

NURTURING NOTES

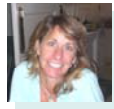


.... from our house
to yours

Volume 12, Issue 4
October–December 2011



The Nurturing Center's mission statement and goals are "to provide supportive, respectful services that strengthen families, increasing the number of children raised in healthy, nurturing environments" and "to implement a highly coordinated continuum of support and services to families and to address the need for and acknowledge the importance of quality, accessible, affordable child care."



Special Needs News!

By Mary Buenz, Child Development Specialist

A Tidbit You Might Not Know About

Are you aware of Montana's Special Needs Subsidy Program? Do you have a child with special needs who is in your care? The Subsidy Program is a part of Montana's Special Needs Services. It is designed to provide funding to providers for a child who needs extra support. These funds allow providers to accommodate for extra staffing, equipment, or training. It is important to note - All extra funding is intended to accommodate that particular child.

Those families who qualify for the Best Beginnings Program also qualify for this program, **if there is an identified need**. Not only is funding available, there is also ongoing support for questions, concerns and/or program development. A referral is typically done when the family applies for the Best Beginnings Scholarship, but referrals can be made by the family at any time. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about this program, feel free to contact me. You are welcome to give my contact information to any of your families as well. I can be reached at #253-4060 or mbuenz@nurturingcenter.org. I would be happy to answer any questions!

Mary Buenz

Child Development Specialist



The Early Childhood Project wants everyone to know that when you have documentation of an achievement that will move you up on the Practitioner Registry you can submit that documentation at any time....you do not have to wait until your renewal date and there is no charge...just send them your documentation!





Nutrition News

From Colleen Downing, CACFP Program Administrator

Welcome Ashley with me to The Nurturing Center CACFP. If you have not already met Ashley you eventually will. She loves horses and offers horse riding lesson when she is not out monitoring. So give her a warm welcome when she comes to visit.



Pointers to Help your Pre-Schooler :

- ☞ They take your lead from you. Make healthy choices and your kids will too.
- ☞ Eat together whenever possible.
- ☞ Help them try new foods. Sometimes new foods take time.
- ☞ Picky eating is temporary.
- ☞ Patience works better than pressure.
- ☞ Play actively every day.
- ☞ Make play time a family time.

Recipe Idea!

Harry Potter's Pumpkin Milkshake

Serving size: 2

Ingredients: 1 Frozen, Peeled Banana
3 Tbs. Orange Juice Concentrate
3 Tbs. Pumpkin Puree
1 scoop Vanilla Ice Cream or Frozen Yogurt
1/3 cup Water

Preparation Directions:

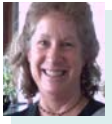
Cut up frozen Banana
Put all ingredients in a blender.
Blend on high until smooth.
Pour into two tall glasses and serve.

Variations:

Top the shake with whipped cream and a shake or two of Cinnamon.

One component for snack: fruit or vegetable (add another spoon of pumpkin.) Double or triple ingredients for 4 or 6 servings.





Professional Development News

From Sherrie Smith, Early Childhood Professional Development Coordinator

Hello Again Child Care Providers and Happy Fall!




We are busy as ever and finding it hard to believe that October is already here! As always we have news and updates for all of you who work with and nurture young children!

With the new quarter comes our schedule of provider class offerings for October through December...if you have not yet checked our website for what is available this quarter please [click on the calendar](#)



RIGHT NOW! We have some fun classes in both Lake and Flathead Counties and do not want you to miss out! If you live in Lincoln or Sanders County please give us a call about scheduling another class opportunity in your area...we would love to come!

Those of you taking college classes should make sure you check out the Higher Ed PDIA's  available through the Early Childhood Project. Applications for spring and summer semesters are on their website now and are due into the ECP the third week of November. Click on "What's New" at www.mtecp.org.

We will again be offering the 60 hour Preschool year was a blast and we are looking forward to ing and learning together! The class will likely be Monday and Wednesday evenings and will run until early May... so start planning now and watch for more info in the next month!



Class beginning in January.....the class this past another group of 10-15 child care providers bonding and learning together!

Our local early childhood association will be hosting a general membership meeting on Thursday, November 10th so mark your calendar and plan to attend! This month the annual State Conference is in Bozeman.....and one year from this month it will be here in Kalispell! Initial plans are already under way and your input is needed so plan to come and join the fun....the more the merrier! Specific info soon to come....



Coming next quarter → information on becoming a "breastfeeding friendly" child care program, knowledge and resources to help support breastfeeding moms and babies!!! The Nurturing Center will be collaborating with Kim Winchell from WIC and the Flathead Breastfeeding Coalition to provide professional development training on the health and nutrition benefits of breastfeeding and how to become an official "Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Program" as part of a new community movement by the local Breastfeeding Coalition.

Extra! Extra! We have just updated our Activity Boxes with new materials, toys, and books! We are excited about this opportunity to provide you with more resources to enhance your program and curriculum!

Activity Box Topics....Rain Forest* Ocean * Differences and Abilities* Science * Insects * Dinosaurs * Wildlife * Potty Training * Flannel Boards and Stories * Button Maker

Please contact Sherrie or Deanna at 756-1414 for more information or to check a box out today!

Hope you and your children have a great Fall and be sure to give us a call when you need resources or have questions....we love hearing from you and look forward to seeing you at classes!

Thanks, Sherrie and Deanna



Family Services News

The Resource & Referral Department announces the hiring of a new case manager for child care. Kym Dimmer has joined our team effective October 24th. Kym will be managing Non TANF cases for families whose last names begin with the letters A and through J. Kym will be in training directly with Rhonda for the next several months. Please welcome her to our team!

On that note, just as a reminder, Shannon Johnson manages Non TANF cases for families who last names begin with the letters K through Z. Diane Clark manages all TANF cases, Working Caretaker Relative cases, and all Non TANF Self Employed family cases. Rhonda Miller is the supervisor for the team, manages all Child Protective Service cases, all Repayment Accounts and investigations for both parents and providers, case reviews and provider attendance record checks.

Important Reminder: Please call our office to verify eligibility. Always! Our team would rather take a few minutes to search for the parent's name then to see a provider not get paid. Remember, just because a person brings paperwork for you to complete or sign does not automatically mean they are eligible. It generally means that they are just starting the application process. And, NO we cannot back date child care applications. Also, for your information, families are responsible to report provider changes/additions within ONE day.



A REMINDER OF OUR HOURS

The Nurturing Center will be open
8:00am—5:00pm Monday—Friday
with extended hours on
Tuesday evenings until 7:00pm.



How wonderful
it is that
nobody need wait a
single moment before
starting to improve the
world.

Anne Frank



The Nurturing Center
146 Third Avenue West
Kalispell, MT 59901

Phone: (406) 756-1414
1-800-204-0644
Fax (406) 756-1410
Email: info@nurturingcenter.org

