

EARLY LEARNING TODAY

Jan-Feb-Mar 2007

Serving Early Care & Education Professionals, Communities & Families of Southeast Missouri

Child Care Resource & Referral - Workshop On Wheels

ON THE PHONE WITH KAREN

A mother with a five-year old son called on a Monday needing child care on Tuesday. Her parent (the child's grandparent) had cared for the child since birth and was usually a 'lifesaver' for this single mom. Sadly, the grandparent was diagnosed with an illness that would render them unable to provide future care for the child. 'Mom' had just begun her final semester at the university working toward a Social Work Degree. She tried on her own to find child care for the two days a week she would be in school. She had contacted several child care centers (using the yellow pages) and discovered that they would not accept a child for only two days. Child Care Assistance would not pay for child care while she was not in school and she couldn't afford to pay for the extra day the centers required. A center director referred her to SEMO CCR&R. The Referral Specialist quickly processed the referral, giving her names of three centers with preschool programs with vacancies in her area. She visited the first one with her son that afternoon and had child care for him on Tuesday so that she could attend classes. She called the R&R immediately after finding the care.

When your enrollment is at capacity, remember to tell families that call you seeking child care about our website in addition to giving them our 800 phone number. Of course, our 'web address' is listed in the phone book in our ad in the Yellow Pages' child care section. The convenience of the web site does not replace the personal service we are used to providing when a parent or a caregiver calls for referrals. If they want to speak to a referral counselor, they can still call and talk to either Syd or me.

REMINDER: All facilities who have received accreditation, do remember to send (or fax) CCR&R a copy of your Accreditation Certificate. We will not indicate your accreditation to families seeking accredited child care until we have a copy of the certificate on file. (Yes, callers are now asking for information about accredited facilities!)

THANK YOU for calling us about your vacancies. We really do appreciate this small favor. Congratulations to home provider **Linda Schumer (Little Rascals)** in Perryville, **Paulette Smith (Best Friends)** in Imperial, and **Sandra Wills (Sandra Wills Day Care)** in Kennett and **Patty Pulliam (Patty's Day Care)** in Cape Girardeau our October, November, 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

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