



- Prairie 5 • Child Care Choices
- Heartland Community Action
- Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council

Quality Care and Education
for Every Child

July-October 2010

Midwest Memo

Building Quality: Making Good Things Better

Quality-

- It's good for the children you care for
- Parents value it
- It's good for your business!

Child Care Professionals will soon receive information about a new initiative called:

Building Quality: Making Good Things Better

It's a partnership among the Minnesota Child Care Resource & Referral Network, The Minnesota Department of Human Services and the Minnesota Center for Professional Development.

This is a **voluntary** opportunity for Child Care Providers.

Why the focus on **Quality**? Children need the best we can give them, in the following **Building Quality Focus Areas:**

- Family Partnerships
- Teaching Materials and Strategies
- Tracking Learning

- Child Safety
- Teacher Training and Education

Starting July 1, 2010 you will have the opportunity to apply for:

New Opportunities

- New Learning—connecting to the latest best practices
- Tools for a changing profession—prepare for a quality rating and improvement system

Building Quality Checklist

- Create a plan for building quality.
- Put your Building Quality plan into action.

Building Quality Plan

Grants

- Available to qualifying child care providers and awarded based on need.

Environment Rating Scale Consultation

- Work with your local

CCR&R team on this important rating tool

Training

- Attend low-cost training designed to prepare you for a quality rating and the soon-to-be-introduced Minnesota Child Care Credential

Professional Development Advising

- Work with your local CCR&R team to plan your professional growth.

For more information and to apply, please call (800) 284-3040 (after July 1) or log on to www.mnchildcare.org

CCR&R is pleased to be Your Partners in Caregiving!

Let us know how we can be of assistance to you in this important work.

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT! DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

2001 - SIDS Reduction Training is required for all licensed child care providers/staff prior to caring for infants.

2005 - Licensed child care providers/staff must take Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Training.

These trainings need to be taken at least once every 5 years.

That means that if you have been in the child care profession since at least 2005 this is the year you will need to renew your SBS and SIDS training.

Classes fill up fast. Register now to secure your spot.

www.mnstreams.org or 877-311-2244

GRANTS

Grant applications will be available beginning **September 1, 2010**.

How to get an application:

1. Download your copy on September 1 at www.midwestchildcare.com **OR**
2. Contact Tina at (800)292-5437 or tinap5@willmarnet.com to have one mailed or emailed to you on September 1 **OR**
3. Receive an application at one of our free grant workshops in August.

If you haven't applied for a grant before, now might be the time to apply for some great quality improvements for your child care program! **We are here to help** if you have any questions along the way. For more information about what you can apply for, what the process and requirements are, and about the free grant workshops, visit our website at www.midwestchildcare.com or contact Tina. The deadline to apply is September 25, 2010.

Region 6E (Serving Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, and Renville Counties)

Get Out! Summer brings more opportunities to be outside with the children you care for.

Here are some fun ideas:

- Do you want to borrow a parachute? Kids love them. We can give you ideas for using them. We have a limited number, so call to get on the list. How about books with ideas for outdoor play with children? We've got a good collection, and we'd be happy to lend them to you for 3 weeks. Email Becky: beckyk@heartlandcaa.org or call 320-235-0850 or 1-800-992-1710
- Buy a hula hoop! Then call or email us and we'll send you some ideas.
- Go to www.headstartbodystart.org for calendars for each day of the month. Under Toolbox, click on Get Moving Today activity calendar.

Region 6W (Serving Big Stone, Chippewa, La Qui Parle, Swift, and Yellow Medicine Counties)

Summer's Here!

With summer, come the summer reading programs! Reading programs are a wonderful way to broaden a child's world and they can be a great springboard to a child's developmental success. Many libraries in our communities are offering summer reading programs, artists in residence or other activity workshops for children. Contact your local public library or me to learn more about summer programs available in your community!

Building quality experiences and environments throughout the summer months.

With an increasing focus on building quality environments for the children in our programs, where or how do we begin to incorporate or maintain projects or materials that promote enriching learning experiences? One way is to consider activities and how they relate to the current season. For some fun ideas and activities to enhance your children's learning experiences this summer, please contact me.

Together, we can discuss the activities that work best for you and the children in your program.

Deb Spaeth at 320.269.8727 or 800.292.5437 or via email at debsp5@willmarnet.com.

As James Dent once wrote,
A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken. -
Happy Summer!

Region 7W (Serving Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties)

Child Care Choices has opportunities for a variety of projects involving site visits (including the Building Quality Project on the cover page). If you are interested or would like more information - please call our office.

Have you checked out the re-designed Child Care Choices website yet? Check out www.childcarechoices.net for a variety of information including the

average rates for your area.

SAVE THE DATE!

October 2, 2010 - **Renew** Child Care Conference in the North Metro area
November 6, 2010 - **LEAF** Child Care Conference in Cloquet (Duluth area)
November 2010 - **Children of Multiple Cultures** Conference in St. Cloud
March 26, 2011 - **Caring for a Lifetime** Child Care Conference in Sauk Rapids

Watch the website for more information!

Here is how to contact us!

320-251-5081 or 800-288-8549 ext 501
Corinne - Program Support - Ext 20
clyon@childcarechoices.net
Crystal - Child Care Specialist - Ext. 18
cpetersen@childcarechoices.net
Jessica - Child Care Specialist - Ext 29
jbaker@childcarechoices.net
Marcia - Program Manager - Ext 16
mschlattman@childcarechoices.net
Teresa - Child Care Liaison - 320-308-5709
tvoight@childcarechoices.net

Region 8 (Serving Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock Counties)

"My name is Karen, how may I help you?"

Actually, **OUR** name is Karen, but we are certainly here to help you! Karen DeBoer, SWCCRR Director, and Karen Gadda, SWCCRR Resource Coordinator, are YOUR local CCRR staff for Region 8. What does local mean? It means we have an office in Worthington but we work closely throughout our nine-county area: Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, and Rock.

What kind of things do we do to support you? We are your daily, 24/7 advocates for child care. We spread the message about quality experiences for children: to parents, to businesses, to schools, to everyone! We promote child care at community events. We promote connections between early childhood programs.

What kind of help can we provide to you? We can help you find training. We can help you with your business policy. We can offer you

ideas to help you run your child care business. We can provide you with information to help you solve a problem with a child or a parent. We have books, videos, and supplies that are available to **you!**

If you are having a problem or just want to get some information - we are here for you! Give us a call at 1-800-658-2444 or 507-376-4195. You can also email us anytime at kdeboer@smoc.us or kgadda@smoc.us Doing child care can be a hard job - let us help you!

Immunizations and Minnesota Law

Minnesota law requires that all licensed child care providers help make sure young children are immunized against serious diseases. A number of childhood diseases— such as measles, pertussis, and mumps—still can spread rapidly among children who haven't received the proper shots. These diseases can cause serious illness, brain damage, and even death.

The law requires all enrolled children show evidence of immunization or properly document exemptions. As a child care provider, you must ensure that the children in your care are receiving their shots or have filed appropriate exemptions.

Legal exemptions are permissible for those who have medical contraindications to vaccine(s) or if a parent has conscientiously held beliefs that oppose immunization. Records for infants and children who have not completed a primary series of vaccines must be signed by a physician or public clinic staff.

If a parent seeks to enroll a child in your facility who is not appropriately immunized, you cannot admit that child until they have received the minimum shots required by law or filed an appropriate exemption. Without these shots, their health—and the health of other young children in your care—may be at risk.

Q: Who is responsible for enforcing the law?

If you are the administrator or supervisor of a "Rule 3" child care center or "Rule 2" family child care facility, you must enforce this law. You must make sure that all parents or legal guardians submit the proper documentation before attending your facility. Depending on each child's situation, documentation may include: date specific immunization history, a medical exemption, or a notarized statement of conscientious objection.

You will need these forms on file for review by your child care licensor. In addition, each fall, all Rule 3 facilities

(except for drop-in centers) must complete a survey form which you receive each fall from Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), summarizing the immunization status of your enrolled children.

Information on the MN Immunization Law can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/childcare/index.html>

Q: Which immunization form should I use?

Kids get a lot of shots to protect them from deadly diseases. Keeping track of those shots can be difficult. MDH has just updated the *Child Care Immunization Record* in May 2010. The form you should use can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/laws/childcareimzrec.pdf>

Q: How do I know which shots children currently need?

The current immunization recommendations for children can be found at:

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/childadoleng.pdf>

An interactive tool from the Center for Disease Prevention & Control (CDC) to help parents and providers get an immunization schedule specific to the child's birthdate (for children six years and younger) can be found at:

http://www2a.cdc.gov/nip/kidstuff/newscheduler_le/

Q: What if a child only received some of his or her required immunizations?

By law, children who have not received all the recommended doses for a given disease have up to 18 months to complete them. If a child does not receive the required shots or have a legal exemption in that time, you must exclude that child

from your facility. To avoid this, make sure the immunization records you have on file for each child are up to date, and regularly remind parents when shots are due.

Through HIPAA and the MN Data Sharing Law, child care providers are allowed to call the medical clinic of a child to ask for immunization data without the parent's/ guardian's consent.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/immunize/hippdata.html>

Immunization Tips for Child Care Providers

Child care providers know child care kids need their shots. Not only is it the law; it's also one of the most loving things we can do for children.

As a licensed child care provider, you play a key role in ensuring that the children you care for receive the life-saving protection of shots. With your help, child care kids can be among the best immunized in the state. Make sure that every child in your facility is up to date on his/her shots.

Tips:

- Document each child's immunizations or legal exemptions before they start child care.
- Keep track of dates when each child's shots are due so you can be sure they complete them within 18 months of enrollment as required by law.
- Give parents reminders at 2, 4, 6, and 12-18 months of age.
- Keep an immunization schedule on hand.
- Be sure to get an updated version each year, because the schedule does change fairly often.
- Encourage parents to carry a shot record for each child - preferably the Minnesota Immunization Record, also known as the "Gold Card."
- If you don't have access to the internet, contact your state or county licensor or county Public Health agency for information on immunizations.



P.O. Box 159
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www.midwestchildcare.com

Region 6E



Region 6W



Region 7W

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Region 8

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Linking Families to Nutrition

At one time it was known as “food stamps”, yet, with a new name, comes new information. Now known in Minnesota as Food Support, we have learned the Food Support Program is incredibly underused, but also widely available to many people who may be eligible, yet aren’t aware of the program.

Food Support Program sponsors across the state would like to change that. Statewide, staff has been assigned and committed to the initiative of getting the most current and accurate information about the Food Support Program out to everyone in our communities. Informational sites offering Food Support information and application assistance are located throughout the state. For questions about Food Support, contact the human services office in your county. To find out where to apply, call the Food Support Help Line at (800) 657-3698.

We encourage you to share this information with a family or families who could benefit from the Food Support Program. You could be the link between this family and their access to a nutritional resource.

