

**ATTENTION
ALL CHILD CARE
PROVIDERS**

★ MONTHLY DRAWING ★

We receive calls daily from parents seeking child care. We want to provide them with the most accurate information possible.

Please call us each month to let us know about your fee changes and if you have openings. If we are not in the office, just leave a message.

Every month we will enter the name of each provider who calls with vacancies into a drawing to be held on the last weekday of the month!

Call 573-290-5577
Toll-free, 1-800-811-1127 ex. 1

**WHO WILL BE OUR
NEXT WINNERS??**

WILL IT BE YOU?

A WORD FROM KAREN

Our staff attended the Missouri Child Care Resource & Referral Network (MOCCRRN) Summit last week. As some of you may have noticed, our office closed for three days so we could attend these important meetings. The sessions were tailored to our individual jobs. The presenters were outstanding!

It's update time again! Be looking for an update form in February. We are sending the calendars separately this year. We will, again, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which you can mail the completed form back to us. Keep in mind, if you have comments, recommendations or advice, we'd love to hear from you.

Remember, when you are 'at capacity', feel free to give our toll-free telephone number to families who call you seeking

ACCREDITATION NOTES

Happy Holidays Everyone!! A lot has been happening with accreditation! I have good news for those sites that have been anxiously awaiting their validation visit! Missouri Accreditation has been making great strides in straightening out some of the confusion that came about when they restructured. I have been checking on those sites that have been waiting a long time and validation visits are being scheduled! If your site has been waiting on a validation visit and you haven't had any contact with Missouri Accreditation, feel free to call me at 573-290-5644 or 1 (800) 811-1127 ext. #8, I will be happy to check with Missouri Accreditation and get an update on the status of your site. If you are interested in pursuing the accreditation process or would like to obtain information on accreditation, please feel free to call me. Child Care Resource and Referral offers limited technical assistance to providers that qualify.

Did you know that Southeast Missouri State University is expanding northward? That's right, Southeast now has two off campus locations to better accommodate those individuals wanting to pursue Child Development or Early Childhood Education. The two locations are the Perryville Higher Education Center in Perryville, and the South County Education & University Center located in South County. For more information regarding the classes that will be offered, please contact Dr. Shafaie at 573-651-2258 or email him at c887ssq@semo.edu.

Congratulations to those individuals that finished the "Art for the Preschool Teacher" class that was held at Just Kids in Jackson. Rose Kincy, director of Just Kids in Jackson, was able to get enough individuals together for the University to offer the class to be held at night off campus. Rose recently gathered another group of individuals to take the "Working with Parents" class that will be offered at night as well. This class will start in the Spring semester, if there are individuals interested in enrolling in this class, please contact Dr. Shafaie for more information.

- Heather Fisher, M.Ed.
Professional Development Specialist

childcare. That will free you of the responsibility of helping others find child care and give you more time with your children. Just keep our number handy, by your phone, and that will be the only telephone number you will have to give out. **(1-800-811-1127)**

And, THANK YOU, too, for calling us about your vacancies. We really do appreciate this small favor. Congratulations to **Morley Baptist Child Care** in Morley and **Connie Rawlins** in Park Hills, **Judy Rodgers** in Sikeston and **Heather Duvall** in Perryville, the November and December winners.

Remember, when you let me know of vacancies, I will mention you specifically to the families seeking child care in your area. **Keep those calls coming in.**

Remember, children learn through play! Happy playing!

- Karen McDougall
Referral Coordinator



Research Points to the Importance of Training & Education for Child Care Teachers

In a recent study released by the Trust for Early Education, researchers reviewed eight major studies on pre-kindergarten quality and documented several critical findings on the importance of having teachers with bachelor degrees in pre-kindergarten classrooms. These findings include:

- Children in programs led by a teacher with a bachelor's degree received higher language scores and exhibited a higher level of peer play than children taught by teachers without bachelor's degrees.
- Higher quality learning environments are associated with the lead teacher having a bachelor's degree.
- Higher levels of teacher education influence teacher attitudes and knowledge, translating into higher levels of classroom quality.
- Pre-kindergarten teachers with a bachelor's degree were found to be significantly more sensitive and less detached in their interactions with children than were teachers with a bachelor's degree.

To read the full study, go to www.trustforearlyed.org



“WINNING TEAMS” TRAININGS COMING SOON.

Many providers have asked if the *Heads Up Reading* series of trainings would be back this year. That answer is no, but we do have a new series called *Winning Teams* which will begin in February.

Winning Teams is a 27-hour course produced by RISE Learning Solutions that instructs parents and teachers to team as partners in the care and education of children from birth to six. *Winning Teams* offers three 9-hour series, *Nurturing the Young Learner*, *Guiding Behavior*, and *Learning to Read and Write*.

February 17, 24, and March 2

Guiding Behavior brings to life effective strategies for working with challenging behaviors while increasing adults' confidence and competence in guiding the behavior of young children.

March 9, 16 and 23

Nurturing the Young Learner focuses on understanding developmentally appropriate practices, which in turn helps children start school ready to learn.

April 13, 20 and 27

Learning to Read and Write is based on the latest research in early childhood development, which shows that the process of learning to read and write actually begins at birth. The series will help parents and teachers learn how to support the development of early literacy skills in young children both at home and in child care settings. Plans are to hold the *Winning Teams* trainings from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm at these and other cities across the state: Barnhart, Hillsboro, Pacific, Park Hills, Perryville, Cape Girardeau, Poplar Bluff, Portageville, Kennett and Sikeston. If you would like more information about these trainings contact me at 573-290-5595 or 800-811-1127 ext: 3.

- Kristen Foltz-Schlegel
Assistant Director of Training & Professional Development

CRAFT IDEAS FROM JUDITH

I realize that this newsletter will cover more than the Christmas Holidays, but that's where my mind is. I enjoy the lighted decorations and the music, I like the smells of cinnamon and cloves, and I like the fun of keeping secrets. It's so much fun to work with children with all their excitement due to the holiday season! Some simple, quick ideas I have just discovered:

1- take a flour tortilla and fold it in half or fourths--don't crease the folds. Let the children cut out shapes on the fold as they would in making a snowflake. Unfold and fry the tortilla and then sprinkle with powdered sugar--an eatable snowflake!

2- Pipe cleaners and beads make great ornaments. Twist red and white pipe cleaners together and bend into a candy cane shape. String green beads onto a green pipe cleaner. you've created a

wreath. You can add an occasional pair of red beads if desired. Form a circle and twist the ends closed. add a ribbon and 3- ask parents to save their large calendars and Christmas cards for you. Use the cards for a matching game. Or sort the cards by size or pictures.

Glue two cards of the same size together. Then punch holes around them and use them as a sewing card. Place tape around one end of yarn and tie the other to the card. The large pictures on the calendars make great puzzles! The numbered squares and lines are great practice for cutting!

"May all your troubles be few and may all your Christmases be white!"

- Judith Perkins
Child Care Liaison