the vehicle and enter the area without crossing traffic areas or parking lots. Do head counts frequently. Count your children as you leave the childcare center, once they are in the vehicle, as they exit the vehicle, and when they get into the designated building or area.

Basic Hygiene on Field Trips

While on a field trip, basic hygiene such as hand washing is important. One preschool classroom's trip to the zoo ended up with many cases of an intestinal virus when the children touched a railing that was part of a reptile exhibit and then ate their lunches without washing their hands. Field trips are fun and educational and with the proper health and safety preparations, unnecessary problems can be avoided.

The Parent Connection

Field trips are an excellent opportunity to include parent volunteers. If you need to increase the ratio of adults to children on a field trip, invite parents or

other center volunteers to join the outing.

Recommendations

- Visit the site prior to the field trip. Look at the site from a safety standpoint, such as potential falls, entrapments, choking/poisoning hazards, etc. Remember, most field trip sites are not designed to be "child proof".
- Plan adequate adult supervision both during transportation and during the field trip activities.
- Take a file containing parent authorizations, emergency contact information, and medical authorization for each child.
- Take a well equipped first aid kit.
- Notify someone at the field trip site of your expected arrival and departure.
- Have a two-way radio or cellular phone available in case of emergency.

Above article adapted from www.preschooleducation.com

Submitted by:

Mary Anders

Region 5 School-Age Specialist

For more information on The Regional School-Age Quality Improvement Project contact:

Mary Anders

Region 5 School-Age Specialist

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(910) 860-2217 (fax)

manders@ccpfc.org

Region 5 Centers in the Spotlight

Sandhills Children's Center Team Claims "Bee" Crown



On February 24, 2011 The Sandhills Children's Center claimed the crown in the seventh annual Spelling Bee for Literacy held at the Owens Auditorium at Sandhills Community College.

The squad came out on top of 22 teams competing for the title in the light-hearted competition that benefits the Moore County Literacy Council.

Classroom Strategies

Strategies for Reducing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom

- Change the environment-reduce disorder, minimize congestion, organize materials
- Create meaningful and engaging Learning Centers
- Avoid long periods of waiting, have activities ready so children are actively engaged throughout the day
- Prepare children for transitions with advance warnings in a relaxed manner
- Maintain Daily Routines and Schedules-the clearer the pattern, the easier it is for children to understand expectations
- Offer a balance of Small and Large Group Activities each day
- Engage in Supportive Interactions with children-eliminate negative language, be sincere, provide positive feedback
- Foster strong Parent Partnerships-respect that parents are the first authorities on their children

For more information on strategies for preschool behavior classroom management contact the Region 5 Healthy Social Behavior Specialists at (910) 860-2277.

Contacting Your Local CCR&R

Anson County

Anson County Partnership for Children
117 S. Greene St.
Wadesboro, NC 28170
(910) 694-4036

Cumberland County

Partnership for Children of Cumberland County
351 Wagoner Dr. Suite 200
Fayetteville, NC 28303
(910) 860-2277

Hoke County

Please contact the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County

Montgomery County

Child Care Central (Montgomery County Partnership for Children)
404-A N. Main St.
Troy, NC 27371
(910) 576-0112

Moore County

Moore County Partners for Children & Families
7720 NC Hwy. 22
Carthage, NC 28327
(910) 949-4045

Richmond County

Child Care Avenues (Richmond County Partnership for Children)
315 S. Lawrence St.
Rockingham, NC 28379
(910) 997-3773

Robeson County

Please contact the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County

Scotland County

Please contact the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County

Did You Know?

Regional Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Services provides leadership and support for child care resource and referral services offered in the eight counties in Region 5. These services are funded by the North Carolina Division of Child Development. Along with other programs to support families, the community, and providers Regional CCR&R Services coordinates the following statewide quality improvement initiatives for Region 5:

- **Regional Infant & Toddler Enhancement Project**
- **Regional Promoting Healthy Social Behaviors Project**
- **Regional School-Age Quality Improvement Project**

For information on these projects as well as other programs CCR&R provides, please contact Tamiko Colvin, Region 5 Program Coordinator at; (910) 867-9700 ext. 2236 or tcolvin@ccpfc.org

The professional and friendly Family Support Caseworkers at the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County help take the leg work out of searching for childcare.

The Child Care Resource and Referral department is pleased to announce that we are currently assisting families in Cumberland, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland Counties with locating quality childcare and other resources available in their area.

We can assist families with finding a safe, healthy and loving child care center or family child care home that fits their need. We offer **free** child care referrals. We do not recommend any type of child care center or child care provider. However, our knowledgeable Family Support Caseworkers can educate you on how quality child care should look.

To get started with your search or to inquire about additional resources in your area - please call our toll free number at 1-877-230-3024 or visit our website at www.ccpfc.org to complete an online search.

Region 5 Professional Development & More

Richmond County

**August 18, 2011 6:15 pm-7:15 pm:
Vaccine Preventable Communicable Diseases**

**September 8, 2011 6:15 pm-7:15 pm
Transportation Safety**

**September 22, 2011 6:15 pm-7:15 pm
Fire & Burn Prevention in Early Childhood Settings**

The cost for each training is \$3.00. All trainings will be held at the Richmond County Partnership for Children and must be paid for 2 business days prior to the training date.

For more information call: (910) 997-3773

Anson County

Early Childhood Resource Center Annual Membership Dues

**Individual
\$5.00**

**Family Child Care Home
\$10.00**

**Child Care Centers/Community Centers or Organizations
\$20.00**

For more information contact the Anson County Partnership for Children Early Childhood Resource Center at: (704) 694-4036 or www.ansonsmartstart.org

**For more Region 5 training opportunities visit:
<http://www.ccpfc.org/partners/region-5-ccrr/>**

News & Current Events

Guardian ad Litem - A Child's Advocate in Court

Have you ever been the least bit curious about how you could help an abused or neglected child? Throughout North Carolina, the Guardian ad Litem Program always needs more volunteers to be a voice for the children who find themselves the subject of court cases. The Guardian ad Litem Program provides training to make sure you are at ease in your role, and as a volunteer Guardian ad Litem you will be in court as a team member with a trained attorney advocate.

Since 1983, the North Carolina Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program has served the best interests of thousands of children. Many were able to return home, some now live with other family members, still others have been adopted. What the program tries to ensure is that all of the children they represent remain safe, and that their homes are permanent.

In the past fiscal year, 4,919 trained volunteers served 15,373 children. These children were in court because a petition had been filed stating they were abused or neglected. The number of volunteers advocating for children is greater than the preceding year, and a record number of hearings were scheduled - 43,988.

It takes a special person to be a Guardian ad Litem, but being a volunteer GAL will give you the opportunity to make a real difference in the life of a child.

Please visit the Guardian ad Litem website at: www.ncgal.org or email: gal@nccourts.org for information on how you can help.

Remember— a child near you needs you.



The support you need to help children succeed.