

## E-Newsletter – September 2008

### Hello Newsletter Subscribers!

Welcome to this month's issue of the Better Kid Care E-Newsletter - A newsletter for those caring for children.



Notable Quote: "Now is a moment of opportunity for family involvement...consider the 'big picture' of family involvement and its potentially bright future." ~ Bouffard, Suzanne, and Weiss, Heather, *Thinking Big: A New Framework for Family Involvement Policy, Practice, and Research, Harvard Family Research Project, The Evaluation Exchange XIV 1&2, Spring 2008.*

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### Tips for Early Educators and Practitioners: Sharing with Families

Linda from Indiana County, PA, knows how important it is to work together with families. Linda has a terrific idea for sharing professional development and communicating with her families in her child care program. After Linda has worked on one of the Better Kid Care Professional Development Distance Education lessons on DVD, she then offers the DVD (professional development) for parents to also view.

Linda finds that she and her families are sharing and understanding the same early childhood information, using the same language, and planning quality care experiences for the children. She and the families discuss and share their ideas at drop-off and pick-up times and when planning specifically for the children. Linda shows she values family input and involvement in her program and also is sharing important information on early

childhood topics. By encouraging this type of communication early on, Linda builds positive relationships with her families that continue to grow.

Do you have a *great tip* or *good thing*? Send us your best tips in writing and your tip may end up in our newsletter! Email Christine at [crb16@psu.edu](mailto:crb16@psu.edu) or contact the Better Kid Care Program at 814-865-7894 or 800-452-9108 (within PA).

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## **Feature Article - Celebrations and Invitations: Part 2 of Getting to Know Families**

### **Celebrations and Invitations: Getting to Know Families**

Family involvement brings much to celebrate. Research shows that family involvement is a key piece to success for children. Along with success comes a joy and satisfaction of building partnerships that grow and add value over time. Consider the following from the Harvard Family Research Project:



"Children's cognitive and behavioral skills, while important, are not enough to ensure school success. Of equal or greater importance are the support and involvement of the child's family and positive relationship between home and school." ~ Amy Schulting, M.Ed., M.A., *Promoting Parent-School Relationships During the Transition to Kindergarten*, Harvard Family Research Project, The Evaluation Exchange XIV, 1&2, Promising Practices, Spring 2008

To celebrate family involvement is to welcome our differences as well as celebrate our connections. Differences in socioeconomic backgrounds, cultural experiences, personal views, lifestyles, education, and other individual characteristics make each family and person one of a kind. Wanting what is best for the child is the united focus and connection.

Getting to know families and fostering their involvement is a priority to all programs. It helps to designate a family involvement leader or committee. Planning should include not only ideas from the program, but from parents, staff, and children. The identified leader(s) can help plan strategies, goals, and specific activities. They also can make sure family involvement goals are met and reflected on for further growth and planning throughout the year.

***When getting to know families it may help to think about:***

- What are your definitions of family?
- What are your definitions of family involvement?
- What are your goals for family involvement?
- What helps you in getting to know families?
- What are the needs of your families?
- In what ways do you communicate with families and how often?
- What type of schedules do your families have?
- How will you connect families to your program?
- How will you connect families to their child's learning?



### **Don't do it all by yourself**

Many researchers in family involvement are rethinking the typical family involvement strategies. A strong focus is being placed on including plans that connect families not only to the program but to the child's learning. Teachers are often considered to be the only ones who are doing the planning, but research shows that planning collaboratively with the family makes for greater success all around. Findings also suggest that families that are

involved and welcomed during the transitional stages (such as beginning a program) are shown to continue their involvement throughout their child care and school experiences.



### **Invitations**

Listen and invite families to share their opinions and to help plan what is best for their child. Provide families appropriate information on child development and how the program is set up to support this. Share with families your goals and plans for their child's learning and ask for their suggestions. This type of collaboration presents clear information on what the child is working on and experiencing, incorporates planning with families, and also encourages families to continue these goals and plans in their home life.

Along with planning for children, think about what tasks need to be done in the program and create opportunities for families to help. This opens the door to involve others instead of doing everything on your own. When families help out, they also start to gain insights into what is involved in running quality programs. Working together helps in bonding and supporting one another.

### **Have fun**

Gather families together to provide time to get to know each other. This is not the time to share assessment or concern, but rather to have fun and to focus on quality time together. Consider having a "meet and greet," an art open house, a game night, or to celebrate a season with simple foods and a sing-along.

### **Foster involvement**

Parents (even staff) may feel uncomfortable or lack the confidence to become involved. Be sensitive to individual circumstances; some may be overwhelmed or going through difficult situations such as divorce, financial trouble, or a death in the family. It is up to the family involvement leaders and teachers to be motivating and to guide others.

Adults will feel relaxed and prepared to volunteer in your program when they are welcomed and when they know what is expected of them. Share information and resources pertaining to their child's age, development, and specific needs. Convey ideas of how you work with the children: the purpose of the activities and the environment, and the role of the adult.



*To help families feel at ease while volunteering, one teacher placed information in each play area/center of her room, sharing the focus of play, what skills are worked on, and suggestions for volunteers. An example might be:*

**Dramatic Play Area** - Fosters socialization skills, role playing, problem solving, turn-taking, and imagination.

**What to do?** Take time to observe the children playing. Do they need anything? Suggest props if needed. Help extend language and ideas by asking open-ended questions such as "What do you need to go on your trip?" Enjoy playing along with the children's ideas and taking on roles as well as modeling appropriate ways to play and get along. If problems arise, encourage children to work together by asking thought-provoking questions such as "What might help fix this problem?"

### **Celebrate the involvement**

Celebrate family involvement happening in your program. Share examples in your newsletters or post information on parent bulletin boards. Photographs are a great way to share the many different things happening in parent involvement, such as a parent volunteering to read a story. Take time to share with families how much you value their involvement and how you see it contributing to not only the child's success, but to the quality of the program.

## And remember...

"Now is a moment of opportunity for family involvement...consider the 'big picture' of family involvement and its potentially bright future." ~ Bouffard, Suzanne, and Weiss, Heather, *Thinking Big: A New Framework for Family Involvement Policy, Practice, and Research*, Harvard Family Research Project, *The Evaluation Exchange* XIV 1&2, Spring 2008.

## References:

**Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education:** [http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/family-involvement-in-early-childhood-education#\\_ftn1#\\_ftn](http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/browse-our-publications/family-involvement-in-early-childhood-education#_ftn1#_ftn)

**Family Involvement Makes a Difference:** <http://www.hfrp.org/publications-resources/publications-series/family-involvement-makes-a-difference>



## NEW! Research-Based Information

**The Future of Children: Childhood Obesity - CFK (Connect for Kids)** has the report from *The Future of Children: Childhood Obesity*. A panel of four policy makers discussed their approaches to the problem of childhood obesity in the U.S., at an event marking the release of the third volume in The Future of Children series on the issue. View the report at

<http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4039>.

### **Effects of Preschool Curriculum Programs on School Readiness: Report from the Preschool Curriculum Evaluation Research Initiative - The**

Institute for Education Sciences began the Preschool Curriculum Evaluation Research (PCER) initiative to conduct rigorous efficacy evaluations of available preschool curricula. Under a competitive process, 12 research teams were awarded grants to implement and conduct research on one or two preschool curricula of their choosing with a predominantly low-income population under an experimental design. IES also contracted with RTI International (RTI) and Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) to collect evaluation data from all research sites in fall and spring of the preschool year and spring of the kindergarten year using a common set of measures. View the report at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncer/pubs/20082009/>.

**America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being - The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics** released the 2008 "America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being" View the report at <http://www.childstats.gov>.

**State-Funded Preschool and Home-Based Child Care: The Community Connections Model** describes the model, in which preschool-aged children in home-based care settings are transported to a half-day center-based preschool program. The home-based providers receive support through project coordinators, who provide monitoring and technical assistance to the centers and to the home-based providers. View the report at <http://childcareandearlyed.clasp.org/>

**Complementary Learning: Emerging Strategies, Evolving Ideas** - With concrete examples throughout, the paper highlights emerging strategies for creating complementary learning, including establishing strong leadership; leveraging existing efforts, resources, and partnerships; engaging families; building communication; and learning from research and evaluation. View the report at <http://www.hfrp.org/complementary-learning/publications-resources/complementary-learning-emerging-strategies-evolving-ideas>.

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## Distance Education Highlights – Course work

Are you aware that the Better Kid Care Distance Education lessons are grouped by Courses? Better Kid Care Courses offer a comprehensive overview of early childhood professional development. The course titles are organized by early childhood and child development topics. You can sign up for one lesson or the entire Course.

### *Why try a Better Kid Care Distance Education Course?*

- Get a well-rounded view of a particular topic
- Discover a comprehensive look at child development
- Review developmental stages related to the topic
- Increase knowledge based on competency levels
- Add valuable professional development hours



Register today for a lesson or register for the entire Course! Try the following recommended Course:

### **Ages and Stage Course** – one-hour Web-based lessons

- [Baby Play](#) (K1C1) CDA 8
- [Through the Eyes of an Infant](#) (K1C1) CDA 8
- [Through the Eyes of a Toddler](#) (K1C1) CDA 8
- [Through the Eyes of a Three-year-old](#) (K1C1) CDA 8
- [Through the Eyes of a Four-year-old](#) (K1C1) CDA 8
- [Through the Eyes of a Five-year-old](#) (K1C1) CDA 8

For a complete listing of **all** Distance Education Courses, lessons, and information about how to register, visit the [Better Kid Care Distance Education](#) page.

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## Health and Safety Tips - Connect For Kids Obesity Resources

Children who are overweight are at increased risk of serious health problems. Many health and nutrition experts believe that children today may actually have a lower life expectancy than their parents, an astounding reversal of continuous progress in extending the lifespan. Thanks to the hard work of the Council for Excellence in Government Youth Obesity Results team, Connect for Kids offers a comprehensive collection of resources to help Americans understand and take action on this tough issue. View the resources by visiting [http://www.connectforkids.org/obesity\\_resource](http://www.connectforkids.org/obesity_resource)

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## Turn the Page

### Great Books to Read with Children - Books for Babies

*Beginning With Books* Center for Early Literacy lists its “Best Books for Babies” 2008

<http://www.beginningwithbooks.org/list.html>

*Fruit*, by Sara Anderson, published by Handprint Books, ISBN 1593541880

*Vegetables*, by Sara Anderson, published by Handprint Books, ISBN 1593541899

*Maisy’s Amazing Big Book of Words: 300+ Wonderful Words and 25 Flaps*, by Lucy Cousins, published by Candlewick Press, ISBN 0763607940

*Tip Tip Dig Dig*, by Emma Garcia, published by Boxer Books, ISBN 1905417586

*A Good Day*, by Kevin Henkes, published by Greenwillow Books, ISBN 006114018X

*Global Babies*, published by Charlesbridge, ISBN 1580891748

*Black & White*, by Tana Hoban, published by Greenwillow Books, ISBN 0061172111

*Peek-a-Baby*, by Karen Katz, published by Little Simon, ISBN 141693622X

*Trucks Roll!* by George Ella Lyon, published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers, ISBN 847381251

*Whose Chick Are You?* by Nancy Tafuri, published by Greenwillow Books, ISBN 0060825146

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## For Your Families: Leaving Your Child at Child Care Family Time / Work Time

Are you looking for articles to share with your families? Do you need information for your parent/family bulletin board? [Family Time / Work Time](#) shares easy-to-read articles for busy parents and caretakers with a focus on **Building Strong Families**.

*You are welcome to print and share these publications with your friends, family, and other child care providers.*



## Leaving Your Child at Childcare

by Nancy Wilson Early Childhood Program Specialist

Saying goodbye can be hard for a young child being dropped off at child care and also for you, the parent. Sometimes a young child will cry and cling when her parent starts to leave. This is upsetting, but is normal. It’s called separation anxiety. Some children have more problems with separation than others. Some are fearful the first time they go to child care, but even a child who has been perfectly content being left at child care may suddenly develop separation fears. This can occur at certain stages of a child’s development. While separation anxiety is normal, it can cause parents to worry.

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## 2008-2009 Satellite Season is Here!

Mark your calendar now!

**October 16, 2008**

### *What Does "Time" Mean to Children?*

Professional Development Code K2C1 topic code 14

CDA Competency 2 - Steps to advance children's physical and intellectual development

Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards Key Learning Area: Social Studies

What do children of different ages know and understand about time? Why do children *and adults* struggle when it's time to clean up? Learn ways to build on children's understanding of "yesterday," "today," and "tomorrow."

Want to share your ideas from past satellite sessions or ideas for future satellite sessions? Contact Better Kid Care by e-mailing us at [betterkidcare@psu.edu](mailto:betterkidcare@psu.edu) or by phoning 800-452-9108 to share your comments.

Visit the [Satellite Workshop](#) link for more information. Missed a show? Visit the [Past Satellite Workshop](#) page to view video online. If you live in Pennsylvania, contact your [local extension educator](#) for information to attend a workshop in your area. Outside Pennsylvania view [Out-of-State Information](#) link.

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## CDA News! - CDA Scholarship Information

### **CDA scholarship information from the Council of Professional Recognition -**

Funding may be available for the CDA assessment fee and other costs of earning or renewing the credential. Please contact the appropriate agency in your state for information about eligibility requirements and funding availability (linked contacts below). Unfortunately, not all states participate in this program. If your state is not listed, The Council of Professional Recognition suggests you contact the child care licensing agency in your state or your local resource and referral agency. They are excellent sources of information about free or low-cost CDA training. For more information, visit [http://www.cdacouncil.org/res\\_scholar.htm](http://www.cdacouncil.org/res_scholar.htm) or contact the Council at 800-424-4310.

#### **In PA, contact:**

**T.E.A.C.H.** Early Childhood® PENNSYLVANIA Scholarship Program

2300 Vartan Way, Suite 103

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Toll-free number: 877-51-TEACH (83224) or 717-657-9000

Fax: 717-657-0959

[info@pacca.org](mailto:info@pacca.org)

**PA Keys** - Financial support information: The professional development refund voucher program provides the opportunity for reimbursement for courses that earn college credits (including Child Development Associate Professional Development Programs) and payment for the CDA assessment fee.

[Visit the PA Keys.](#)

**Need CDA help?** Visit Better Kid Care's "[What is the CDA?](#)" newly revised link and get answers to your CDA questions! Get CDA support! Call Christine at **800-452-9108**. E-mail your CDA questions to Christine at [crb16@psu.edu](mailto:crb16@psu.edu).

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## Professional Development Highlights

The following information highlights upcoming professional development opportunities available for early childhood practitioners:

### In Pennsylvania:

- **September 26** – Early Literacy Conference 2008, Community College of Allegheny, Pittsburgh, PA, [www.beginningwithbooks.org](http://www.beginningwithbooks.org)
- **September 27** – York Area Association for the Education of Young Children (YAAEYC) 2008 Conference, York, PA, contact <http://www.yaaeyc.org/>
- **October 4** – Bucks County AEYC 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Early Childhood Conference at Bucks County Community College, contact <http://www.bcaeyc.org/calendar/calendar.html>
- **October 20-22** – Early Childhood Professional Development Summit, “Keeping PA’s Promise to Children & Families, The Difference We Make”; For information, visit: <http://www.earlychildhoodsummit.org/>
- **October 23-24** – “Development of Hispanic Children in Immigrant Families: Challenges and Prospects,” Penn State University, PA <http://www.pop.psu.edu/events/symposium/2008.htm>
- **October 25** – Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (PAEYC) Annual Conference, contact [www.pghaeyc.org](http://www.pghaeyc.org) , 412-421-3889
- **November 14-15** – PENNSACCA Annual Conference, Harrisburg, PA, contact <http://www.pennsacca.net/>
- **December 10-11** – HR (Human Resource) Boot Camp – Montgomeryville, PA [http://www.pakeys.org/profdev/calendar\\_details.asp?eventid=28727](http://www.pakeys.org/profdev/calendar_details.asp?eventid=28727), 215-785-3400
- **April 17-18, 2010** - DVAEYC Conference, Philadelphia, PA, visit <http://www.dvaeyc.org/>
- **May 13-15, 2010** - First International Early Arts Conference Pittsburgh, PA, <http://www.pghaeyc.org/> more information to come.

### Other:

- **PA Child Care Provider Training Sessions Set for New Child Care Facility Regulations** - New child care facility regulations take effect on **Monday, September 22, 2008**. The Office of Child Development and Early Learning is holding 17 provider training sessions regarding the new regulations at various locations throughout Pennsylvania during the months of August and September. **Contact your Regional Office:** *Central 1-800-222-2117, Northeast 1-800-222-2108, Southeast 1-800-346-2929, Western 1-800-222-2149.*

### Outside of Pennsylvania:

- **September 15-17** – It Takes Courage and Compassion to Serve Children and Families; Tools for Confidence and Competence, Child Welfare League, Portland, OR <http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2008westernrfp.htm>
- **October 15-18** - North American Association for Environmental Education's annual conference, Wichita, KS, <http://www.naaee.org/conference/registration>
- **October 17** – PACE 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Conference, San Francisco Bay Area, CA [www.pacenet.org](http://www.pacenet.org)

- **October 18** – Leave No Child Indoors: Children and Nature, Lincroft, New Jersey, [www.ccrnj.org](http://www.ccrnj.org)
- **October 22-24** - Growing with Integrity: Working Forum on Managing Performance in Multi-Site Early Childhood Organizations, Lihue, Hawaii, USA, [http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2008\\_multisite/index.php](http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2008_multisite/index.php)
- **October 25 -28** – Our Future: Children in a Global Village, National Black Child Development Institute, Atlanta, GA [www.nbcdi.org/ac](http://www.nbcdi.org/ac)
- **November 5-8** – NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo, Dallas, Texas <http://annualconference.naeyc.org/>
- **November 6-7** – 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of International Bullying Prevention Association, “New Horizons: The Latest in Bullying Prevention and Research,” Indianapolis, Indiana, visit [http://www.doe.state.in.us/issas/new\\_horizons.html](http://www.doe.state.in.us/issas/new_horizons.html)
- **December 4** - ZERO TO THREE 23<sup>rd</sup> National Training Institute, Los Angeles, CA <http://zttntconference.org/>
- **December 14-18** - 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Head Start Parent Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, <http://www.nhsa.org/training/Parent/index.htm>
- **February 12-14, 2009** – International Conference on Parent Education and Parenting, Denton, Texas, [www.cpe.unt.edu](http://www.cpe.unt.edu) or call 940-369-7246
- **February 23- 25** - Child Welfare League of America National Conference; Children Today...America’s Future, visit <http://www.cwla.org/conferences/2009national.pdf>
- **March 1** - National Conference on Family Literacy, Orlando, Florida, <http://www.famlit.org/site/c.gtJWJdMQIsE/b.1574477/>
- **April 22-25** – National Coalition for Campus Child Care Centers Annual Conference, Phoenix, Arizona, visit <http://www.campuschildren.org/conference.html>
- **June 9** – World Forum 2009 on Early Education and Care <http://www.worldforumfoundation.org/wf/wf2009/index.php>

## Announcements of Interest:

### EARLY EDUCATION

**Fall Resources from Better Kid Care** - What does fall mean to early educators and families? This time of year often means getting ready for school, child care, and celebrating the season. It also is an important time for planning and preparing quality child care programs. Use the following link to find great information to support your work: <http://www.betterkidcare.psu.edu/page17.html> .

**Choosing a Curriculum** - There are many needs to be considered when planning a preschool curriculum. The physical environment should contribute to well-planned activities that can help young learners meet their goals, but it should also allow for spontaneous and unplanned learning to occur. This article from NIEER helps clarify what should be considered when choosing a curriculum that will meet the needs of young learners in a preschool environment. Go to

[http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early\\_childhood/lib/early\\_childhood/CurriculumDecisionMaking.pdf](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/early_childhood/lib/early_childhood/CurriculumDecisionMaking.pdf)

Visit USA.gov’s [Back to School](#) page for a little extra help.

**Back to School Resources from Reading Rockets** – Make great connections in coming back to school and beyond. Downloadable materials to use such as nametags, flyers, and templates for newsletters and notes to families. Visit <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/25997>

**The Early Care and Education Consortium** launched new Web pages focusing on four key issue areas: prekindergarten, child care subsidy, quality rating systems, and supporting the early childhood workforce. The pages provide background on the issues, updates, and links to handy relevant news and reports. To explore the new content, visit the "Issues in Focus" page at <http://www.ececonsortium.org/focus.php>.

**Tool Kits for Use With Particular Published Children's Books** - The family involvement storybooks selected portray culturally diverse families and appear on Reading Is Fundamental's list of the [100 of the Decade's Best Multicultural Read-Alouds](http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/storybook-corner/the-reference-desk). <http://www.hfrp.org/family-involvement/storybook-corner/the-reference-desk>

**InTime** offers 400 video vignettes of pre K-12 teachers using technology in language arts, math, science, and other instruction. A conceptual model for analyzing the use of technology in instruction is among the tools and information on the site. Visit <http://www.intime.uni.edu/>

**State Autism Profiles** - Easter Seals and the Autism Society of America have partnered together to prepare a state-of-the-art report of autism services in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Learn about the number of children with autism who have received special education services, insurance coverage for autism, educational programs, and more. Go to [http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntlc8\\_autism\\_state\\_profiles&JServSessionIdr009=lr7v9rwy31.app25b](http://www.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ntlc8_autism_state_profiles&JServSessionIdr009=lr7v9rwy31.app25b)

## **GRANTS and FUNDING**

**The Public Education Network** has a wealth of information for education related grants. Go to [http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast\\_grants.asp](http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast_grants.asp)

**Earth Day Network grants** - Do you have a great idea to engage your students in civic action to protect the environment? Are you planning a climate change campaign at your school? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions then Earth Day Network wants to support you through their ground-breaking National Civic Education Project or Climate Change Educator grant program. Visit <http://www.earthday.net/node/13458>

**Kids in Need Teacher Grants** - The School, Home, & Office Products Association Kids in Need Foundation offers Teacher Grants for K-12 educators to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students. Grants range from \$100-\$500 each, and are used to fund creative classroom projects. Visit <http://www.kidsinneed.net/grants/index.php>

## **NATURE RELATED**

**Walk to School Day October 8** - By registering, Walk to School organizers have access to a variety of downloadable materials, including certificates, templates for printing stickers, and a frequent walker punch card. Registrants can also subscribe to receive a weekly Walk to School e-newsletter with tips and resources on hosting a Walk to School event. <http://www.walktoschool.org/register/>

**Nature and Play** - Find activities to bring back the fun into nature year-round! Visit <http://kaboom.org/Advocate/PlaymakersWantedJointheNetwork/NatureandPlay/tabid/724/Default.aspx>

**National Environmental Education Week will be held this year from April 12-18, 2009.** You can get a head start on your planning by registering online at [www.eeweek.org/register.htm](http://www.eeweek.org/register.htm).

**Take a Child Outside Week September 24-30** - Organizations and the public are invited to participate in *Take a Child Outside Week*, an international Internet-facilitated program that encourages all citizens (particularly

children) to participate in outdoor activities. <http://www.takeachildoutside.org/>

## **FAMILIES**

**Children's Budget 2008** - A comprehensive guide to over 180 different children's programs funded by the federal government, from child health and education to child welfare and juvenile justice. Visit <http://www.firstfocus.net/pages/3391/>

**Family Gardens** - Looking for some guidance on how to make the most of your family garden? Visit Kids Gardening's Family Resource Room for a Parent's Primer at <http://www.kidsgardening.org/family.asp>

**Make Tracks! Family Trail Weekend** - Save the date! Walk, bike, roll, or stroll to a trail near you this Columbus Day Weekend (October 11 -13th, 2008) for the first annual Make Tracks Family Trail Weekend! Visit <http://www.nwf.org/maketracks/>

## **HEALTH**

**Children's Bureau Express** is designed for professionals concerned with child abuse and neglect, child welfare, and adoption. *Children's Bureau Express* is supported by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and published by Child Welfare Information Gateway. Visit <http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/>

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## **Better Kid Care Resources**

### **Better Kid Care Kit**

Need ideas in your work caring for children? When you enroll in the Better Kid Care Program and sign up for the Better Kid Care Kit, family child care providers will receive several free publications in the mail. Family home child care providers will also receive [The Basics of Caring for Children in Your Home](#) notebook to organize and store your Better Kid Care publications. Have you signed up to receive a Better Kid Care Kit yet? Complete our [online registration form](#) or call **800-452-9108** to order.

Preview notebook contents online at <http://www.betterkidcare.psu.edu/page02h.html>.

All publications are available online to print and share with your friends, family, and other child care providers. *Select issues are also available in Spanish.*

[New Staff Orientation](#) curriculum is specifically designed for new staff members in child care centers. *Meets the Keystone STARS Performance Standards.* Order at no cost by calling 800-452-9108.

[Home-Based Caregiver Orientation](#) - *Meets the Keystone STARS Core Series Training Requirements.* Order at no cost by calling 800-452-9108.

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## **Better Kid Care Mentoring Telephone Help Line for Child Care Providers in Pennsylvania**

Do you have questions about caring for other people's children, such as:

- How do I get a child to eat?
- Why won't a child share?
- How do I stop a child from biting other children?
- What should I do when a parent doesn't pay on time?

Call the **Better Kid Care Mentoring Line** at **800-859-8340** or e-mail your questions to mail to: [betterkidcare@psu.edu](mailto:betterkidcare@psu.edu) for information about child care and children's issues.

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### **Subscribe to the BKC E-Newsletter!**

New subscribers can join by sending an email to: <mailto:BetterKidCareNews-subscribe-request@lists.psu.edu>.

View archived [Better Kid Care E-Newsletters](#)

Upcoming **Feature Article** in October E-Newsletter:  
***Move On; Reversing Children's Sedentary Lifestyles***

#### **Reflections...**

We would love to hear from you! **E-mail your ideas to [crb16@psu.edu](mailto:crb16@psu.edu) or call 814-865-7894.**

**Disclaimer:** Where trade names appear, no discrimination is intended, and no endorsement by Penn State Cooperative Extension is implied.

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