



National Women's Law Center Tax Credits Outreach Campaign, 2012 Tax Filing Season

**YOU'VE BEEN WORKING HARD—
GET THE TAX CREDITS YOU DESERVE!**

Families in New York:

Whether or not you owe income tax, you could get thousands of dollars in tax credits. You could qualify for:

\$ Up to **\$2,100** from the federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit and up to **\$2,310** from the New York State Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, and up to **\$1,733** from the New York City Child Care Tax Credit.

\$ Up to **\$5,751** from the federal Earned Income Tax Credit and up to **\$1,725** from the New York Earned Income Tax Credit and up to **\$288** from the New York City Earned Income Tax Credit.

\$ Up to **\$1,000** per child from the federal Child Tax Credit and **\$330** per child from the Empire State Child Tax Credit.

More families than ever are eligible for these credits this year. To get these credits, you must file a tax return.

Find out where you can get FREE help with your taxes by calling the IRS toll-free at (800) 906-9887. Or go to www.irs.gov. You can also contact the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance at (518) 457-5181. To find out where to get free income tax preparation assistance, call AARP Tax-Aide toll-free at (888) AARP-NOW or (888) 227-7669. New York City residents call 311.

In partnership with the Early Care & Learning Council



CHILD CARE COUNCIL
Your premier resource. Inc.

WE DO THAT!

CARING MATTERS

February 2012 - Vol. 30 Issue 2



2012 Annual Conference

Save the Date!

Saturday, April 28, 2012

Featuring:

**Gretchen
Kinnell**

Author of

**No Biting: Policy and Practice
for Toddler Programs** and
**Good Going!: Successful Potty Training for
Children in Child Care**



Annual Conference will be held at the
Diplomat Party House
Registration forms coming soon!

President Amy Fici * CEO Barbara-Ann Mattle * Editor Jennifer Weykman

***** LOCATIONS *****

Main Office
595 Blossom Rd. Suite 120
Rochester, NY 14610-1825
Phone: (585) 654-4720
Fax: (585) 654-4721

Wayne County Branch Office
510 West Union St., Suite 1
Newark, NY 14513-9201
Phone: (315) 331-5443
Fax: (315) 331-5271

Livingston County Branch Office
3513 Thomas Dr. Suite 4
Lakeville, NY 14480-0670
Phone: (585) 346-6050
Fax: (585) 346-6058

CCC Membership Benefits and Application

Individual Membership—\$35.00/yr

- Benefits**
- Loan privileges at the Early Childhood Professional Libraries
 - My First Library for your own children between the ages of 6 weeks thru 5 years
 - Free Notary Public Services
 - Access to group rate Health and Dental Insurance
 - *Please note: This option is not available for non-child care organization memberships
 - Council Pin, Lanyard, Tote Bag or Cooler Beach Bag

Child Care Center Staff Member, Registered Family Child Care Provider or Legally Exempt Child Care Provider Membership—\$50/yr

- All Benefits Above Plus**
- 50% discount on Business Center Services
 - 10% membership discount every Tuesday on Recycle Shop purchases
 - Substantial member savings on Council offered classes and events

Single Site Group Family Child Care Provider or Non-Child Care Organization Membership*—\$75/yr

- All Benefits Above Plus**
- Substantial member discount on in-service training at your location
 - \$5.00 discount on individual staff memberships in the Child Care Council
 - Substantial discount on Council classes and events for provider and assistants

Child Care Center, Nursery School, School-Age, Multi-Site Group Family Child Care Membership

\$100.00/yr (1-10 staff members) \$200.00/yr (21-30 staff members)
 \$150.00/yr (11-20 staff members) \$250.00/yr (31+ staff members)

- All Benefits Above Plus**
- Substantial Discount on Individualized Training Program and In-Service Sessions
 - All staff members eligible for substantial member savings on Council classes and events

CCC Annual Membership Application

- Individual Membership (\$35)
- Center Staff Member Membership (\$50)
- Family Provider Membership (\$50)
- Single Site Group Family Child Care Membership (\$75)
- Non-Child Care Organization Membership (\$75)
- CACFP Family Provider (\$25)
- CACFP Group Provider (\$37.50)
- Center
 - Nursery School
 - School-Age
 - Multiple Site
 - Group Family
 - 1 - 10 Staff Members (\$100)
 - 21-30 Staff members (\$200)
 - 11-20 Staff members (\$150)
 - 31+ Staff members (\$250)

Mail form & payment to:
 Child Care Council Membership
 595 Blossom Road, Suite 120
 Rochester, NY 14610

Membership Fees are non-refundable

Please √ one

New Membership

Renewal Membership # _____

Name _____ Home Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Center Name _____ Center Phone () _____

Center Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Total \$: _____ MC/Visa# _____ Exp. Date _____ V# _____
(3 digit # on back of credit card)

Amount Enclosed: _____ - Check # _____ Signature: _____

- Please check one: Council Pin Lanyard Tote Bag Cooler Beach Bag



News You Can Use

Jobs Express Linking Employers and Employees

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced the launch of "Jobs Express," a new website designed to help New Yorkers who are seeking employment.

The Jobs Express website makes it easier to learn about what jobs are available in the state and to know where to find them.

For more information go to <http://jobs.ny.gov>

The job express site takes over 42,000 job openings and sorts them by region to help job seekers evaluate what industries are growing in their area and find out what opportunities are available in specific companies.

Complete with other helpful features – like video tutorials on resume writing, interview techniques, and transitioning to a new career – use Jobs Express to enhance your job search today.

If you are an employer, and wish to post a job to the site, scroll to the “Businesses” tab and click on the items under the Recruitment Services heading for information on qualifications and instructions for posting a job opening.

Look for a new column “TAKING ACTION” coming to Caring Matters in March 2012.

New York State is currently 38th in the nation in terms of graduation rates. As early care and learning professionals, we know that high quality early learning and development will lay the foundation for better outcomes in the future. Unfortunately, Governor Cuomo neglected to mention early learning and development in his 2012 State of the State message. The Governor and his administration need to hear from us. Education cannot be reformed without including early childhood as part of the package.

Please contact Governor Cuomo and ask him to include early learning and development as part of his agenda.

- www.governor.ny.gov/contact/governorContactForm.php
- Mail: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of New York State, NYS State Capitol Building, Albany, NY 12224
- Phone: (518) 474-8390

Go Old School!

By Jeannine Ciulla, Branch Office Coordinator-Wayne County/
FCC/GFCC Registrar

Do you throw boxes from gifts or deliveries out into your garage where they sit patiently awaiting the cutting up and bundling process for the recycle box? Don't skip the middle step we sometimes forget about: Reuse.

Reuse is often confused with recycling, but they are really quite different. Reuse in the broadest sense means any activity that lengthens the life of an item. Recycling, on the other hand, is the reprocessing of an item into a new raw material for use in a new product. Reuse is nothing new. However in this age of mega toy stores where almost anything can be bought as a miniaturized toy, we sometimes forget that the real fun and learning take place in the creative process.

How many different things could your group of children come up with as ways to reuse or recycle a box? I bet their lists would be endless. The children in your program could save you money by having fun and letting their imaginations run wild by creating the toys themselves.

Some simple ideas for boxes:

- Cereal Box Totes (cut some handles near the top of the box after the top has been removed and let the kids paste a collage of pictures on their on box with Mod Podge)
- Creative Kitchen (let kids use larger boxes to create a refrigerator, stove, microwave, etc. with boxes that housed larger items)
- Tissue Box Traffic Light (use a larger box as a car that kids can actually get in to drive around and even a box as small as a tissue box can be made into the light!)
- Stuffed Animal Bed (tissue boxes are also the perfect size to use for bed time for favorite bean bag animals)

The most fun is having the children come up with their own ideas for reusing boxes. One of my favorite books growing up was, Christina Katerina and the Box, by Patricia Lee Gauch. It is about a girl who came up with endless ways to reuse a huge cardboard box. Sometimes the most fun things you come up with come from your own imagination.

Indoor Activities for Snow Days

By Josean D Vargas, Referral Specialist

Winter is a season full of fun activities to do outside and have fun. For those days when the weather is too harsh to go out here are some ideas for activities to do with your children and keep them busy having fun inside the house:

Snowball Over the Mountain

Supplies: Sheet, White balloons blown up,
4 adults to help

How To Play: Children are divided into two teams. A sheet (the mountain) is held above eye level between the two groups by the 4 adults (holding each end). Each side throws snowballs (white balloons) over to the other side.



Snowball Relay Race

Supplies: Styrofoam ball for each team, Pencil for each team

How To Play: Divide into teams. First child on each team will be given a Styrofoam ball (snowball) and a pencil. On your mark they are to bend over, place the ball on the floor, and push the ball with the pencil across the room, around an obstacle, and back to the next child on the team. The first team to finish wins.

Snowball Making

Supplies: Large sheets of tissue paper, one for every child
Bucket for each team

How To Play: Divide the children into two teams. The first person on each team gets a piece of tissue paper and crumples it into a ball using one hand (this keeps them soft). Child then places the snowball in the bucket. The next child repeats the first child's actions and the process continues until the team has all their snowballs made. Follow this game with a Snowball Throw.

Snowball Throw

Supplies: A line drawn or taped on the floor

How To Play: Set a time for 2-3 minutes. Yell, "GO"! Each team throws their tissue paper snowballs back and forth across the lines. When the timer goes off, the team with the least amount of snowballs on their side wins.

<http://party.kaboose.com/seasonal/winter/winter-party.html>



Preventing Problems Before They Start!

By Kristen M Knight, Infant Toddler Specialist

Appropriate discipline strategies and how to handle children with challenging behaviors is one of the most common struggles that child care providers deal with. While there are several techniques that work well in guiding children to more appropriate behavior, there is no “one size fits all” technique that applies to every situation. It’s important to know what positive discipline strategies work with young children but many times you will find that you don’t even need to use discipline techniques if you take a proactive approach and prevent behavior problems before they even begin.

In order to prevent undesirable behaviors, it’s important to look at the environment, the curriculum, the schedule, and the expectations you have for the children in your care. Many times making changes in these key areas can prevent behavior problems from ever occurring. Ask yourself the following



questions: Is the environment set up so that children can be as independent as possible? Is there enough space for children to play? Are there an adequate number of materials available for the children to play with? Are there a variety of choices available to support various interests and developmental levels? Are there too many transitions? Are there alternate activities for children that are waiting? Are you physically present? What are you asking of the children and is it developmentally appropriate?

For example, biting is a common occurrence in a toddler classroom. While it is not a desired behavior, it is a developmentally appropriate behavior for a toddler. Often toddlers bite because one of the preventative measures mentioned above needs to be changed. Therefore when a toddler is biting ask yourself the above questions and you may find that the child is biting because he/she is expected to share too few toys, is forced to switch activities too many times in a day, doesn't have enough personal space, or is expected to do something that is impossible for that child to do developmentally like play a game with rules or share toys with other children. Taking the time to prevent discipline problems in your classroom not only decreases your stress as a teacher, it also makes for a happier, calmer classroom community.



February is National Children’s Dental Health Month

By Jodi Holgado, Food Program Specialist, CACFP

National Children’s Dental Health Month is sponsored by the American Dental Association in February. This is something that you can promote in your program with the resources available to you. Visit www.ada.org to download free lessons, projects and activity sheets. You will also be able to read more information to help promote dental health in your child care program. Also, visit www.apples4theteacher.com to get even more free, fun activities, and information for you to use.

Valentine’s Day is in February, which often brings a lot of chocolate and other sweets. These are definitely counter productive to promoting dental health. Below are some alternatives to sweets and to promote dental health.

- Plan a trip to a dentist office, or invite one to visit your center.
- Order an Edible Arrangement, or make your own fruit bouquet.
- Give goodie bags filled with tooth brushes and dental floss.



If you feel you must include chocolate in Valentine’s Day, drizzle dark chocolate, which has more health benefit than milk chocolate, over strawberries or frozen bananas. Keep in mind that sugary sweets are not the only culprit in tooth decay. Snacks such as potato chips, pretzels, and crackers get stuck in children’s teeth and when they stay in the teeth they start to promote decay. Juice is loaded with sugar which is another contributing factor.

The habits children develop at an early age, along with scheduling regular dental visits, will help children start a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums.



Guardando la Seguridad de Nuestros Niños (lo que debe de saber sobre productos retirados)

por Brenda Colón, Inspectora de LE

Más de 30 por ciento de los productos retirados del mercado cada año son producidos para niños. Son retirados porque han causado daño a los niños o porque es probable que causarían daño si no se hayan retirados.

Es importante que los proveedores de cuidado infantil se mantengan al corriente sobre los productos de niños retirados porque éstos causan más de 200 mil accidentes que requieren hospitalización cada año. Los productos peligrosos son responsables de quemaduras, asfixias, estrangulaciones, electrocuciones y otros evitables heridos serios cada año. Desafortunadamente, cada semana un niño se muere a causa de productos que son retirados porque estos productos permanecen en los estantes de las tiendas por años, mientras las agencias gubernamentales investigan las quejas. Además, más de 60 por ciento de los productos nunca están devueltos y pueden ser regalados a los amigos y familiares, vendidos o donados a organizaciones beneficencias.

Hay que tomar medidas, incluso los siguientes, para asegurarse que los productos en su hogar de cuidado infantil, sean apropiados para el desarrollo físico y psicológico de cada niño que los utilicen; los productos deben de ser bien hechos, sin partes pequeñas, proyectiles, cordones más largo de 12 pulgadas. La mesa del televisor debe ser estable para que no vuelque. Los enchufes deben de tener cubiertas. Los cordones de extensión no deben de ser sobrecargadas. Recuérdese de que los calefactores, y piscinas potables son ilegales en los hogares de cuidado infantil en el estado de NY. Sobre todo, siempre hay que proveer supervisión competente para los niños cuando jueguen o coman.

Abajo son las agencias usadas para compilar la información usada en este artículo. También son recursos para información sobre productos retirados:

1. Apúntese por notificación de correo electrónico de todos los productos retirados en www.recalls.gov
2. Investigue el sitio de Internet para los productos retirados de niños, o Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) en www.cpsc.gov.
3. Obtenga información del sitio de Internet para el Fiscal General (Attorney General) en www.ag.ny.gov



Up and Away and Out of Sight Program

By Joanne M. Buell, Health Care Specialist

Each year in the USA, one of every 150 two-year olds and 60,000 young children overall visit the emergency department for treatment of an accidental medication overdose, primarily from finding and consuming medicines (including vitamins and non-prescription medicines) left out by parents, family guests or caregivers. According to Dr. Dan Budnitz of the CDC, the number of accidental overdoses in young children has **increased 20%** in recent years despite child resistant caps instituted in the 1970s. To curb this disturbing trend, the CDC and its partners have developed a new education program called **Up and Away and Out of Sight**. The program stresses to adults that by following a “few simple steps- **done every time**- our children can be protected.”



The steps to follow **consistently** are:

- Pick a storage place **out of reach and out of sight** of children.
- Put the medicine back in storage after EACH use, even if you need to give another dose in a few hours.
- Listen for the “click” when replacing the child resistant caps on medicines.
- Teach children medicine safety, stressing that medicine is not candy and only “grown-ups” can give it to them.
- Tell houseguests to keep purses and bags containing medicines up and away and out of sight of children while visiting.
- Be prepared for an emergency by keeping the poison control number (**1-800-222-1222**) programmed into the home and cell phones.

Although the CDC, the Consumer Product Safety Commission and others are working on safer packaging, nothing is 100% safe. By following these simple safety steps EVERY TIME medicine is used is our best protection for our children.

From the **Up and Away And Out of Sight website www.UpAndAway.org** (Spanish www.UpAndAway.org/es)

"The Book Nook" Professional Library Book Review

By Staff Member: Edwin Maier,
Legally Exempt Inspector

Why READING MAGIC ALOUD to our children will change their lives forever. This powerful book reveals the incredible emotional and intellectual impact that reading to children has on their ability to read and on their entire lives.

Change a squirming child to a learning child. The author stresses, through innumerable vignettes, ways that children can discover the joys of reading. Probably the initial tenet is to read with passion- emotion – using Happy Eyes. Children respond to the animation in our eyes. Mem Fox continually reminds us that reading is ineffectual without eyes that smile. The focus of Reading Magic is to, as adults, discover learning avenues that will develop our reading skills, so that we can impact the literacy of children.

“If every parent – and every adult caring for a child – read aloud a minimum of three stories a day to the children in their lives, they could probably wipe out illiteracy within one generation.” READING MAGIC is a must for every provider’s library. This book is inspiring, memorable, and insightful.



Reading Magic By Mem Fox

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

EIP applications are available for 2012!

We expect that like last year, available scholarship funds will run out quickly. Plan your classes now! Please contact our office, we would love to assist you!

*A review of classes in Feb & Mar 2012. New items are in BOLD
Classes are 6:30pm—9:00pm unless otherwise noted*

Rochester Office:
2/4 & 11-MAT 9am-2pm
2/8-Regulations: Family
2/8-Intro to FDC9:30am-12 Series-2/27, 3/5,12,19,26
2/13-Why So Many Pokes? & 4/2
Immunization Surveys 2/29-MAT Independent
2/13-Business Operations Study 6pm-9pm
CACFP
**2/15-Coping With Crying Starting Your Own
2/16-Fire Safety Child Care Business 101**
2/18 & 25-CPR & First Aid Series 2 starts 1/31
9am-1pm Call for more info!
**2/21-Special Touch with
Special Needs**
2/25-Nutrition Concepts
Explored: Beyond
CACFP 9am-11:30am

**Lakeville CDA starts
2/28. Don't miss this
opportunity!**

Lakeville Office:
2/8-Asthma Attack and
Severe Allergic Reaction
6:30pm-8pm
2/7,9,14,16,21,23-Health &
Safety
2/15-MAT Independent
Study 6pm-9pm
2/27,29 & 3/5-CPR and
First Aid
Newark Office:
2/6-Wayne County Family
Child Care Association
Professional Development
and Support Series
6:30pm-8:30pm

Rochester Office:
3/1-Intro to Family Child
Care
3/1-Parent Communication
Parents as Partners
3/6-MAT Independent
Study Class 6pm-9pm
3/6-Know Your
Regulations-Center
3/7-Asthma Attack and
Severe Allergic Reaction
6:30pm-8pm
3/8-Business Operations
CACFP
**3/8-Art with the Great
Masters**
3/13-Bullying
3/15-Taxes

3/15-MAT Independent
Study Class 6pm-9pm
**3/20-Make Your Child
Care an Eco-Healthy
Child Care**
3/24 & 31-MAT-9am-2pm
3/24 & 31-CPR and First
Aid 9am-1pm
**3/26,28 & 4/2,4,9,11-
Health & Safety in
Spanish**

**Starting Your Own Child
Care Business 101**
Series 3 starts 3/5
Call for more info!

**Rochester CDA 71 starts
3/22. Don't miss this
opportunity to start
earning your Child
Development
Associate Credential!**

Newark Office:
3/1,6,8,13,15,20-Health &
Safety
3/5-Wayne County Family
Child Care Association
Professional Develop-
ment and Support Series
6:30pm-8:30pm
3/22,27,29-CPR and First
Aid

THE RECYCLE SHOP ITEM OF THE MONTH IS:

Approximately
2" wide clear glass disks

12 for \$1

