

DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA

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

Volume IX, Issue II

FEBRUARY 2005

Interest Centers

"Reaching for the Stars"

"Reaching for the Stars" is a quality enhancement initiative of the Division of Child Care (Department of Human Services) that was developed to improve the quality of child care in Oklahoma, especially for children receiving child care subsidies. The initiative established enhanced quality criteria beyond licensing standards. Programs can receive a 1-Star, 1-Star Plus, 2-Star, or 3-Star rating. Three-Star centers must meet the enhanced Stars criteria and be nationally accredited. "Reaching for the Stars" criteria expect classrooms for young children to include a variety of materials organized into interest centers.

What are Interest Centers?

Interest centers have a variety of other names, "activity centers," "learning centers," and "interest areas" are just a few of them. Interest centers are areas within the classroom where similar materials are grouped together to encourage specific activities or experiences for the children. These areas are well defined, distinct, and easy to see (*Norris, Eckert, & Gardiner, 2004*).

What Interest Centers Should I Include?

- Art — Blocks—Dramatic Play—Library—Manipulatives

Why Should I Include Interest Centers?

Interest centers **allow children to learn appropriately**, in the ways that children learn best. According to research, children learn appropriately from (*Bredenkamp & Copple, 1997*):

- Hands-on, social, and active experiences with play
- Meaningful experiences with materials given to them
- Working at their own individual pace

Classrooms with interest centers have (*Brekekamp & Copple, 1997*):

- Fewer discipline problems
- More learning and development
- Learning in all developmental areas

Children in classrooms with interest centers develop in the following areas (*Hoorn, Nourot, Scales & Alward, 1993*):

- They develop **social** skills.
- They learn how to **take the viewpoint of others** and to **think flexibly** and **abstractly**.
- They learn to make **good choices** and to take **responsibility** for their own actions and choices.
- They develop their **language** and **literacy** skills.
- They develop **mathematical** thinking and **problem-solving** skills.
- They develop the beginning understanding of **physics** and **geometry** by learning **balance, speed, shape, size, length,** and **pattern** in the block center.
- They develop higher **self-esteem** as they practice and master skills.
- Children become more **independent** because they are in control of their own learning/playing.
- Children develop their **small muscles** in the various centers by lacing cards and stringing beads, by building and balancing, by painting, drawing, writing, and coloring, and by being able to button, snap, and zip.
- When they are given more time to play, they develop **longer attention spans** with the ability to **focus**, and they become more **adventurous**.
- Children develop their **imagination** and **creativity** when they are allowed to play freely with the materials, in ways that they choose, for extended periods of time.

Coming next month: How Do I Create Interest Centers? Classroom Arrangement and Materials.

(taken from the Early Childhood Collaborative of Oklahoma. For more information visit www.okdhs.org/children)

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
February 12
March 12

Tuesdays 5:00 pm—8:00 pm
February 15
March 15

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

We would like to say Thank You to all the child care programs that have updated their information over the past few months. We appreciate the time you take to give us updated information so we can pass along current and accurate information to families looking for child care.

POINTERS FOR PROVIDERS

When mailing in any billing forms for redemption, please ensure that the envelope is sent to the attention of **“Subsidy Billing”**. This will help to avoid any delays that may occur in receiving your billing forms.

The Subsidy Program recommends, to further avoid any delays in redeeming billing, that you avoid claiming more than \$3,000.00 on a single batch form. If the amount claimed on your billing form amounts to more than \$3,000.00, we recommend that you split the billing forms into two batches and attach a separate batch form for each set of billing forms.

As always remember a batch form must be attached to any and all billing forms sent in for redemption. Within this newsletter is a copy of the School Closing Policy for future reference.

Greater Tulsa Area Family Child Care Organization
(GTAFFCCO)

Membership Drive for 2005!

It’s that time of year again. GTAFFCCO has begun their membership drive for the year 2005. There is an Early Bird Special. If you join GTAFFCCO **before** March 31st , your membership dues will be **\$20.00** for the year. After March 31st, it will cost \$25.00 to join. We hope everyone will take advantage of the early bird special and join now!

Make check payable to: GTAFFCCO

Mail them to: Christina Kamp
1906 Quail Run

Muskogee, OK 74403

Being a GTAFFCCO member will allow you to attend almost every GTAFFCCO workshop free of charge. (There will be a fee for non-members.) This organization strives to help all family child care providers meet state licensing requirements as well as providing educational and fun training opportunities throughout the year. Being a member of this organization will provide you with the friendship and support that all family child care providers need.

For more information on GTAFFCCO please contact: Rhonda Dunn, 683-0009; Becky Day, 254-4151; or Christina Kamp, 687-0767.

DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA
Child Care Programs



P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465
(918) 458-7613
888-458-6230
E-mail: ccrc@cherokee.org
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.

Inside this issue:

Pointers for Providers.....	2
CN Billing Procedures-School closings.....	3
February Training.....	4
March Training.....	5
CPR and First Aid Training.....	6
Unique Environments Outreach.....	7



Oklahoma Child Care
RESOURCE & REFERRAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

CHILD CARE PROGRAM BILLING PROCEDURES - SCHOOL CLOSINGS EFFECTIVE 10-01-98

OFFICIAL POLICY:

Changes in the hours of care may be authorized with no pre-approval for additional hours of child care needed due to school closings. Additional hours of care may be authorized in half-day increments only. All changes in hours of care, which are not related to school closing, i.e. a change in parents' work or school schedule, must have prior authorization by a Child Care Eligibility Specialist.

School closings include: Spring Break, Teachers Meetings, Staff Development Days, Winter (Christmas) Break, Snow Days, Official Holidays (Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Easter, etc.) Times will vary by school, therefore, the Child Care Program has not set any specific days nor will we ask the parent to submit a child's school schedule. The Child Care Program retains the right to require documentation if needed. The Parent/Guardian **does not** have to call the Child Care Eligibility Specialist for school closings unless additional days are required for a child; (i.e. A child is approved for 3 part-time days and will need to attend 5 full-time days during Spring Break. The Parent/Guardian will be required to contact a Child Care Eligibility Specialist before an approval to claim the additional days can be made.) Providers will not have to wait for Retro Forms to be issued for school closings. The current contract can be utilized. This will result in a more timely and efficient level of service to providers and parents of the Child Care Programs.

Changes in parents' work schedules, school changes, additional days of care, or residences still require verification be provided to the Child Care Eligibility Specialist. The Full-Time rate will not begin until verification of the change is received by the Child Care Office. Providers can utilize the current contract. If timely notice is received by the Child Care Office, payment for the Full-Time charge will be paid. Parents will be responsible for any unauthorized care. **Parents are required to notify the Child Care Eligibility Specialist when school is out for the summer vacation.**

In order to claim for school closings, these procedures shall be adhered to:

1. Providers must write in the time the child arrived, the time the child departed, the number of hours the child was there, and the amount charged for that day. (This amount is based on your established rates for Full-Time Care for the children in your facility.)
2. The reason for claiming Full-Time Care on a Part-Time billing form must be documented for each day of additional care on the contract or voucher. You must list the reason: Spring Break, Teachers Meeting, etc. beside each day you expect Full-Time payment for. Failure to properly document the reason for additional time will result in a denial of the Full-Time rate and payment of the Part-Time rate. For vouchers, mark out the AMOUNT CLAIMED, add the difference from the Part-Time to the Full-Time rate to the AMOUNT on the voucher. This is the amount you will claim for each voucher in which you can claim additional Full-Time rates. Additional Retro Forms **will not** be authorized for failure to properly document the additional Full-Time hours of care.
3. When a child has used all days within the expiration dated on the contract, the provider will total the full- and part-time days, record the number of days, the total charge of this contract, and deduct the parents co-payment. For vouchers, the provider will add up the total amount of the vouchers and submit for payment. (Reminder: The co-payment has been deducted for the voucher. The provider is responsible for collecting the difference in the amount between the voucher and the amount charged.)
4. All other current payment policy and procedures remain in effect.

MARCH TRAINING

March 3, 10 & 24

VINITA—HALL-HALSELL ELEMENTARY

Time: 6:00 pm—9:20 pm

Child Development I (content area #8, 10 hours) - Outlines major growth events of the first six years of life. Discusses practical ideas for meeting the needs of growth stages by observing and matching activities, materials, and equipment to the children's abilities. Trainer: Vicki Toews. **Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

March 3, 10, 17

GROVE HIGER EDUCATION CENTER

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: Linda Buzzard. **Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

March 7,9,14,16

CCRC—TAHLEQUAH

Time: 9:00 am—3:00 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: Debbie Smith. **Fee: \$20 Please contact the Child Care Resource Center, at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

March 7,8,9,10,14,15,16,17

GREEN COUNTRY VO-TECH—OKMULGEE

Time: 6:30 pm—9:00 pm

Directors Survivors Training—D.S.T. (20 hours) - The Director Survivor Training Module will equip the child care center director or administrator with a tool kit that provides them adequate information to survive in the child care center. Trainer: Melodie Watson. **Please contact Melodie Watson at (918) 652-4637 to register.**

March 15, 17, & 22

CCRC—TAHLEQUAH

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: Gaynia Jones. **Fee: \$10 Please contact the Child Care Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230 to register.**

March 31, April 7 & 14

HALL-HALSELL ELEMENTARY—VINITA

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. Trainer Vicki Toews. **Please contact the Child Care 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 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

CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

Tahlequah—EMS

February 7

Pediatric CPR and First Aid
(Both for only \$25)

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)**

Cherokee Nation EMS will accept payment for daytime classes, held during office hours between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm, on the day of the scheduled class.

For evening classes, payment must be received before the night of the scheduled class.

Payment can be made during regular office hours or payment can be mailed ahead of time.

THERE WILL BE NO PAYMENT OR REGISTRATION ACCEPTED IN THE EVENINGS.

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 _____

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:

_____ (1st Choice)

_____ (2nd Choice)

_____ (3rd 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