

EARLY LEARNING TODAY

Jul-Aug-Sep 2007

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

Child Care Resource & Referral • Workshop On Wheels

THANKS!

2007 PROVIDER APPRECIATION BRUNCH

On May 19 we celebrated our providers with our annual brunch. The title of this year's event was "ATTITUDE FOR A GRATITUDE OF LEARNING!" While enjoying the piano music of "Keyboards & Kindermusik Conservatory" of Cape, we brunched on a buffet of bountiful breakfast treats. After brunch the Outstanding Early Childhood awards were given out (see photo). Kristen Foltz-Schlegel then gave the Child Care Resource and Referral recognition awards to providers. The event ended with the door prize drawing for "Learning Center Materials" and numerous other gifts. If you didn't attend this year, we sure missed you! Plan on next year, it is a great day.

- Syd Egan
Referral Specialist

INCLUSION CORNER

Rules, Rules, and Less Rules!

Question: *We have a lot of rules in my program, and I would really like to make changes. How can I guide the children in this process?*

Answer: As long as you and the children set rules together. Let following serve as a guide:

- Are the guidelines minimal and tell children what to do rather than what not to do?
When a rule is stated as what to do, children internalize the rule more quickly. If your program rules seem to go on and on, they may be too wordy or you may have set too many rules.
- Do the rules make sense to someone who was not involved in setting them? If they do not, they will eventually lose their sense to you as well. Make sure they say what is meant to start with.
- Is this a rule that every teacher/caregiver in the program can consistently teach and implement? Meet with the other adults in your program to make sure they are consistently teaching and enforcing the rules.
- Does this rule make sense in the other settings where these children spend their time? Young children are just learning to regulate their own behavior. Rules that apply across many environments are more likely to result in frequent and cheerful compliance.



Child Care Resource & Referral, along with Success by Six, presented Outstanding Early Childhood awards recently at the annual provider brunch at Southeast Missouri State University. Awards were given in three categories: Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher (community-based setting), Outstanding Early Childhood Director, and Outstanding Early Childhood Teacher (university/public school setting). Presenting the awards were United Way executive director Nancy Jernigan and Child Care Resource & Referral and Missouri First Steps director Kristen Foltz-Schlegel. Providers must work in a licensed, exempt or inspected facility within Cape Girardeau County or Scott City to meet eligibility requirements. Pictured from left were Foltz-Schlegel; Holly Hotop, University Child Enrichment Center teacher; Sandra Francis, teacher at Just Kids, East Main Street in Jackson; and Jernigan. Yvonne Lossing, Christian School for the Young Years director, was unavailable for the photo.

- Do the rules promote learning that will be useful across a lifetime? Meaningful rules serves as guidelines for children to use as they learn appropriate behavior now and in the future. A child's emerging self-control and independence are fostered when rules are grounded in principles that can be applied throughout his or her life.
- Are the rules reasonable for each child? Consider whether implementing the rule fosters positive behavior in children or is too demanding for someone in the group.
While there may be a few exceptions, these questions tend to help eke out the most important and effective rules for an early childhood program.

Taken from Child Care Plus

- Amy Franklin
Inclusion Specialist