

August 2017



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CHILD CARE PROVIDER NEWS

September Provider Advisory Council Meeting

Provider Advisory Council meetings provide a way for CCS providers to stay connected and up-to-date with news and information. We welcome your suggestions for agenda items. Please plan to join us for the next Provider Advisory Council Meeting:

Thursday, September 21, 2017

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area North
6505 Airport Blvd, Ste 101E, Austin, TX 78752
Lone Star Room

Please RSVP by September 13th

Note: Lunch will only be provided for those who RSVP.

2017 Teacher Symposium

We had a wonderful 2017 Child Care Teacher's Symposium. The event was our largest to date, with 480 teachers in attendance. The Hyatt provided a wonderful backdrop for this year's event. We want to personally thank the wonderful Quality Initiatives Staff for their commitment to putting on this event and making it so special for our teachers.

A special shout out to our conference organizer, Heather Pate. We received a lot of great feedback from everyone on how to make the event even better for next year! Thank you to all those that attended!

Reminders

The 2018 holiday selections and provider survey are due August 25th. Please be sure to return these items as well as any updates to provider published rates by this date. For any questions,

please reach out to Angie Hansen and Rebecca Matz.

As we are wrapping up FY17, our new child care training calendar will be arriving shortly. The training calendar will be available in October and will cover training dates from October 2017 – September 2018. If you have specific training you would like to see or if you need to be included on the training calendar mail out, please contact Michelle Crawford at michelle.crawford@wfscapitalarea.com

CDA Amnesty Renewal Program

The Council's Renewal Amnesty Program allows anyone with a CDA® credential expiration date as far back as January 1, 2007 to apply for renewal online. This amnesty opportunity provides a waiver of the CDA holder's expiration date. It does not waive the five steps required to renew a CDA®. All applications and payments must be submitted online by the Amnesty Program expiration date of DECEMBER 29, 2017 with no exceptions or extensions.

Go to the following link for more information: <http://www.cdacouncil.org/newsletter/846-cda-renewal-amnesty-program-extends-renewal-deadline>

One of the five CDA renewal requirements is to complete professional education training courses or continuing education (4.5 CEUs, one 3 credit-hour course OR 45 clock hours). Training must be taken after the issue date and not be older than five (5) years. ACC Child Care and Development Department has seats available in courses that meet the three credit-hour course requirement.

Fall 2017 registration is ongoing so contact Charlene at 512.223.5204 for course information. Limited funding may be available.

Texas Rising Star Achievements

Join us in congratulating:

Achieved NAEYC Accreditation

- Del Valle
- Kiddie Academy

Increased Ratings

- Kids Campus
- Wonder Years

CLASS Corner

Workforce Solutions Capital Area has embraced CLASS (Classroom Assessment Scoring System) as a tool that can be utilized side by side with Texas Rising Star to enhance teacher-child interactions and further the understanding of the importance of interactions in our classrooms.

In a recent blog post, Gina Gates discusses the importance of teachers promoting critical thinking and communication over the focus of rote learning.

5 Ways to Build Authentic and Genuine Relationships with Your Students

Back to school is quickly approaching. I have seen so many articles, pins on Pinterest, and Instagram posts with suggestions on must-do behavior management strategies for the first month of school. Yes, behavior management is a key part of having a successful school year. But before we start focusing only on behavior management implementation, we need to talk about what is going to help you become a successful teacher in the classroom—developing authentic and genuine relationships with your students. Here are five things you can start with on day one to help build positive interactions

Make home visits and/or phone calls

Before school begins, or during the first month, I highly suggest you make the time to either visit where your students live or make a home phone call to their parents/guardians. When I was teaching, I would carve out a week each summer before school began to go on home visits. I allowed myself 15 minutes per child and went to their home to meet their family and read a short book. I was not paid extra money to go on these home visits. However, I felt strongly about the power that they possessed and did them anyway.

Home visits create a groundwork for building a positive relationship with the family and with the student. You can learn a lot about a students' home life in a short 15-minute visit. If home visits are not something you are able to do or are comfortable doing, I suggest making a phone call before school starts. You can introduce yourself and start off on a good foot with the parents.

Be authentic and genuine

This one may seem like a no brainer but I think educators can always use a reminder to build relationships with their students. Being authentic and genuine includes smiling, making eye contact, and having social conversations with students. Give your students time to talk to you. Teaching can be hard and overwhelming. Often, we're so concerned about meeting standards and preparing for assessments that we forget this very important part of our job. We must make the time to be sensitive and aware of not only the academic needs of our students, but their emotional needs as well.

Play games, sing songs, and team build

Taking the time to build a classroom community is important. If you aren't a singer, do other activities to build your classroom team. Here are some great examples of fun team building games you can play with your students. Ten years ago, the buzz phrase for educators was "creating lifelong learners." Guess what promotes lifelong learners? Kids that love learning. Fostering an environment where your students feel safe to take risks and have fun promotes creative thinking. It also helps your students find the "joy" in learning.

Allow students ownership of the room

Carve out a chunk of your classroom and allow your students to decide how the space should be used. And leave plenty of room on your walls for student work. You can even let your students choose a classroom theme. When students feel like they are valued decision makers in the classroom they take pride in the space and are more conscientious of the room and of the materials they use. It creates an environment that says, "This is our class" versus "This is my class."

Develop classroom expectations together

This one fits right along with number four. It is about giving autonomy and ownership back to your students. Eliciting their ideas and views about appropriate classroom expectations gives the students more buy-in to how the classroom should run. Of course, there may be some expectations that you as a teacher or as a school already have in place and that are non-negotiable. That's fine. But make sure you're asking your students what they see as valuable and reasonable expectations in the classroom.

If behavior management is the backbone of your classroom, then relationships are the heart. While it can be tempting to focus all of your energy on behavior management, forming genuine and authentic relationships with your students is just as important, especially at the beginning of the school year. You can't have one without the other

This post originally appeared on Teachstone.com.

Sunbeatables Free Curriculum

Did you know that 1 in 5 people will develop skin cancer in their lifetime? One or more sunburns in childhood doubles the risk of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Schools, daycares, and out-of-school programs can teach kids to practice sun safety habits with Ray and the Sunbeatables™: A Sun Safety Curriculum created and developed by The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and disseminated by CATCH Global Foundation.

The popular sun safety program for preschoolers, kindergartners, and first grade students has been adopted by over 1,000 sites in the U.S. and Canada and is now entirely available for FREE on the newly launched sunbeatables.org website. Access teacher resources, lessons, sun safety songs and school posters along with training videos for teachers and caregivers. Get started today at <https://sunbeatables.org/>

PLEASE NOTE:

**Workforce Solutions Child Care Services will be closed
September 4th.**

Feedback

We welcome your response! Workforce Solutions Capital Area is committed to bringing quality child care news to the community. If you have comments about this newsletter or suggestions for future topics, please contact Susan Helfeld at susan.helfeld@wfscapitalarea.com or 512.597.7112.

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