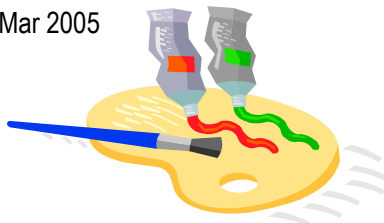


## NIFTY IDEA!

Recycle some common items to make some painting tools that are perfect for preschool! Cut a number of three-inch circles from plastic lids. Hot-glue each one onto an old thread spool or empty film canister. Have a child drop a few blobs of different colors of paint onto a sheet of paper. Then have her squish the paint with the homemade squishers! Watch as the colors blend into a beautiful painting.

- The Mailbox  
Feb/Mar 2005



### ATTENTION ALL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

#### ★ QUARTERLY 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 on my voice mail.

Every quarter 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?

## GREAT NEWS!

Two of our child care facilities within our accreditation project have recently become accredited through Missouri Accreditation! Congratulations to Just Kids Learning Development Center on Rosamund in Jackson, and Christian Fellowship Daycare and Preschool in Bonne Terre. Both facilities have worked very hard through the process. Congratulations to them on all of their hard work and recent achievement! With their achievement comes two new openings within our project!! Our current accreditation project entails thorough consultation through the self study. Programs are eligible to use up to \$200 a year towards items in regards to accreditation, ex. funding can be used to help pay for self study materials, validation visits, materials, etc. Along with the \$200 are incentive gift certificates, programs are eligible to earn fifteen \$50 gift certificates to Constructive Playthings! That is an additional \$750!! As I mentioned earlier, we only have two openings so if you are interested be sure to call today! If our project is full, we will start a waiting list and will be sure to contact you as an opening is available. To be eligible you must be licensed, have 25% DSS subsidy, must be in compliance with your license, must not be working towards accreditation with another agency, must live in the counties of St.Francois, Ste. Genevieve, Perry, Cape Girardeau, Bollinger, Madison, Iron, Reynolds, Wayne, Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Dunklin, Butler, Carter, or Ripley. If you are interested in pursuing the accreditation process and would like to apply to be within the project please contact Heather Fisher at 1(800) 811-1127 ext.#3 or email me at [hfisher@semo.edu](mailto:hfisher@semo.edu).

- Heather Fisher  
Training Coordinator





### WINTER THOUGHTS

“Oh the weather outside is frightful, but the fire is so delightful, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!”

What a winter we’ve been having: warm, cold, snowy and icy, rainy days and sunny days. Take your pick!

I know most of you talk about the daily weather. Have you made a weather plate for each child? Use a paper plate and a brass fastener/brad. Make a pointer from heavy paper. Discuss the different types of weather, and then look for pictures of that weather to cut from magazines, or let your children draw a sun, rain, snowman, etc. You can play a game by naming an activity or weather, and have all point to it on their plate. January is also a great time to recycle holiday cards and old calendars. Heavier cards and calendars with large pictures make great puzzles. Just be sure and draw only a few lines for them to cut along. Sort cards by subjects: trees, birds, animals, angels, snowmen, etc. The lines on calendars are great guides for practicing cutting! Calendars also offer great opportunities to hunt for numbers. How many numbers can they circle on a page that contains a # 1? a #5?, etc. This is the beginning of a brand new year. May it be full of blessings and joyful days for you all!

- Judith Perkins  
Child Care Liaison

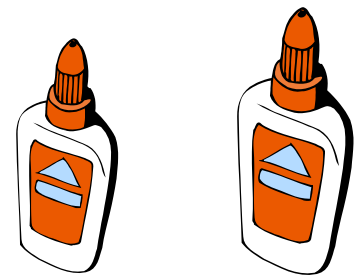
### A WORD FROM KAREN

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

**THANK YOU** for calling us about your vacancies. We really do appreciate this small favor. Congratulations **Diana Wilson (My Lil Angels)** in Sikeston, **Dana Barker (Tiny Town Learning Center)** in Poplar Bluff/Fairdealing area, **Christine Soong (A Child’s Place)** in Barnhart, and **Debbie Malin (Country Kids)** in Pacific, the October, 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!*

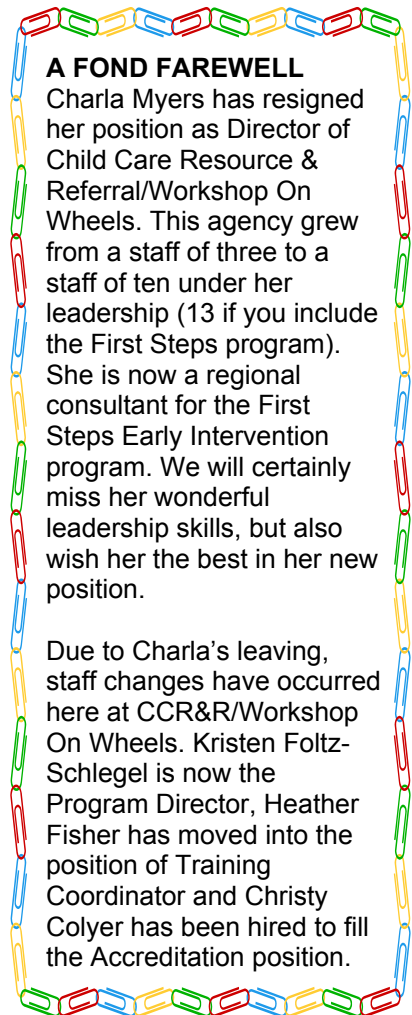
- Karen McDougall  
Referral Coordinator



### SQUEEZY PAINT

Don’t toss those empty glue bottles! Clean them out and fill them with paint instead. Keep the bottles handy for squeezing out small amounts of paint for projects, or invite youngsters to squeeze out their own paint for blot pictures or marble painting.

- The Mailbox  
Feb/Mar 2005



### A FOND FAREWELL

Charla Myers has resigned her position as Director of Child Care Resource & Referral/Workshop On Wheels. This agency grew from a staff of three to a staff of ten under her leadership (13 if you include the First Steps program). She is now a regional consultant for the First Steps Early Intervention program. We will certainly miss her wonderful leadership skills, but also wish her the best in her new position.

Due to Charla’s leaving, staff changes have occurred here at CCR&R/Workshop On Wheels. Kristen Foltz-Schlegel is now the Program Director, Heather Fisher has moved into the position of Training Coordinator and Christy Colyer has been hired to fill the Accreditation position.