

DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA

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

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MAY 2005

Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency Wins National Quality Certification

The Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association announced today that it has earned the prestigious certification of Child Care Aware—a national voluntary program designed to insure that families across the nation have access to consistent, high-quality services that help them make informed choices about child care.

Oklahoma is now only the third state to achieve this level of excellence statewide. To win accreditation, all eight regional offices, as well as the state office in Oklahoma City, had to meet stringent criteria.

Like the other regional offices, Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center, located in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, is a community-based agency serving Adair, Cherokee, Craig, Delaware, McIntosh, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Ottawa, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, Washington and Okmulgee Counties by helping parents find appropriate licensed child care that fits their needs. The free service includes information about what care is available in the community, how to evaluate available options and how to obtain public financial aid for eligible families. "We are very proud to have achieved Quality Assurance certification for our agency," said Bridget Tobey, Child Care Resource Center Manager for the organization. "We strive to provide excellent services to child care consumers. Receiving Child Care Aware's national seal of approval proves we are succeeding."

Child Care Aware's manager, Stacey Minott, explained, "The child care market is a complicated one to navigate. Families want to know what good child care looks like and how to find and pay for it. The Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, through its regional offices, provides families with expert help and has met national practice standards for service delivery. It is the best resource for information on local child care availability, licensing laws, quality indicators, subsidies, and other parenting resources."

Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association, Inc., is a private non-profit organization established in 1999 to promote child care quality, affordability and availability for all Oklahoma families. Families can link to their local services through a hotline, 1-888-458-6230 and website, www.cherokeekids.net.

Child Care Aware is an initiative of NACCRRRA, the nation's network of child care resource and referral organizations.

O-SI-YO

by Tina Smith
Resource and Referral Specialist

Remember! We are open for extended hours one Saturday morning and one Tuesday evening each month. Come visit us and become more familiar with our services!

Saturdays 9:00 am—12:00 pm

- May 14
- June 11
- July 9
- August 13

Tuesdays 5:00 pm—8:00 pm

- May 17
- June 21
- July 19
- August 16

May 15th is International Day of Families

International Day of Families was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in September 1993. The International Day of Families provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families as well as to promote appropriate action. Here are some great ways that the families in your program can spend today focused on their family.

- Plan a picnic in the park
- Turn off the television for one day and play games
- Do yard work as a family (plant flowers, etc.)
- Cook a meal together
- Create a family photo album using favorite pictures

DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA
Child Care Programs



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Save the Date!!!

Child Care Conference 2005

“July 9th”

Don't miss the Fun!



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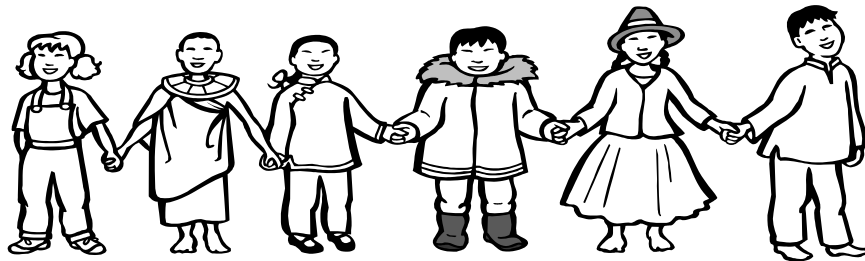


Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

FOR ALL CHILD CARE PROVIDERS...
FOR ALL YOU DO FOR CHILDREN...
THANK YOU!!



PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY
MAY 7, 2005



it is time to...

STAND FOR CHILDREN

WHEN: Friday, June 3rd from 9:00 am to noon

WHERE: Historic Cherokee Courthouse Square
Downtown Tahlequah

The Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center is sponsoring our annual STAND FOR CHILDREN DAY. This is a free outdoor event that will focus on our children and their health, safety and educational needs. The morning will include children's activities, informational booths, and demonstrations for the children, their families, child care providers and child advocates.

If you have any questions about STAND FOR CHILDREN
please contact Andria Hummingbird at: (918) 458-7613 x 233.

MAY TRAINING

May 2,3,4,5,9,10,11,12 WARNER—THE SUGAR PLUM TREE 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 3, 5,10 & 12 TAHLEQUAH—CCRC Time: 6:00 pm—9:00 pm
Dollars and Sense (Tier II training) - A child care business skills training class. Learn better business practices such as developing a business plan, record keeping, policies, parent contract, setting realistic prices and marketing. Reviews communication skills with exercises on assertiveness, communicating with parents, presenting yourself as a small business owner and listening skills. (Minimum participants: 7) Trainer: Tina Smith. **Fee: \$25 which includes Dollars and Sense workbook. Contact the Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

May 5, 12 & 19 (cancelled-call for new dates) 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.**

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 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.**

JUNE & JULY TRAINING

June 7, 9 & 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.**

June 9, 2005 NORTHEAST AREA CAREER TECH—AFTON Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Introduction to Program Evaluation Training (2 hours) - All 2-star homes and centers must attend this training one time. To sign up for training-please send in the following information: Name, Organization, K#, Address, Phone, Training Date you wish to attend, and Training Site to: Division of Child Care, Attn: Rosemarie James, P.O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125. Email to: Rosemarie.James@okdhs.org. Toll free: 1-800-347-2276. Fax: 405-522-2564.

July 12,14,18,21 TAHLEQUAH—CCRC Time: 6:00 pm—10:00 pm
Preparing for CDA—Content area #6 (16 hours) - Assists the caregiver in gaining an understanding of the requirements of the Child Development Associate Direct Assessment Process. Provides opportunities for development of the Professional Resource File the text for this course serves as a companion resource for the CDA Competency Standards Books. Trainer: Debbie Smith. **Fee: \$20. Contact the Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

CLASS REGISTRATION CHANGES!

Beginning October 1, 2004 the Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center will implement 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

CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

Tahlequah—EMS

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| May 6 | Pediatric CPR and First Aid | Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm |
| May 31 | Pediatric CPR | Time: 6:00 pm—10:00 pm |
| June 23 | First Aid | Time: 6:00 pm—10:00 pm |

Cherokee Nation EMS began a new cost and payment policy on April 1, 2003. Pediatric CPR is \$20.00 and First Aid is \$25.00. **(FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE)** Pre-payment is required and must be received at Cherokee Nation EMS 5 days prior to the date of the scheduled training. A minimum of 8 participants must be registered for the training to be held. Make payment to Cherokee Nation EMS and mail payment and registration form to:

Cherokee Nation EMS
 Attn: Jimmy Summerlin
 22114 South Bald Hill Road
 Tahlequah, OK 74464

If you have any questions, please contact Jimmy Summerlin at EMS at (918) 458-5403

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING REGISTRATION FORM :

CHEROKEE NATION EMS TRAINING PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print

Date: _____
 First Name: _____ Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 What county do you live in? _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
 Date of Training: _____
 Type of Class: _____
 Organization / Workplace: _____
 Ethnic Descent: Cherokee Native American _____ Other Native American: _____
 Other Descent _____

IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION:

When Parents and Providers Work Together

Child care is a necessary part of life for many families. Child care not only promotes growth and development in children, but it also helps to strengthen families and communities. Child care providers are an important family resource for support and child development education.

Creating a Positive Relationship

Children benefit most when parents and providers work together to plan and provide care. In a partnership, child care providers bring their knowledge of children's educational and developmental needs and parents bring the knowledge of their children's strengths, needs, and interests. Together, parents and providers develop goals that are best for each child within the child care setting.

Positive relationships between parents and providers are created by two-way communication, a feeling of trust, sharing of goals and expectations, providing information and resources, and having opportunities to make joint decisions about the care children will receive. A successful partnership between parents and providers will have some of the following qualities:

- Parents and providers communicate on a daily or other regular basis.
- Parents trust and feel at ease with the child care program.
- There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in activities in the child care setting.
- Providers are always asking parents for input and feedback on the program.
- Children are doing well and happy within the child care setting.

Ways to Communicate (what it may look like)

- Regular emails or notes are being sent between parents and providers.
- Parents and providers have regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the child's progress and development in the program.
- A daily notebook goes back and forth from home to the program-providers and parents write notes to each other about the child or any other issues or concerns.
- Telephone calls are made when concerns arise or when there is an immediate issue that needs addressing.

Benefits of a Partnership

When the parent-provider relationship is working at its best, there are many opportunities to add to the overall development of children and to provide family-centered services. A successful parent-provider partnership is good for everyone:

- Children have support in their daily activities.
- Parents benefit when providers and staff understand and respond to their children's needs, and provide information and resources that helps them.
- Providers benefit by having the much needed input, support, and participation of parents for their program.

What Parents Can Do

Parents want the best for their children. When placing a child in child care, many parents go through a period of anxiety and uneasiness because they are concerned about their child's well-being. Some of the concerns and questions parents may ask themselves are: Will the child care provider like my child? Will she understand my child's moods? How can I be sure my child will be happy there?

These are all reasonable concerns. Parents know their children better than anyone else. So when other people are caring for their children, they realize no one can care for them in the same way. This will always be true.

However, there are ways parents can ease some of their concerns before and after choosing a child care provider.

When Choosing a Child Care Provider: Parents should ask about and look for the following:

Program's policies and daily activities:

1. Do they provide the kind of activities you want for your child?

2. Do you agree with their discipline procedures?
3. Are there any program policies you may need to ask about?
4. Do they encourage parent involvement? If so, what kind?

Temperament and manner of the child care provider(s):

1. Are you as a parent comfortable with the provider?
2. Do you think your child will fit in well?
3. How do they prefer to communicate?
4. Is that compatible with your style? How do they interact with other children?

Helping A Child Care Provider Get to Know Your Child: There are many ways you can help a provider get to know your child and your expectations for child care. Here are a few:

1. Make a one page diagram of your child—place a picture of your child in the middle of the page with your child's name and age underneath. Draw lines from the outer edges of the picture and form small boxes around the picture with different categories, such as: Favorite Foods (apples, pizza), and Favorite Activities (painting, building). This is a fun and creative way to let a provider know about your child.
2. Share photos of your child with the provider and tell her about each one.
3. Have a talk with the provider about what your hopes and expectations are for your child while in child care.
4. Volunteer to help out in the program whenever you can. Let the provider know you support the program.

What Providers Can Do

In both a center and a family child care home setting, child care providers play a big role in creating partnerships with parents. Parents need to be an integral part of the child care program and providers can help make this happen.

To foster a partnership with parents providers can:

- Learn as much as possible about the children in their program and get to know their families as well. Learn about family rituals and routines and how they interact with one another.
- Encourage open communication with parents. Be a good listener and avoid making judgments.
- Be sensitive to cultural and family experience differences. Reflect cultural diversity in the program with a variety of materials, toys, books, and activities.
- Encourage and find ways to include parents in program activities and program decisions. Invite them to participate in classroom activities. Ask their opinions about program improvements.
- Host a family cookout and have the children's families bring a dish to share with everyone. Encourage the adults who are important in the children's lives to come as well, such as uncles, aunts, grandparents, and so on.
- Make sure each child has a special area in your program and invite families to come and decorate that area with artwork, photographs, drawings, or other items that are reflective of that child's family and home life.
- Create and give out a newsletter to families on a regular basis letting them know about upcoming events at the program, resources in the community, and specific accomplishments and trainings that involve program staff.

For More Information on Building Positive Relations:

- **Child Care Aware**, www.childcareaware.org, or call 1-800-424-2246
- **National Network for Child Care**, www.nncc.org.
- **National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)**, www.naeyc.org, or call 1-800-424-2460.

(Taken from "The Daily Parent" prepared by NACCRRRA, Washington, D.C., the nations network of child care resource and referral, with funding by the Citigroup Foundation.)



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