Child Development Newsletter

ChildSavers is a Richmond, Virginia nonprofit dedicated to ensuring all children are safe, happy, healthy, and ready to learn. We provide coaching, training, and professional development to early child care providers and preschool teachers. Our programs aim to help you improve your business and to meet your potential as a quality early child care and educator. This newsletter is just one way we provide you with the resources you need to be your best!

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VCPD
USDA

Virginia Quality
Committed to Quality Early Learning

ChildCare Aware of Central Virginia
VCPD Creating Connections to Shining Stars Conference

The Creating Connections to Shining Stars Conference (CCSS) is Virginia’s premiere, collaborative, early childhood, birth through five conference. Through the leadership of the Virginia Cross-Sector Professional Development (VCPD) team, conference committee members representing state agencies and early childhood organizations have partnered to offer a rich opportunity to explore evidence-based practices in inclusive settings for young children, both with and without disabilities. The 2017 CCSS Conference is planned for July 19-21, 2017 at Hotel Roanoke, and features an array of sessions including topics related to infants and toddlers, preschoolers, and general early childhood practices. Through preconference seminars, the keynote presentation, concurrent workshops, and exhibitors, there will be something fun and engaging for everyone.

For additional details or to register, please [click here].

Trainer Tip of the Day: From Bob Pike Group

Openers and Energizers are great for getting participants ready to brainstorm a new idea or project, breaking up the day, and stimulating memories. These types of activities are especially useful after lunch or a break, after long periods of sitting, when energy is at a minimum and participants seem unengaged, or even when the room temperature is low.

Learn more [click here].

When planning your next training, check out the [VCPD Central Lending Library] for access to a variety of books and resources to help plan your next opener or energizer.

What is happening with Central Region Governance?

What is happening with Central Region Governance?
Want to learn more? For more information on Central Virginia Early Childhood Professional Development resources and trainings, click here [http://www.vcpd.net/central/]
May Day is a festival that celebrates the arrival of spring, and is celebrated on May 1st. May Day is celebrated around the world. In many countries it is a major holiday. The day is celebrated with dance and music. Children dance around the Maypole holding onto colorful ribbons. Many people use flowers and leaves to make hoops and hair garlands.

Reminders

Make sure information is updated in Minute Menu. Sweeps will begin May 1st, 2017. When errors are found on your claim report it immediately. You have a two week time frame for adjustments to be made.

All claims are due by the 5th of each month. Any claim received after the 5th of the month will be processed later in the month.

Warning letters will be sent to those that have similar mistakes every month. If the mistakes continue, your program may run the risk of being put on a Serious Deficient Action Plan. Please review menus before submitting your claim.
Recipe of the Month
Carrot Pinwheels

Have the children make this delicious recipe before they go out to play their May Day games for a healthy snack.
Prep time 15 min. Servings 4 servings
total time 45 min.

Items needed:
2 flour tortillas (8 inch)
3 Tbsp. Philadelphia Chive & Onion Cheese spread
2 carrots, finely shredded (about 1 cup)
2 green onions, thinly sliced

Make It:
Spread tortillas with cream cheese spread. Top with vegetables.
Roll up tortillas tightly, wrap individually in plastic wrap. Refrigerate 30 min.
Unwrap roll-ups; cut each into 6 pieces just before serving.

Spanish Fun

Carrots: Zanahorias
"Za-no-rias"

Green Onions: Cebolla Verde
"Se-bolla Ver-day"
Bye-Bye April Showers... Hello, May Flowers!

Research indicates that providing young children with theme-related, play-based learning opportunities that closely relate to current life experiences create an optimal environment for positive intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. At this time of year, efflorescence is all around, making the month of May a perfect time to introduce flowers and/or gardening themes as a fun and meaningful foundation for “growing” curious, young minds! There are numerous ways to embed learning into this theme. Use these simple strategies to “dig-up” some high-quality learning outcomes...

- Children can use artificial flowers in various colors and types to create patterns, sort, compare, count, and more as they explore early math concepts.
- Wrap the stem of an artificial flower around a pencil and secure with green tape to create a writing tool that children will enjoy using that looks like a flower!
- With a little glue, and your choice of other materials, flower petals or magazine cut-outs of flowers can be used to create collages for an open-ended art activity. Encourage children to make collages to give to a peer as a gesture of kindness or friendship.
- Songs and fingerplays about flowers can be found here:
  [http://www.preschooleducation.com/sflower.shtml.] Add movements to songs to enhance physical development. For example, the parts of a flower (roots, stem, leaves and flower) can be learned and sung to the tune of “Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes” while children move as follows: Roots – touch the ground/floor; Stem- stand up straight with hands on side; Leaves – spread legs apart and arms out wide to the side, and Flowers – curve arms and hands to form a circle above head. Encourage children to see how fast they can sing the song and do the movements too – lots of fun and laughs will follow!
- A variety of affordable, fast-growing seeds can be purchased from many local retailers for children to have science experiments as they take care of their very own plant. To extend learning, place a fast growing seed (such as a bean seed) on a cotton ball that has been dipped in water inside a sandwich bag. Tape the bag to a sunny spot in a window and watch as the roots grow!
- A variety of developmentally appropriate books about flowers or gardening can be read with children. Titles such as: Flower Garden, By: Eve Bunting, Jack’s Garden, By: Henry Cole and Counting Wildflowers, By: Bruce McMillian are great books to get you started. Be sure to offer brief explanations for new vocabulary words and ask many open-ended questions.
• Using small, flowers and trailers the block area can be transformed into a mini-garden. Children can also experience diverse garden experiences by using blocks to create raised gardens and/or small containers to create container gardens.
• The sensory bin can become a garden exploration station by adding child-sized garden tools, gloves, flower pots, artificial flowers, watering can and a few plastic garden critters! Children will enjoy digging trenches to plant their beautiful flowers. This is also a great time to engage in conversations on how to care for flowers and what they need to grow!
• Add the same items named above, along with plastic vases and gift tissue and ribbon (for wrapping flowers for customers) to the dramatic play area to create a fancy flower shop!

Let your imagination “fully bloom” this May as you explore a flower or garden theme.
Training & Professional Development

FREE First Aid and CPR Training

Do you work with children birth - 36 months? If so, we are currently sponsoring free First-Aid and CPR training brought to you by ChildCare Aware and the Virginia Department of Social Services.

For more information about registering, please contact Janet Burke at jburke@childsavers.org or at 804-591-3917.

May 2017
5 - Richmond
6 - Northern Neck
9 - Richmond
11 - Richmond
13 - Richmond
15 - Richmond
17 - Richmond
19 - Richmond
25 - Richmond

June 2017
2 - Richmond
6 - Richmond
8 - Richmond
10 - Northern Neck
12 - Richmond
16 - Richmond
20 - Richmond
24 - Richmond
30 - Richmond

Free Infant-Pediatric First Aid & CPR Training

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ChildCare Aware
OF CENTRAL VIRGINIA
Virginia Shared Services Network

The Virginia Shared Services Network is an easy-to-use website offering many tools and services to help child care centers, family child care homes, and after school programs manage their programs more cost-effectively and efficiently. The website features exclusive discounts on items from office supplies to toys, to food, and beverage products. The site also contains resources related to program administration, human resources, marketing, a library of early childhood reference materials, licensing regulations and classroom resources.

We call it “child care in a box” because it contains so many resources you can download and customize for your program needs. For example, the site includes sample policies, procedures, handbooks (for parents and employees), forms, job descriptions, and much more!

For more information or to request a login and password, click here.