

# DINIYOTHLI KANOHEDA

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

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## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDCARE: DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

Caregivers, teachers, peers, extended family, media, heredity, and the environment all contribute to a child's development; however, parents (if present) are the most powerful influence in the lives of their children. Parental involvement not only shapes development during the initial years of life, but also during the adolescent and adult years.

Given this important rule, to *what extent* should parents be involved in their children's development? Parental involvement, according to the National PTA, "is the participation of parents in *every facet* of the education and development of children from birth to adulthood, recognizing that parents are the primary influence in their children's lives." If this statement is correct, then parents have a tremendous responsibility to be involved with their children both inside and outside the home, including their children's non-parental childcare arrangements.

Decades of research have demonstrated that the more involved parents are in their children's development, the greater chance children have to succeed, particularly in their academic performance. Consistently, researchers have discovered that greater parental involvement in a child's education is associated with:

- Higher student grades and test scores
- Better attendance
- Higher rates of homework completion
- More positive student attitudes and behavior
- Higher graduation rates, and
- Greater enrollment rates in post secondary education.

The same researchers have also noted that when parents are involved, children achieve more regardless of their socioeconomic level, ethnic/racial background, or the parents' educational level (Henderson & Berla, 1994).

As recent research on early brain development has shown, positive parental involvement needs to begin long before the children enter into formal schooling arrangements. The early years of a child's life are critically important for healthy brain development, attachment formation, and language acquisition. Prime opportunities for learning exist during the first few years of life that may not be recovered at a later stage. At the same time, today's children are spending more and more time in non-parental childcare arrangements. As a childcare provider, you may spend more waking hours with a child than his or her parents. Therefore, it is important for childcare providers and parents to work together as a team to promote as much parental involvement as possible.

Parental involvement in childcare not only benefits children but also parents and childcare providers. In interviews with parents and childcare providers, Preston Britner discovered that parental involvement was one of the key factors in how satisfied parents were with their children's care arrangements. The greater their involvement, the more satisfied they were with their children's care. Other surveys indicate that childcare providers are overwhelmingly in favor of parental involvement from both mothers and fathers. What is less clear for some, however, is what childcare providers can do to encourage greater parental involvement in the childcare setting and at home.

Continued on page 2

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Following are some suggestions for improving the level of parental involvement in your childcare center.

**Conduct a parental involvement assessment:**

- In what ways do the parents involve themselves?
- Are there areas in which they can become more involved?
- What are some of the barriers preventing parents from being involved?
- What efforts have been effective or ineffective in the past?
- Are parents satisfied or dissatisfied with their level of involvement?
- In what capacity would they like to become more involved?
- What attitudes toward parental involvement do the staff have?

**Create an environment that welcomes and encourages parental involvement.**

Do parents feel welcome to visit their children while in your care? Are there special opportunities for them to come to the center when their children are present? Do mothers as well as fathers feel comfortable being involved? In other words, is your facility family friendly? Some parents may be reluctant to get involved unless you make special efforts to let them know that their involvement is welcomed and extremely important.

**Expect parents to be involved.** Dr. James Levine and his colleagues at the Families and Work Institute conducted a nationwide study of early childhood programs that were successful at involving fathers. One common theme that was discovered in nearly all of the programs was an expectation on the part of staff that parents would be involved. A director at one of the centers commented that when staff have no expectations for involvement, that is exactly what they will get. It becomes a self-fulfilling prophesy. Therefore, it is important to let parents know from the day their children enroll that their involvement is expected and valued.

**Communicate regularly with parents.** Communication is a two-way street. Parents need to be informed about what is going on at the childcare center. Likewise, childcare providers need to have an idea of what is going on in the home environment of the children in their care. The only way this will happen is if both parent and provider make a regular effort to keep each other informed. This is true for positive developments (e.g., a child learning the alphabet; a child learning to walk) as well as negative developments (e.g. a child hitting or biting another child; a child not respecting a teacher). Communication can take place in a variety of ways (i.e., by phone, in writing, face-to-face, etc. ) as long as it occurs.

**Hold special events specifically designed to involve parents in the childcare center.** Some of the most successful childcare centers host a variety of special events to facilitate parental involvement and to let them know what their children are doing away from their care. Events may include parent-teacher conferences, career days (a parent comes to talk about his or her job with the children), work days (to paint or clean the facility), field trips, fundraising activities, open houses, plays, educational events, recreational activities, meals together, etc.

There are many options available to you as a childcare provider, so be creative and have fun as you seek to involve parents in positive ways.

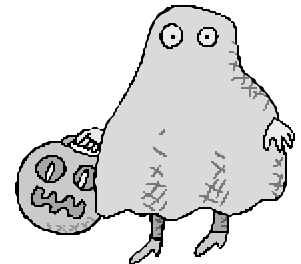
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Levine, J. A., Murphy, D. T. & Wilson S. (1998). *Getting Men Involved: Strategies for Early Childhood Programs.* New York: Families & Work Institute.

Britner, P. (1999) *What Leads to Satisfaction for Child Care Providers and Parents.* [<http://www.nncc.org/research/satisfaction.html>].

"Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care—NNCC—Green, S. (Author), (2003). *Parental Involvement in Childcare: Does It Really Matter?* Child Care Center Connections, Vol. 11, Issue 2, 2002. College Station, TX: National Network for Child Care at Texas A&M University."



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## O-SI-YO

by Tina Smith  
Resource and Referral Specialist

### Cherokee Nation Child Care Resource Center offers extended hours for service!

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

October 11  
November 8  
December 13

Tuesdays 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

October 21  
November 18  
December 16



## ENTRY LEVEL CHILD CARE TRAINING (ELCCT)

Recently, an entry-level training requirement was added to Licensing Requirements for Child Care Centers:

"Prior to or within three months of employment, staff counted to meet the staff-child ratios participate in a Tier II entry-level training course that provides at least 20 hours of training, in accordance to OKDHS Appendix L-1. Directors are not required to have this training. Staff who have previously received this training are not required to repeat it unless there is a two year break in service."

This requirement went into effect on August 1, 2003. One very important issue to remember is that this regulation applies to new employees only (employees hired after August 1, 2003). This does not apply to the caregivers who are currently working in the child care center.

Information on class dates, location and registration can be found at [www.cccpd.org](http://www.cccpd.org).

## COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

The Child Care Provider's Coalition of Kansas would like to invite you to our 18th Annual Statewide Family Child Care Conference, April 30—May 1, 2004 in Hutchinson, Kansas! Bring the family and enjoy the accommodations of the beautiful Hutchinson Plaza Hotel and Conference Center. A heated pool, hot tub and game room make this an ideal spot for a mini family vacation. Visit the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center! Join us on Friday night for our Family Fun Night which will include activities for the whole family. Friday and Saturday offer two full days of quality training sessions and great exhibits followed by our awards banquet (adults only, please) on Saturday night.

For more information regarding the conference and layaway plan please contact Becky Stewart, Conference Coordinator, at (913) 384-4502 or [bstewart2004@yahoo.com](mailto:bstewart2004@yahoo.com).

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)

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Editor—Tina Smith

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## UTILIZING SELF-ASSESSMENT FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT TRAINING

To help child care programs and homes meet new *REACHING FOR THE STARS* policy, the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development (CECPD) is providing the required Self-Assessment Training. Listed below are important facts to help clarify the new requirement regarding the Self-Assessment Training and the new *STARS* policy.

### **WHEN SHOULD I ATTEND A SELF-ASSESSMENT TRAINING?**

***If your program or home is a One-Star or One-Star Plus:*** Attendance at a training is required once the program or home determines that they are **ready to apply** for the Two-Star.

***If your program or home is already a \*Two- or Three-Star program:*** Attendance at the training is required **BEFORE** your next scheduled ERS Assessment provided by the CECPD (which is every two years from the date of the STAR award). **It is recommended that to receive full benefit of the training, attend the training closer to the time that your program or home is scheduled to receive the ERS Assessment provided by CECPD.** It is the responsibility of the program or home to contact CECPD to schedule the ERS Assessment to meet the two (2) year requirement as stated in the STARS criteria.

\*If your program has met Two-Star status by being nationally accredited, you are exempt from this training.

### **WHO SHOULD ATTEND THE SELF-ASSESSMENT TRAINING?**

**Only one person, per site (or K8 number)** is required to attend this one-time training.

### **HOW SHOULD THE DESIGNATED PERSON REGISTER FOR THE SELF-ASSESSMENT TRAINING?**

Complete the registration form provided on a training flyer or provided on the CECPD website ([www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org)). Enclose a \$20 non-refundable fee and mail the form to:

The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Registration and Records  
1700 Asp Avenue, Room B-1  
Norman, OK 73072-6400

Registration can be done by phone if using your credit card. Call OU Registration and Records at (405) 325-2249 and have your credit card information available. If you would like to fax your information, put to the attention of Registration and Records and fax to (405) 325-7164. **LIMITED ENROLLMENT BASED ON SITE OCCUPANCY. DO NOT send registration information to CECPD.**

**Registration closes every Thursday at Noon for the following week of scheduled training. Walk-ins accepted only if space is available. Registration payment by check required for walk-ins.**

Self-Assessment Training Schedules will be posted regularly throughout the year on the CECPD website or by statewide mailings every 3 months. Sites and locations chosen throughout the year for training are based on availability of a trainer, and location cost. Videoconference trainings will also be scheduled to meet the training requirement. **Registration information for the videoconference training options will come by mail only!**

### **WHAT SHOULD THE DESIGNATED PERSON DO TO PREPARE FOR THE TRAINING?**

Provided on the CECPD website are the training overheads. You may wish to download this document and bring it with you to the training. The Environment Rating Scale Self-Assessment Readiness Checklist necessary to complete the self-assessment process to meet STARS requirements will be available at the trainings. In addition, the ECERS-R or FDCRS scale book will be distributed at the trainings. If you are interested in purchasing the ITERS-R or SACERS books before the training takes place contact:

Teachers College Press 1-800-575-6566  
Kaplan 1-800-334-2014

Redleaf Press 1-800-423-8309  
Environments, Inc. 1-800-342-4453

### **WHAT ARE THE RESOURCES TO ASSIST WITH THE ENVIRONMENT RATING SCALES?**

ERS Help Sheets will be handed out at the Self-Assessment Training to assist providers in preparing for the ERS Assessment provided by CECPD. In addition, a large assortment of resources are available on the CECPD website.

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDS THE TRAINING?**

**If your program or home is a One-Star or One-Star Plus program:** Using the Environment Rating Scale Self-Assessment Readiness Checklist provided at the trainings or downloaded from the CECPD website, perform the self-assessment on the program (depending on the ages served) or home environment. **Attach** a copy of the completed self-assessment checklist and training certificate to the *Two-Star* application. Keep the original checklist and training certificate in a safe place at your program or home. Attendance at another self-assessment training is NOT required.

**If your program or home is a Two- or Three-Star program:** Using the Environment Rating Scale Self-Assessment Readiness Checklist provided at the trainings or downloaded from the CECPD website, perform the self-assessment on the program (depending on the ages served) or home environment. **Show** a copy of the completed self-assessment checklist and training certificate to your licensing worker during a child care facility visit. Keep the original checklist and training certificate in a safe place at your program or home. Attendance at another self-assessment training is NOT required.

For more information visit the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development website at [www.cecpd.org](http://www.cecpd.org) or call toll-free statewide 888-446-7608.

Listed below are dates, times and locations for our area:

October 4	9:00 am—1:00 pm	Sallisaw	Sequoyah Co. DHS, HC 61, Box 20
October 7	5:00 pm—9:00 pm	Miami	Ottawa Co. DHS, 1601 N. Main
October 18	10:00 am—2:00 pm	Tulsa	Friends of Early Education, 3336 E 32nd St, Suite 1
October 21	6:00 pm—10:00 pm	Okmulgee	Green Country Tech. Center, 1100 N. Loop 56

## Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit 10th Annual Early Childhood Conference

The Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit is getting ready for their 10th Annual Early Childhood Conference scheduled for November 24—26, 2003 in Tulsa, OK. The conference will be held at the Marriott Hotel—Southern Hills at 1902 East 71st Street (I-44 to Lewis Exit, go left to 71st street.)

The theme for this year's conference is *"Stayin' Alive After 25"*, which means that Head Start has been with the Cherokee Nation for 25 years.

The conference is designed to enhance the quality of service provided to children by professionals in the early childhood field.

Each year topics for the conference are selected to cater to the needs of all ECU staff and participants. There are also fun sessions—music, make-n-takes, fitness curriculums, etc.

Speakers for the conference include Sandy Garrett, State Superintendent, and Stephen Fite, Children's Music Recording Artist.

Early registration is \$150 by October 3, for all three days. After October 3, the registration is \$200. Deadline for registration is October 15. Registration includes a Monday continental breakfast, a Tuesday night banquet, and a Wednesday luncheon. There will also be door prizes.

For more information, or if you are interested in attending the conference, you may contact Mary Lamons at (918) 458-4393 or toll-free at 1-888-458-4393.



# NOVEMBER TRAINING

Contact the Resource Center at (918) 458-7613 or 1-888-458-6230  
to register for classes listed below.

November 3,6,10 & 13

VINITA—CHRISTIAN CHILD CARE 2

Time: 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

**Movement Experiences**—A methods class on how to provide movement experiences in a daily program for young children. Includes classroom learning activity cards.

November 3,10,17 & 24

PRYOR—MAYES CO. HEALTH DEPT.

Time: 7:00 pm—9:30 pm

**Behavior and Guidance I**—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.

November 4,8,13 & 15

TAHLEQUAH—CCRC

Time: 6:00 pm—8:30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am—11:30 am

**Behavior and Guidance II**—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 displaying the aggressive behavior.

## COMING IN DECEMBER:

Dollars and Sense - 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. (Fee: \$25 which includes Dollars and Sense workbook.)

## Location Information

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

\*Christian Child Care 2 is located at 616 W. Delaware in Vinita

\*Homespun Daycare is located at 305 S. Chickasaw in Claremore.

\*Mayes County Health Department is located at 111 N.E. 1st Street in Pryor.

\*Muldrow Day Care is located at 401 S. Main in Muldrow.

**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.**





## TIC-TOC TRAINING

### (Training Inclusive Childcare = Terrific Opportunities for Children)

Tic-Toc training is a series of regional skill-building workshops designed to assist child care providers to feel competent about including children with disabilities in typical child care settings.

**\**Communicating with Families & Community Resources (new course)*** - This workshop focuses on the importance of effective communication with the families of children with disabilities and the community. Areas to be discussed include: effective conflict resolution, program referral, follow-up, and reporting systems. We will spend time understanding our roles in the larger community and how to navigate community systems for successful inclusion.

**\**Promoting Meaningful Learning, Teaching Children with Disabilities (new course)*** - This workshop provides basic information regarding strategies you can implement in child-care settings that promote learning. The course will focus on familiar disabilities.

**\**Development Across Domains: Typical / Atypical Child Development***—Through the use of large group discussion & small group learning activities, this workshop focuses on the areas of cognitive, communication, self-help, motor, and social-emotional development and the impact a disability may have on typical development in these areas.

All workshops, technical assistance, and on-site follow-up consultation are provided at NO CHARGE.

On completion of each workshop a Certificate of Attendance will be provided to participants for documentation of continuing education hours.

TIC-TOC training will count toward the CDA credential.

For questions about registration contact Pat Diaz at (405) 271-1836, or by e-mail at tic-toc@ouhsc.edu

#### **Oklahoma City**

October 4	9:00 am—4:00 pm	Learning
November 1	9:00 am—4:00 pm	Typical / Atypical
December 6	9:00 am—4:00 pm	Communicating

#### **Tulsa**

October 25	9:30 am—4:30 pm	Typical / Atypical
November 15	9:30 am—4:30 pm	Communicating

#### **Ada (new location)**

October 25	9:00 am—4:00 pm	Learning
November 15	9:00 am—4:00 pm	Typical / Atypical

## OCTOBER IS...

**\*Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month**—Contact the National “Back-To-Sleep” Campaign at (800) 505-2742.

**\*National Breast Cancer Awareness Month**—Contact the American Cancer Society, Oklahoma Heartland Division at (800) 227-2345.

**\*National Dental Hygiene Month**—Contact your county health department or the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Dental Health Services (405) 271-5502 for a dental educator to visit your program and provide resources.

**\*National Fire Prevention Week—October 5-11** The theme for this years campaign is “GET OUT! STAY OUT!” Remember to install and test smoke alarms, practice escape plans, and look for fire hazards.

# PARENT PAGE

## ARE YOU OPEN TO INVOLVING PARENTS IN YOUR CHILDCARE CENTER?



How do you involve parents in your childcare center? Parents who bring their child to someone else to care for them for the first time have many concerns and questions. They are concerned most about their child's safety and ability to succeed in the new environment. Parents "check out" the center to try to get a feel for how they can contribute to the best outcome for their child. Parents often appreciate knowing ways in which they can participate in their child's care.

Results when childcare centers and parents work together include:

- Parents are better able to understand and support what the center is doing.
- Center staff are better able to understand the needs and concerns of parents.
- Children's self-esteem improves.
- Center programs are adjusted to meet the needs of children more fully.
- Parent-child relationships improve.
- Neighbors, who otherwise might not meet, begin relationships, and the community is strengthened.
- Children believe their "work" is important to their parents and other adults.
- One long-term effect on children is that they receive higher grades and scores in school later on.

### HOW CAN PARENTS BE INVOLVED?

- **Reading.** Nothing promotes brain development and language skills like spending time with children reading age-appropriate books.
- **Take children on field trips.** If given enough notice, many parents can take off work to help chaperone a field trip. This provides a relaxed atmosphere for staff and parents to visit and for the parents too see their child in the group.
- **Demonstrate a skill or talent.** Some parents may have a hobby, such as bird watching or gardening, that they could talk to the children about. Other parents may have exciting occupations, such as fireman or policeman, in which the children would be interested. The learning activities will be new each year, dependent upon parents' skills and talents.

### HOW CAN THE CENTER HELP THE PARENTS?

- **Provide age-level parent fact sheets.** The state departments of health and your county Extension office offer free materials on numerous parenting topics. It is extremely important for parents and caregivers to know what behaviors to expect at certain ages in a child's growth and development. Parents who have realistic expectations of their baby's growth and development are less apt to practice unsafe behaviors with their baby.
- **Teach parenting skills.** Serve refreshments, and let the kids stay in class for an extra 30 minutes every month while parents come in for a brief parenting and sharing class.
- **Video Recommendations:** *I Am Your Child: The First Years Last Forever.* Outlines the importance of early parental attachment for enhanced infant brain development. \$5.00 at [www.iamyourchild.org](http://www.iamyourchild.org). *Never Shake a Baby: What Parents and Caregivers Need to Know.* Includes vignettes from parents who have been exasperated with their baby's crying.

*References:* Davis, D. (2001). "Supporting Parent, Family, and Community Involvement in Your School." National Parent Information Network.

Parent Involvement Manual: Texas PTA under contract with Texas Education Agency (Parent Involvement and Community Empowerment Initiative).

"Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care—NNCC—James, Dorothy (Author), (2003). *Are You Open to Involving Parents in Your Childcare Center?* Child Care Center Connections, Vol. 11, Issue 2, 2002. College Station, TX: National Network for Child Care at Texas A&M University."

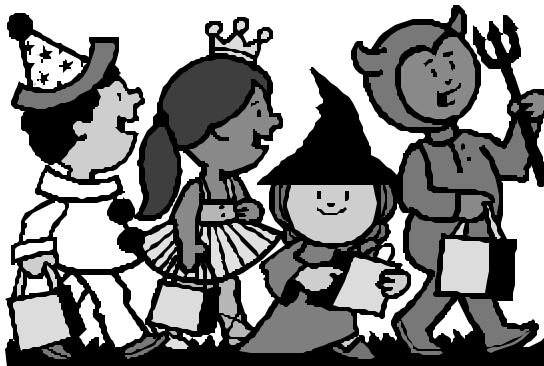
***\*Feel free to copy this page to share with parents\****

## STATE AND NATIONAL CONFERENCES

**October 10-11** Friends of Early Education 34th Annual Fall Conference—On the Road Again with Friends, Tulsa Convention Center. For more information contact the Friends of Early Education Office at (918) 742-2263.

**October 15-18** 12th Generations United International Conference—"Uniting Generations to Build a Better World." For more information call (202) 638-1263.

**November 5-8** NAEYC's Annual Conference and Expo. Chicago, IL.



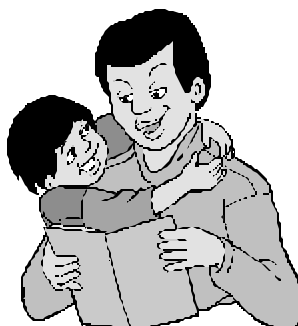
## OKLAHOMA CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION 2003 SCHEDULE

Do you need 40 hours of Management Training? Do you need this to apply for the STARS program? All of these classes meet the STARS requirement for Director's Training. Here are the dates and locations:

National Administrator Credential (NAC)  
 October 13-17 Oklahoma City  
 November 3-7 Tulsa  
 December 1-5 Oklahoma City

Director's Advance Training (DAT)  
 October 20-24 Tulsa  
 December 8-12 Oklahoma City

Brainsmart Management (BSM)  
 November 17-21 Tulsa



The total cost for each class is \$475. Scholarships for \$300 are funded through the Division of Child Care, once registration form and check for \$175 are received. Space is limited. Payment must be received with registration form to guarantee registration. **Questions? Call 1-800-580-4181. APPLY EARLY!**



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

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