



# Connecting You

March April May 2007



## Do Your Part

April is Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month. As a resident of Indiana, you are legally required to report any suspected child abuse or neglect. If you suspect abuse or neglect you should call your local Office of Family and Children or **1-800-800-5556**.

In 2005, 54 children died in Indiana due to abuse or neglect. 13 of those deaths were caused by physical abuse and beating.

The youngest child in the family is more likely to be abused.

Children are most likely to be abused or neglected by the people who should love and care for them the most. In 2004, 83.4% of the victims of child maltreatment were mistreated by their own parent acting alone or with an-

other person.

Mothers were nearly three times more likely than fathers to neglect their children. However, fathers sexually abused their children almost ten times more than mothers.

**What can you do?** Always report any suspected abuse or neglect, if you suspect it, report it!

Utilize Healthy Families and refer parents and families to the program in your area.

Support the Kids First Trust Fund by purchasing the Kids First license plates for your vehicles.

For more information contact Prevent Child Abuse Indiana at [www.pcaain.org](http://www.pcaain.org).

*Kids Count 2006, Indiana Youth Institute*

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### Special points of interest:

- Important updates from the desks of the CCRR staff
- Cooking with children
- Getting yourself, your site and children ready for Spring!
- Looking at the History of Women.
- Please do your part to help reduce the numbers of child abuse and neglect.

### Monsters

On Monday, Billy didn't have his homework And when the teachers asked why, He said, "Because a monster ripped it up, after I told him a lie." "Now Billy," said the teacher, "You know monsters don't exist. And if you don't turn in your homework, No recess you will get." On Tuesday, Billy had a stomachache, And when the teacher asked him why, He said, "A monster took away my dinner, Even my cherry pie." "Billy, I've told you once before, Monsters are not real, You'll have to wait till lunchtime before you get a meal." On Wednesday, Billy had a bandage, Which covered his right eye. When the teacher asked him how it happened, This was his reply: "A monster was running after me, when I ran into the door." "Billy, Please," the teacher said, "I don't want to hear any more." On Thursday, Billy refused to sit down, and when the teacher asked him why, Billy said, "A monster whipped my bottom, because I started to cry." "Billy," said the teacher, "this is getting out of hand, and if you continue with these stories, In the corner you will stand." On Friday, Billy didn't come to school, and when the teacher found out why, she said a little prayer to God in hopes Billy would survive. For a monster had beaten Billy and threatened him with a knife. Now Billy lay in a hospital bed, fighting for his life. So teachers please remember, that monsters are for real. Listen closely to the kids' stories, a wounded heart you may heal.

*From "Teaching K-8"*

### On the Calendar

March: National Women's History Month, Inclusion Awareness Month

April: Week of the Young Child 22-28th, IAEYC Conference 12-14th , Prevent Child Abuse Month

May: Provider Appreciation Day 11th, Prevent Child Abuse Conference May 7th and 8th.

## From the Desk of...

**Carrie Bale, Executive Director:** Greetings from the desk of the Executive Director:

We are so excited to be bringing our newsletter in a different format to you, we hope that you are able to learn more, and enjoy the different components. We would gladly accept any feedback from the community to the new format, and we hope you look forward to receiving our noteworthy newsletter. I have learned so much from everyone over this last year in my role as Executive Director of HMCC/CCR&R, and have had to make some changes in order to make our agency run more effectively. One of those changes I wanted to highlight was our training policy. All of our training team are so eager and excited to get out to the programs we serve and bring the latest, most current information to you and your staff, and we realized we needed to be more aware of "over booking" ourselves. Effective March, 2006 HMCC/CCR&R adopted a "On Site Training Policy." If a provider requests an on site training we will consider the following

- \*If the same training is already scheduled in the area, the requesting provider should be informed that attending this training is the recommended option.
- \*If the provider still would like the training on site, CCR&R can schedule the training on site 3 months later, dependent upon their training calendar.
- \*If the provider wants to have the training onsite in less than 3 months time CCR&R will provide the training for a fee of \$30.00 (2 clock hours, 5 or more staff) or \$5 per person. The maximum charge for a specially scheduled training will be \$60.00. The training must be paid for in advance.

For a complete copy of our training policy please do not hesitate to contact us 1-800-554-9331. I look forward to filling you in on HMCC/CCR&R "Happenings" in each newsletter.

**Christina Lynn Wright, Program Director** Why is participating in the complete update process with Child Care Resource and Referral so important? CCR&R strives to provide the parents, the community, and the state with the most up-to-date and accurate information. As your Child Care Resource and Referral we understand that your time is precious and we thank you in advance for your cooperation. We will now only be updating 2 times per fiscal year, once in October – March and once in April – September. Because of having two main updates per year it is vitally important that you follow through with your intake form and phone calls to make sure that all of your information is correct, especially sections such as rates and hours of operations. Please feel free to call anytime to update vacancies and information as needed. We are here for you. We will also be calling daily to check on vacancies for families with children who are infants and toddlers and children who have special needs. The information that you provide is used to track state mandated trainings, rate information to help influence changes in the market rate for CCDF vouchers and to provide parents with a snapshot of your business as we market for you by providing referrals. Again we thank you for the time it takes to answer our questions. Our goal is to have 100% of the database updated 2 times per year.

**Tory Masters, Education Coordinator:** The new Licensing Regulations should be ready in the next month or two and your licensing consultant should have the new copies for you soon. If you have any questions about the new regulations, please contact your consultant. Please remember that licensing=quality and the regulations are updated often to provide the best quality care for children. Also watch for an additional mailer for all the Training Opportunities for March, April and May. It will no longer be in this newsletter.

**Liane Strahan, PES Coordinator: Fire Drills and Fire Extinguishers** Each year in the United States an estimated 2,800 children age 14 or younger are injured and 850 killed in residential fires. Of these children, over 40 percent are under the age five, 70 percent are under the age of 10. Make sure you are doing your fire drills each month. Fire extinguishers need to be replaced or checked every 2 years. Keeping children safe is your business! **Moving** Your certification is valid only for the address where you provide child care. Failure to immediately notify HMCC-CCR&R of a change in your address may result in immediate termination of CCDF payments. **Household Members** All household members over the age of 18 must have Criminal History Check, TB test, Drug Test, State Central Registry Check. All appropriate documentation must be provided within 21 calendar days after any household member moves into the home or a household member turns 18. **Continuous Compliance** It is the provider's responsibility to assure continuous compliance with CCDF Provider Eligibility Standards. Failure to do so may result in termination or repayment of CCDF dollars for child care during a time period in which you were ineligible.

**Wendy Tungate, Transition Coordinator:** Child Care Providers can do the following to help children and families transition children from child care into Kindergarten.

- \*Help parents find out what school their child will attend
- \*Take the children on a tour to the school...with or without the parents
- \*Attain and pass out information about school events and Kindergarten Round-Up
- \*Attend round-up or school events if possible or have someone from your site that the child is familiar with attend
- \*Invite Kindergarten teachers into your program to see what you do daily
- \*Communicate with the schools on a regular basis
- \*Talk with the children about a common day in Kindergarten...bus rides...school lunch...daily routines...etc.

These are a few things that you can do starting now and continuing through the summer. It's never too early to start getting the children into the schools. The more they attend school events, tours, etc, the more comfortable they will be on the first day of school.

**Working  
together to  
improve the  
quality of  
care...**

## Continued “From the Desk of...”

### Dana Sinclair, Inclusion Specialist : What is the Indiana Partnership for Inclusive Child Care?

The Indiana Partnership for Inclusive Child Care (IPICC) is a program which is dedicated to improving access and availability of quality child care for children with special needs and their families. IPICC is part of the services HMCC Child Care Resource & Referral provides to families and providers and employs me, Dana D. Sinclair, as the Inclusion Specialist. It is my belief that children, both those with and without disabilities, benefit from having the opportunity to play and learn together in an accepting, caring environment. This also goes for the parents.

### What can the Indiana Partnership for Inclusive Child Care do for you as a child care provider?

As the Inclusion Specialist through the IPICC program, I can assist you with including children with disabilities in your programs. I can do this through a variety of ways:

On-site consultation – With a signed parental consent form I can come to your site and do an observation on a particular child. From that observation we can work together to develop some strategies which will hopefully help this child, and thus you and your teachers, have a successful learning experience. I can do this for children with disabilities and children showing challenging behaviors.

Information and resources – I can link you to resources in your community and I can also provide information specific to your needs (articles, suggestions, websites, etc.)

Trainings – HMCC Child Care Resource & Referral provides trainings on a variety of topics related to including children with special needs (Ex. Americans with Disabilities Act, Environments for Children with Disabilities, Specific Disabilities, etc.).

IF you have any need for my services or have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone at 1-800-554-9331 or (765)284-0887 or via email at [dsinclair@huffermcc.org](mailto:dsinclair@huffermcc.org) . I look forward to hearing from you!!

### Michelle Friend, Referral Specialist Tips For Welcoming Parent Volunteers

As child care providers, involving families in your child care program is vital to the success of the children, parents, and providers. Encouraging parents to volunteer at your site can sometimes be a struggle. The benefits of parent volunteering in your child care facility can be felt by everyone, from the teachers to the children to the parents themselves. You can encourage family involvement in your program, by asking parents to:

1. Help with activity preparations at home (ex. cutting, tracing, sorting, coloring)
2. Read to children in your care, either individually or during book time
3. Help with special art projects or center activities
4. Bring in pictures of what they do all day (great for understanding different careers)
5. Collecting recyclables for you to use, easiest when you provide a generic list of usable materials
6. Share their hobby with the children (ex. crafts, woodworking, model planes)
7. Bring in a musical instrument and share their music and talent with the children
8. Help organize, plan, or work towards a fundraising activity
9. Plan and attend field trips or other events that take place away from your program site
10. Provide cassette tapes and recorder for parents to tape a story for the children to hear
11. Repair books or toys, if parents have the resources to do so
12. Put together a classroom book at home, made of artwork or photographs (you provide the materials)

Taken from [www.education-world.com](http://www.education-world.com); [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org)

**Molly Horn, Infant/Toddler Specialist** Children are constantly hungry for sounds and words. Your child's early coos and babbles are actually an important form of communication. In almost no time, he will speak his first words. Then he'll master new ones by the handful as he gathers the ingredients he'll need for a strong start in school and in life.

### Create a taste for language

Just as you slowly add new tastes and textures to help your baby move from baby food to real meals, you can help him go from babbling to talking by introducing new words and by sharing what they mean and how to use them.

### Recipes for success

- Talk as you go. Describe actions and objects that are part of your daily activities—as a sports announcer would. “It’s raining today. Let’s use an umbrella. An umbrella keeps us dry when it rains.”
- Mix it up. Use a variety of words each day. Instead of using the word nice, say, “It’s a marvelous day.” Explain the word to your child and use it again in another way.
- Follow your child’s lead. Provide the words to describe his interests. If your child notices a bug, say, “What do you see? A caterpillar? Yes. It’s a caterpillar. A small, fuzzy, brown caterpillar.”
- Be on the look out. Spot interesting pictures and words in your child’s books, in stores, or on street signs. Point to them. Use the new words in sentences again and again.
- Extend the conversation. Even when a child is too little to answer, engage him in conversation. If he says “moo,” you say, “Yes, moo! A cow says moo!”

Wherever you are—changing a diaper, at the lunch table, or outside—experiment with fun and creative ways to teach children new words. Simply stir his imagination ... and watch his vocabulary grow!



## Disability Awareness Month: March 2007 "Room for Everyone"

"Home is where the heart is. Make room for everyone in your heart and in your community"

The Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities is celebrating Disability Awareness Month, March 2007. Spreading awareness and understanding of what it is like to have a disability while celebrating each of us as individuals is the goal. Children and adults with special needs are people first. It is very important that all of us, those with and without disabilities, are valued for the special things about us. We all have great things to contribute to our families, friends, communities and world. During this March let us all take the time to appreciate the people around us who bring fun and fellowship to us, as we also attempt to get acquainted with new people in our community.

Awareness and understanding of what barriers, both physical and attitudinal, are present for those with disabilities are keys to being able to bring about changes. These changes can increase the independence, productivity and inclusion of children and adults with special needs in their communities. Here are a few things that you can do with the children and adults in your program and community to help raise awareness and encourage understanding of people with disabilities.

1. Begin to use language that describes the person, not the disability. It is not necessary to describe a person based upon his/her disability. This is called Person First Language. It puts the value on the person, not the disability.
2. Check your facility for accessibility. Look at both your inside and outside environment. Also look at the buildings and places you go in your community and make them aware of any barriers for people with disabilities.
3. Partner with your local schools, places of worship, other child care providers, or Boys and Girls Clubs to arrange an inclusive sporting event. There are many sports in which children with disabilities can participate. This event will encourage children with and without disabilities to work together and show that all children can contribute to the team.
4. Contact local businesses (Ex. libraries, real estate offices, schools, places of worship, etc.) and ask them if they would be willing to post announcements/posters and distribute material about Disability Awareness Month. You can get materials at [www.in.gov/gcpd](http://www.in.gov/gcpd).
5. Contact local newspapers and radio stations to make them aware of Disability Awareness Month.
6. Attend the Inspiring Abilities Expo on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> in Greenfield. Time - 9:30am-2:00pm Place - St. James Lutheran Church, 1741 S. State St., Greenfield

With the small changes we make in our communities, big changes can be made in our world. If you have more questions or want more resources please feel free to contact me, Dana D. Sinclair, Inclusion Specialist at 1-800-554-9331 or [dsinclair@huffermcc.org](mailto:dsinclair@huffermcc.org). You can also receive more information from the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities at [www.in.gov/gcpd](http://www.in.gov/gcpd).



### Ingredients:

1 c. margarine  
1 c. sugar  
3 eggs  
1 t. vanilla extract  
2-1/2 c. all purpose flour  
1-1/2 t. baking powder  
1/2 t. salt  
2 T. sesame seeds  
1 c. shredded coconut  
green food coloring  
red and yellow icing  
12 Large peppermint  
patties

### Kids in the Kitchen

#### April Fools Recipe: Shamburgers

Sure, it looks like the real thing. But when your kids take a bite, their taste buds will be pleasantly deceived by the no-beef patties, special sauce, and sesame cookie buns. And while they're not exactly fast food, these fake burgers are easy to make.

1. To make the cookie "hamburger buns," heat the oven to 375°. Use an electric mixer to cream the margarine and the sugar until fluffy (about 1 to 2 minutes). Add 2 eggs and beat well. Stir in the vanilla extract. Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt into a separate bowl. Then, add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture and blend well.

2. For large "buns," drop the dough by rounded tablespoons onto a lightly greased baking sheet at least 1 inch apart (for medium-size buns, drop the dough by rounded teaspoons). Next, use the bottom of a floured glass to lightly press the dough into a circle. Then beat

the remaining egg and use a pastry brush to "paint" it on top of each cookie. Sprinkle sesame seeds on the tops. Bake the large cookies for 10 minutes and the medium ones for 8 minutes, or until the cookies are golden brown.

3. While the cookies are cooling on a rack, make the "lettuce." Place the shredded coconut into a plastic bag. Add a few drops of green food coloring, close the bag, and shake until the coconut has turned a light green.

4. To assemble the burgers, choose two cookies that are about the same size and shape. Spread icing ketchup or mustard on the bottom bun, add an appropriately sized peppermint patty, and sprinkle with coconut lettuce. Add a squirt of icing ketchup or mustard to hold the top bun in place. Arrange the hamburgers on a platter or wrap in foil. Makes approximately 12 large or 36 medium burgers.

## In the Spotlight

Gateway Association Child Development Center Pre-school out of Anderson became NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Accredited! All staff achieved their CDA! In the state of Indiana, Pre-schools are not required to meet any state standards. NAEYC Accreditation is the highest standard to achieve on a child care

facility level. This is the only Accredited preschool in Madison County! Congratulations to Jean Wright; CEO and her staff!

Congratulations to Michael Farrow of Lucky's Day Care in Greenfield for achieving his CDA! Thank you for all your hard work to improve the early care and education for children!

We all would like to send get well wishes to Trena Runshe of Wee Care Day Care in Shelbyville.

If you would like information put "In the Spotlight" or want to let us know of any accomplishments, please email Tory at [tmasters@huffermcc.org](mailto:tmasters@huffermcc.org). Thank you!

## Getting Ready for Spring

Spring is right around the corner, are you ready? Spring brings life back into the trees, flowers and most of all, us. Here are a few ideas to try when children are excited about nicer weather...

Spring is packed full of learning science skills. Simple exploration activities can take place in every day activities. Getting out and looking at the grass and flowers and trees growing and changing colors, look at the sky/clouds, smell the new scents and watch things grow. Here are a few activities:

**Growing a Rainbow:** Read the book and keep re-reading Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert and plant a garden. Take pictures, record any observations by the children and talk about what the plants need to grow. You could begin to see sprouts in some plants in as little as a week! Children will more likely eat what they plant and nurture.

**Seedy Socks:** (Personal Favorite) Have parents donate men's socks and when spring comes, put the socks over the children's shoes and go for a

seed walk. Walk through the weeds, tall grass and wherever they may take you. Slowly take off the socks when you return inside, lay in a pan, water and place in the window and watch the socks begin to sprout! Allow children to observe the socks every day and write down any comments that the children may say.

Be sure and look for outdoor hazards that may have occurred during the winter. Watch for rusty bolts, broken toys and holes in the ground. Throw away any broken toys and climbing toys. Simple things make the best exploration activities for children. If you have to throw away a few things, replace them with a ball set, hoops or jump ropes...simple open-ended activities. Imagination can let loose with a simple jump rope!

Keep in mind the Early Childhood Foundations when interacting with the children!

***Look for outdoor hazards that may have occurred during the colder times.***

## Women in History: Celebrate in March!

### The Beginning

As recently as the 1970's, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness. To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978. We chose the week of March 8 to make International Women's Day the focal point of the observance. The activities that were held met with enthusiastic response, and within a few years dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week, over one-hundred community women participated in the Community Resource Women Project, an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries, and we were staging a marvelous annual parade and program in downtown Santa Rosa, California.

### Overwhelming Response

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska, and other states developed and distributed curriculum materials all of their public schools. Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards, and the U.S. Congress.

### The Entire Month of March

In 1987, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the national celebration to the entire month of March. Since then, the National Women's History Month Resolution has been approved with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Each year, programs and activities in schools, workplaces, and communities have become more extensive as information and program ideas have been developed and shared.

### Growing Interest in Women's History

The popularity of women's history celebrations has sparked a new interest in uncovering women's forgotten heritage. A President's Commission on the Celebration of Women in History in America recently sponsored hearings in many sections of the country. It took reports about effective activities and institutions that are promoting women's history awareness and heard recommendations for programs still needed. The Women's Progress Commission will soon begin hearings to ascertain appropriate methods for identifying and then preserving sites of importance to American women's history. In many areas, state historical societies, women's organizations, and groups such as the Girl Scout of the USA have worked together to develop joint programs. Under the guidance of the National Women's History Project, educators, workplace program planners, parents and community organizations in thousands of American communities have turned National Women's History Month into a major focal celebration, and a springboard for celebrating women's history all year 'round.

*Taken from [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)*

*"Touching lives  
one child at a  
time"*

## Early Childhood Job Openings

Teddy Bear Day Care in Muncie has a full time assistant position available. Please call Marty at 765-286-4053 for more information.

Udder Angels in Alexandria has a part-time Lead Teacher for the

Pre-K classroom available. For more information, you can contact Tammy at 765-724-5555.

If you are interested in advertising here for your openings in early childhood, please contact Tory at

[tmasters@huffermcc.org](mailto:tmasters@huffermcc.org) or by

calling 1-800-554-9331. Also check out [IAEYC.org](http://IAEYC.org) for available early childhood careers.

## April and May: Appreciating the Child, Appreciating You

April and May are busy months! April 22-28th is Week of the Young Child, May 11th is Provider Appreciation Day!

The Week of the Young Child is an opportunity for programs, NAEYC Affiliates, related organizations, communities, and states to focus on the needs of young children and their families. There are countless ways to celebrate the week, which is first and foremost a grassroots efforts. Federal, state and local government, communities, parents and the private sector must share in the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of children and families. We can and must do more to create opportunities that help all children and families succeed. We can invest now in our children and families and enjoy long-term savings, with a more vibrant nation of healthy, achieving children and more stable families. Or we can fail to make the investment and pay the price: increased delinquency, greater educational failures, lowered productivity, less economic competitiveness, and fewer adults prepared to be effective, loving parents to the next generation of children. *Taken from [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org)*

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents. Since then, momentum and support for this even have grown each year. There are at least 2.8 million people who earn their money by teaching and caring for young children or by working directly related jobs. Over the past decade, the demand for child care has increased. Provider Appreciation Day is held so everyone can appreciate the number and importance of child care workers. The early childhood profession not only plays a critical role in supporting healthy families and children but is also a key part of our entire national economy. Today's child care providers are the world's unsung heroes. The child care profession is one of the most underpaid occupations in the country; yet early childhood is the most critical developmental period for all children. It takes a special person to work in this field and their contribution to the quality of family life frequently goes unnoticed—until now. *Taken from [www.providerappreciation.com](http://www.providerappreciation.com)*



***"Provider Appreciation Day is held so everyone can appreciate the number and importance of child care workers."***

### Marketing Tips and Ideas

Here are some tips to keep in mind when promoting your child care.

Buy some children's books and create a nameplate that says, "Donated by: (your business name)" and then contact information and distribute at doctor offices, dentists, etc. to have in the waiting room.

Create a simple business card to hand out and leave at local businesses.

Ask the local schools to see if you can add a little 'blurb' in their newsletter.

Have an open house and give out small information packs to give potential clients highlighting the services you offer and serve refreshments.

Word of mouth is the best way of advertising! Having a quality child care where the families are happy with your services will spread!

Some ideas taken from: [www.supportingproviders.com](http://www.supportingproviders.com)



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Check us out on the web!  
<http://huffer.uwctl.org>

Welcome to the "Connecting You" Newsletter to get Child Care Providers and the Community connected! Sit back, read and ENJOY!!!

## On the Lighter Side

Funny Things Kids Say

"This is a baby egg corn (*holding an acorn*). All you have to do is plant it in the ground and a baby oak tree hatches out of it."

"Be quiet everybody! You gotta listen to the teacher's destructions, or you won't know what the heck is going on!"

Taken from: [www.kinderkottage.com](http://www.kinderkottage.com)



11-15  
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"Parents' Night is not a sale, Billy.  
We don't put prices on our  
drawings."