

# DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA

(Dee-nee-yoth-lee Kaw-no-head-ah - Children's News)

Volume IX, Issue III

MARCH 2005

## HOW DO I CREATE INTEREST CENTERS?

### CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENT

Classroom arrangement determines how the children will act and respond within the classroom. It determines how, what, when, and where the children will play. It determines if children will run or walk, "play with others or alone, move randomly or purposefully, and combine or separate materials" (Hoom, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993, p.51). Classroom arrangement will either create or eliminate most discipline problems.

Classroom arrangement is also important because "the classroom is the child's home away from home" (Hillman, 1989, p. 18). Therefore, it should feel inviting, comfortable, and secure.

- Divide your classroom into at least five separate and distinct areas: Blocks, Dramatic Play, Art, Library, and Manipulatives. Establishing these areas shows children what each area of the room is designed for and how they are to behave within each area. It also helps children play without being interrupted by the different activities going on in the different interest centers, which increases their attention span and focus. You can use rugs, furniture, or signs to divide areas (Johnson, Christie, & Yawkey, 1999).
- Set up clear pathways between centers and clear boundaries around centers. This will create less chaos in the classroom and give the children more structure and security. There should be a lot of movement between the dramatic play area and the block area, so they need to be placed next to one another, with a clear, easy path between them (Hoom, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993).
- Label the shelves clearly to show where the materials belong. You can use words, pictures, and outlines. This will help in the clean-up process.
- Consider the noise level of each interest center. You will want to place the noisy centers together, like blocks and dramatic play. Keep them away from the quiet centers, such as art, library, and manipulatives. It is also a good idea to put the noisy centers near the back of the room (Hoom, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993).
- Consider the different activity levels of each center to decide how much space to give them. The block and dramatic play centers have a lot of large muscle movement, so they need to have a lot of space. "Cramped space=conflicts, accidents, and messes" (Greenman, 1998, p. 141).
- Think about the use of messy materials. Centers that include messy materials, like the art center, should be placed close to a sink and paper towels and on tile (Johnson, Christie, & Yawkey, 1999).
- Consider carpeted and non-carpeted areas in your classroom. Carpet can be used to decrease the noise level of a center, such as blocks and dramatic play. It can also be used to make a center relaxing and cozy, like manipulatives and library (Johnson, Christie, & Yawkey, 1999).

### MATERIALS

- The most important thing is to have a variety of materials in each interest center. Some materials need to have specific uses (doll clothes), and some need to be open-ended, meaning that there is not just one way to use them (blocks). Some materials need to be familiar objects (spoons), and some need to be unfamiliar objects (chopsticks) (Hoom, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993).
- The materials must be in good condition. Blocks need to be free of splinters, and books need to be checked for torn pages. Materials are going to be damaged, but they need to be repaired or replaced immediately (Norris, Eckert, & Gardiner, 2004).

# O-SI-YO

by Tina Smith  
Resource and Referral Specialist

Remember the Child Care Resource Center will be open extended hours one Tuesday and one Saturday per month. We encourage parents and child care providers to take advantage of these extended hours. You may want to come by and check-out some curriculum books or borrow a video. We also have a die cut machine and a laminating machine available for your use. Parents may need a child care referral or information on the developmental stages of their children.

Please pass the word about our extended hours.

Saturdays      9:00 am—12:00 pm  
March 12  
April 9

Tuesdays      5:00 pm—8:00 pm  
March 15  
April 19

### TAX PREPARATIONS

Do you work? Do you have children? If yes, you could get **Thousands of Dollars** for you and your family!

You must file a tax return. Whether you owe income taxes or you don't-you could qualify for: Up to **\$2,100** from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit; Up to **\$4,300** from the federal Earned Income Credit; and Up to **\$1,000** per child from the Child Tax Credit. Find out more today!

Free tax preparations for Low Income families at the Cherokee Nation Adult Education. Call 1-918-458-0484 for the site nearest you.

*DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA*  
Child Care Programs



P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
(918) 458-7613  
888-458-6230  
E-mail: [ccrc@cherokee.org](mailto:ccrc@cherokee.org)  
[www.cherokeekids.net](http://www.cherokeekids.net)

Publisher—Cherokee Nation  
Child Care Resource Center  
Editors—Edna Jones and Tina Smith

Diniyothli Kanoheda is published through funding from the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, Division of Child Care and the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association.

## Need more information on...

**Scholars For Excellence in Child Care**—Oklahoma's Scholars for Excellence in Care Program is helping to improve the quality of care in Oklahoma by providing education opportunities for child care professionals. For more information contact Kike McWilliams at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education at 405-225-9397.

**T.E.A.C.H.—Teacher Education and Compensation Helps**—The T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project is a comprehensive scholarship program for early childhood providers. Developed and initially implemented by Child Care Services Association in North Carolina, this project encompasses several different scholarship programs that link education and compensation. In short, directors, caregivers, parents, and most importantly, Oklahoma's children benefit from this program. For more information call 405-225-9395.

**R.E.W.A.R.D. Oklahoma**—R.E.W.A.R.D. Oklahoma provides education-based salary supplements to teachers, directors, and family child care providers working with young children in child care settings. The program is designed to provide children with more stable relationships and better-educated teachers by rewarding education and continuity of care. For more information contact the Center For Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) at 888-446-7608.

### "Soaring to Success in Family Child Care"

GTAFFCO/TTC Annual Family Child Care Conference  
Saturday, April 23, 2005  
Conference event to be held at Tulsa Technology Center's Riverside Campus located at 801 East 91st.  
For more information contact: GTAFFCO  
Rhonda Dunn, President  
918-683-0009

### Inside this issue:

<b>Need more information?</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Interest Centers (continued)</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>March Training</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>April Training</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>May and June Training</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>Unique Environments Outreach</b> .....	<b>7</b>



Oklahoma Child Care  
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

(continued from page 1)

- Have several of the same materials. Pay attention to the materials that are the most popular (phones, brooms), and make sure you have several. Also, make sure there are enough blocks for more than one child to build at a time, and art materials so that each child will have a chance to use them without worrying about running out. This will decrease discipline problems because children will fight less over toys (Szanton, 1997).
- Change your materials frequently. Add a few new items every day to each center (Add spoons to playdough). Change the centers every week or two (Remove the playdough and replace it with clay or goop). This is also a good time to change the theme, or subject, of the dramatic play center (Change the theme from a fire station to a post office). Changing centers keeps the interest of the children day after day, and it helps them extend their learning. It also decreases discipline problems because you will have fewer children roaming around the room, looking for something negative to do (Norris, 2004).

## WHAT WOULD BE THE ROLE OF THE CHILDREN?

According to Szanton (1997), children should be:

- Making choices.
- Respecting the learning materials, other children, and teachers.
- Actively learning through play.
- Focusing and thinking critically in their play.
- Functioning independently.
- Creating and imaging
- Problem solving and solving conflicts (with some help, if needed).

## WHAT WOULD BE MY ROLE AS A TEACHER?

- Provide a safe and secure learning environment.
- Respect the children.
- Give children choices.
- Provide lots of time for focused play.
- Change materials frequently.
- Help develop independent children.
  - help them answer their own questions, solve problems and conflicts, and be patient as they do things for themselves, and only help when needed (Hoorn, Nourot, Scales, & Alward, 1993).
- Provide materials that encourage children to explore, discover, experiment, predict, create, think, and learn on their own (Norris, Eckert, & Gardiner, 2004).
- Let the children decide:
  - where to play
  - how long to play at each interest center (Children should be moving freely around the room at their own pace).
  - whom to play with
  - how to use the materials in each interest center (Let them use materials creatively and move them around the room, as long as it is done safely and does not damage the materials) (Sawyer & Rogers, 1988).
- Make sure materials are available and accessible, at their level.
- Interact with the children. Play, talk, ask questions, and visit all centers (Szanton, 1997).
- Be aware of your attitude towards the children and towards play. Be humorous and have fun. Get excited about learning, discovering, and playing.
- Problem solve, observe the children, and change, to make the learning environment the best it can be for your set of children. Make your classroom fit the children, NOT the children fit the classroom.
- Provide transitional activities to help children clean up interest centers. Sing a "Clean up song." Everybody clean up 5 blocks each (Norris, 2004).

Article taken from [www.okdhs.org/childcare](http://www.okdhs.org/childcare)

For More Information on "Reaching for the Stars":  
 Oklahoma Department of Human Services  
 Division of Child Care  
[www.okdhs.org/childcare/index.html](http://www.okdhs.org/childcare/index.html)  
 (800) 347-2276-or (405) 521-3561



# APRIL TRAINING

April 5, 7, & 12

TAHLEQUAH—CCRC

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Daily Program for Young Children 3-6 (content area #5, 10 hours)** - Explores needs of young children as the basis of programming and goals. Guidelines for use of resources-people, time, space, equipment, learning activities. Constructs a sample weekly program schedule and lesson plan. Trainer: Debbie Smith. **Fee: \$10 Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

April 21, 28, & May 5

VINITA—HALL-HALSELL ELEMENTARY

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Daily Program for Infants and Toddlers (content area #5, 10 hours)** - Discusses stages of development and basic needs in nutrition, feeding, sleep, and toilet training. Suggests appropriate play activities and toys. Suggestions to construct a daily program schedule. Trainer: Vickie Toews. **Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

April 9,11, 12, 16

SALLISAW—CARL ALBERT COLLEGE

Time: Weekdays 8:00am—5:00pm Sat. 6-8:30 pm

**ELCCT (Entry Level Child Care Training) (content area #6, 20 hours)** - Introduction to child care training. The course provides new and/or future child care professionals with knowledge needed to provide quality care for young children while helping each individual child develop to his or her full potential. The course contains information and learning activities that stress the importance of the caregiver and child care work. Trainer: Shawn Woodward. **Fee: \$20. Please contact CECPD at 1- 888 446-7608 to register.**

April 7, 14, & 21

GROVE—HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Health and Safety (content area #5 10 hour)** -Helps plan for children's health and safety; contains guidelines for providing safe places for young children. Teaches how to help children learn good habits. Discusses common illnesses and emergency procedures. Suggest ideas for communication with parents. Trainer: Linda Buzzard. **Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

April 7, 12, & 14

MUSKOGEE—MRMC CONFERENCE ROOM

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Daily Program for Young Children 3-6 (content area #5, 10 hours)** - Explores needs of young children as the basis of programming and goals. Guidelines for use of resources-people, time, space, equipment, learning activities. Constructs a sample weekly program schedule and lesson plan. Trainer: Pam Birmelin. **Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

## Location Information

\*The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center is located in the James Danielson Children's Village in Tahlequah.

\*Hall Halsell Elementary School is located at 402 W. Clyde in Vinita.

\*Muskogee Regional Medical Center (MRMC) is located at 300 Rockefeller.

\*Green Country Technology Center is located at 1100 North Loop 56 in Okmulgee.

\*Grove Higher Education Center is located at 1201 NEO Loop in Grove.

## CLASS REGISTRATION CHANGES!

Beginning October 1, 2004 the Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center implemented a "**Registration fee**" policy.

The registration form and the registration fee must accompany all enrollment requests. Enrollment must occur at least one week prior to the class. There will be no refunds. You may send a replacement staff person.

The range of fees will vary depending on the type of class. The amount for each class will be listed in the newsletter. (Fees are subject to change.)

Registration confirmation will be by phone or mail. A waiting list will be maintained to fill any vacated slots. If the class is full your fee will be returned to you after the class has started.

### Enrollment form:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 County: \_\_\_\_\_ Facility name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send registration fee and above form to:

Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center

Attn: Edna Jones

PO Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

# MAY TRAINING

May 17, 19, & 24

TAHLEQUAH—CCRC

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Introduction to Nutrition (Content area #1 10 hours)** - Presents information on food groups, dietary guidelines and effects of nutrition on health and growth. Explores meal planning, serving sizes and tips for feeding infants and toddlers. Suggests ways to guide mealtimes with children who are challenging eaters and for children with allergies. Trainer: Gaynia Jones. Fee: \$10. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

May 12, 19, & 23

VINITA—HALL-HALSELL ELEMENTARY

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Daily Program for Young Children 3-6 (content area #5, 10 hours)** - Explores needs of young children as the basis of programming and goals. Guidelines for use of resources-people, time, space, equipment, learning activities. Constructs a sample weekly program schedule and lesson plan. Trainer: Vickie Toews. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

May 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12

WARNER—SUGAR PLUM LEARNING CENTER

Time: 6:30 pm—9:00 pm

**Dir. Series Pro. Management Module—(20 hours)** - The Program Development Training Module will provide the child care center director or administrator with the opportunity to identify, consider, and reflect upon best practices in administering the development and maintenance of the child care center program. Trainer: Melodie Watson. Please contact Melodie at 918-652-4637 to register.

May 5, 12 & 19

GROVE—HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Introduction to Nutrition (Content area #1 10 hours)** - Presents information on food groups, dietary guidelines and effects of nutrition on health and growth. Explores meal planning, serving sizes and tips for feeding infants and toddlers. Suggests ways to guide mealtimes with children who are challenging eaters and for children with allergies. Trainer: Linda Buzzard. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

May 9, 12, & 16

MUSKOGEE—MRMC CONFERENCE ROOM

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Behavior and Guidance I (Content area #3 10 hours)** - Suggests ways to encourage positive behavior. Considers caregiver's skills as key to good discipline. Suggests ways to handle difficult situations and explains differences in typical and severe problem behaviors. Trainer: Pam Birmelin. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

# JUNE TRAINING

June 7, 10 & 14

TAHLEQUAH—CCRC

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Behavior and Guidance II (Content area #3 10 hours)** - Builds on Behavior and Guidance and Families and Child Care: A Team for Children. When children display aggressive behavior, there is no quick or easy solution. The child care provider must find the right mix of child development, guiding behavior techniques, working with the family, working with the child, and activities to support the child's behavior. The combination of these efforts will support the child displaying the aggressive behavior. Trainer: Debbie Smith. Fee: \$10. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

June 7, 9 & 14

MUSKOGEE—MRMC CONFERENCE ROOM

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

**Child Development II (content area #7, 10 hours)** - Focuses on four aspects of development—physical, mental, social and emotional. Shares information on observing and recording children's development. Emphasizes careful observation of behaviors indicating growth; provides suggestions for enriching development through play. Gives specific assistance on supporting play for each aspect of development. Trainer: Pam Birmelin. ***Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.***

**Cherokee Nation facilitates training by recruiting educators employed by other agencies.**

**Ideas and practices presented are not necessarily endorsed  
by the Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center.**

*Unique Environments Outreach*  
**2005 Registration Form**  
*(If you attended this training last year, please consider allowing others to attend)*

**Copy & mail this part for EACH person.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

(Circle ONE) Center or Home Provider

**Provide Business Name & Address:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*DAY Phone:* ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend the April 2nd  
**OUTREACH** training session.

I will also attend the observation day  
 held at **Special CARE** in OKC on:

\_\_\_\_\_ (1<sup>st</sup> Choice)

\_\_\_\_\_ (2<sup>nd</sup> Choice)

\_\_\_\_\_ (3<sup>rd</sup> Choice)

**MAIL REGISTRATION FEE & FORM TO:**

Cherokee Nation CCR&R  
 Attn: B. Tobey  
 P.O. Box 948  
 Tahlequah, OK 74465

## *Plan to attend*

# Unique Environments Outreach - 2005

An 8-hour course for including  
Children with Disabilities  
 in Child Care Programs

The Unique Environments Resource Manual & Certificate will be provided

upon completion of the Outreach session.

### **Video topics address:**

- ◆ Care needs and group environments
- ◆ The parent's perspective
- ◆ A therapeutic approach for children who need PT, OT and/or Speech Therapy

### **Register Now for SATURDAY**

April 2, 2005

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

An **optional** 4-hours training credit is possible through an **Observation Day at Special CARE.**

This half-day session will provide first-hand experience with children who have a wide range of needs as they learn and play with children without disabilities. This portion is only available to those who have attended the Outreach session.

### **Classroom Observation in OKC**

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

(Choose from ONE of the following dates:)

**4/19/05    4/20/05    4/21/05**

### **More information for you:**

This course will be held at:  
 Cherokee Nation CCR&R  
 Sequoyah High School Campus  
 16947 W. Cherokee

**TAHLEQUAH, OK**

Regional Oklahoma Child Care R&R

Agencies are coordinating the training sites & participant registration. Please call **888-458-6230** if you have any questions.

- ❖ Participants must be employed in a licensed childcare center/home as an Administrator, Teacher or other Classroom Caregiver.
- ❖ A **\$15.00 registration fee** is required for each person and will be **refunded** by mail for those who attend.
- ❖ Your registration will be confirmed by phone call.
- ❖ Lunch will be on your own.
- ❖ Sessions will begin promptly.
- ❖ A **substitute stipend of \$41.20** is available if attending the **weekday** observation at Special CARE in Oklahoma City. This will be made payable to the center or home upon participant completion of the course.

**Special CARE, Inc.** is a private, non-profit, Licensed, 3-Star, CECPD Model Observation Site and NAEYC accredited childcare center in Oklahoma City. Two-thirds of Special CARE's population have a developmental disability while one-third are children who are developing typically.

Funding for this program has been provided by the **Oklahoma Division of Child Care**. The course meets training requirements for DHS special needs rates. Training hours can be applied toward the Reach for the Stars Program.



DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA  
Cherokee Nation  
Child Care Resource Center  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465  
(888)458-6230

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
TAHLEQUAH, OK  
PERMIT # 299