



# IdahoSTARS News

Regional Edition

CCRC  
Region I  
Panhandle Health District  
Volume 1, Issue 1  
April 2011

## Quality Rating and Improvement System Update

The Quality Rating and Improvement System, or QRIS, is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system for child care facilities in Idaho. The quality of the facility is rated through a system of five stars, similar to hotels. The QRIS credits facilities for the quality practices already in place while providing a roadmap to increased quality. Providers are also supported throughout the process through their local office, mentors and trainers.

North Idaho is very excited to have 20 participating child care facilities! Please see the IdahoSTARS website for a complete list.

Marvella Bjorkquist, operator/owner of The Kids Castle in Sandpoint said, "My Mentor, Bettie Fohnagy, has been more supportive than I can describe. The encouragement I have gotten from her is unmatched in my 11 years experience. Our goals would not be so attainable if not for her ideas, resources, and assistance. The mentor program is, in my opinion, the most helpful of all the benefits offered by IdahoSTARS."

Our regional trainers, mentors and support staff play a huge role in the success of our QRIS participants. We cannot thank you enough for all of your hard work and dedication!

We still have room for more participants in this program, please call 1-800-926-2588 for more information.

### Inside this issue:

*Sun Safety, Licensing*  
2

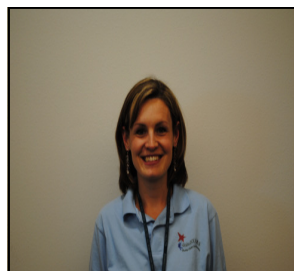
*Week of Young Child, Provider Appreciation*  
3

*What is a CDA Credential?*  
4

*Training, First Book Grant*  
5

*Congratulations Carlyn Shaffer!*  
6

## Your Local Child Care Resource and Referral Office



Jennifer Ross  
Lead Child Care Consultant



Tish Aguiar  
Referral Specialist



Tammy Quinn  
Relative and Family



Covers Bonner, Benewah, Boundary, Kootenai and Shoshone Counties  
Panhandle Health District  
8500 N. Atlas  
Hayden, ID 83835  
Phone: 1-800-926-2588



## Team Sun Safety

By Lisa Cramer, R.N., Panhandle Health District



Winter's chill melts into sunny days and active ways. It's time to break out the baseball bats, fishing poles, kites and bikes. But wait! Don't forget, no matter how good it feels to finally see the sun more often, those rays will burn and do long term damage to the skin. Those first camping trips, picnics, or hikes of the season are common times when people get sunburned. Keep sunscreen of SPF 30 or higher out where you will see it, like on the kitchen or bathroom counter. Carry some in the car and in athletic bags so it is always handy. Put it on 20 minutes before going outside. Don't forget to wear your sun protective clothing: wide brim hats, long sleeve shirts, pants and sunglasses.



Celebrate national "Don't Fry Day," the Friday before Memorial Day and prepare your family for a sunburn free holiday weekend. For more information go to [www.skincancerprevention.org](http://www.skincancerprevention.org). Join Team Sun Safety and be sun safe all year long.

For more information please call Lisa Cramer at the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at Panhandle Health District at 208-415-5298.

## **Daycare Licensing Updates**

Changes are all around us! The Child Care Resource Center is here to provide education and resources to help you with the changes in Idaho's Daycare Licensing.

Many of you may have noticed changes to the system in regards to relicensing your child care business. Vendor Specialists in Boise take in your licensing packets with the requested information (completed application form, approved fire inspection, proof of liability and fire insurance, proof of compliance with local city and county



electrical code, planning and zoning code, pediatric CPR and First Aid). After all of these pieces have been verified, the Vendor Specialist will contact the Health District to inform them you will need a Health and Safety Inspection. You will also pay the licensing fee at that time (please do not send the fee with your application).

Providers who are renewing their license must submit Training Certificates or IdahoSTARS Training Logs for each employee. You can check the IdahoSTARS website for

upcoming trainings, call our office for updates or join our Lending Library to borrow DVD trainings.



Quality child care does matter! We thank you for your patience and hope to share information with you about our Professional Development System and the Quality Rating and Improvement System!

Please call us through the 2-1-1 CareLine or 1-800-926-2588 for comments, questions or concerns.



## Week of the Young Child a Success! April 10-16, 2011

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe Early Childhood Learning Center hosted a successful week of events in Plummer, Idaho! They had a family parade, playground activities, toy fair, a visit from Idaho Fish and Game and an art walk.

North Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children hosted a Children's Art Show at the Coeur d'Alene Public Library. Children's Academy, Christ the King, Iris' House, TLC Learning Center, Glory Be School, Little Folks and North Idaho College Children's Center had pieces hanging and they were amazing! It was evident the children and teachers worked hard to bring

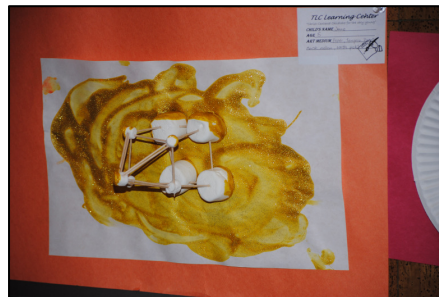
the exhibit together.

NIAEYC also put together a picture slide show of children at work in child care. A big thank you to the child care facilities that were able to participate and to the Coeur d'Alene, Hayden and Post Falls Public Libraries for hosting the art and picture slide show! The Child Care Resource Center was also happy to volunteer with the set up.

NIAEYC would love to have increased participation next year! NIAEYC is also happy to help providers in outlying areas brainstorm ideas on ways they can host events in their community.



A piece from NIC Children's Center



3-Dimensional piece from TLC Learning Center



Paint and Glitter from Glory Be

### Child Care Provider Appreciation Luncheon



NIAEYC is hosting a Child Care Provider Appreciation Luncheon this year and directors, teachers and early childhood professionals are all invited! Please join us for a day of networking, delicious food, dessert, door prizes and entertainment!

Date: Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church (1700 E. Pennsylvania, Coeur d'Alene). Please contact Barbi Harrison at 208-699-9133 to reserve your spot today! Kindly RSVP by April 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Save the Date!

This years Kid's Day in the Park will be held on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at City Park in Coeur d'Alene. More information coming soon!



## What is a CDA Credential?

The Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential is a nationally recognized credential awarded to individuals who have demonstrated competency through both experience and education in working with young children ages 0-5. The CDA Credential is awarded to infant/toddler teachers, preschool teachers or family child care providers. The Council for Early Childhood Professional Recognition administers the CDA credentialing program and awards the CDA Credential. The Credential is renewed every 3 years from the date of award.

Candidates must be 18 years or older, have a high school diploma or equivalent, have 480 hours of experience working with young chil-

dren in the last 5 years and have 120 hours of formal child care education and training within the past five years in the CDA training content areas.

Online classes, self-study modules or classroom instruction is available to meet the 120 hours of formal education in our area. Gain new skills and knowledge, gain recognition for earning a nationally recognized credential and earn opportunities for career advancement!

IdahoSTARS may have scholarships available to you to obtain a CDA Credential! Call us at 1-800-926-2588.



Little Folks art submissions for the Week of the Young Child Art Show. They had to come up with a creative way to display work from more than 100 students!



## First Book Grant Update

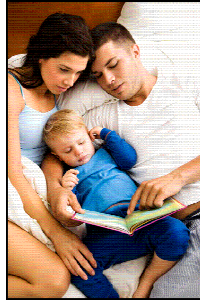
First Book provides access to new books for children in need. First Book works to increase children's interest in reading, it empowers teachers to increase literacy efforts and works to improve literacy in the home.

The Child Care Resource Center was one of this year's recipients of this grant. CCRC is working with Britches and Bows in Coeur d'Alene, Starting Small in Coeur d'Alene, Starting Small in Post Falls and TLC Learning Center in Coeur d'Alene. These centers receive monthly visits from our Center. We work together to do an age appropriate circle time with the children to promote literacy. Each child then takes home a book that they can call their own to share with their families!

We thank these providers for the chance to work

with their children and families to spread the word on the importance of early literacy.

It's never too early to start reading with children, and there is more to reading than just saying the words. Point to pictures, talk about the pictures, talk about new words! Reading and singing are excellent ways to expose children of all ages to new sounds, words and sights. Remember to be patient, infants and toddlers will enjoy just looking, pointing or trying to name pictures on the pages, it's not always important to read every word.



If you would like more information about strengthening literacy activities in your facility, we would love to help! We have informational resources for teachers and parents and we are available for site visits. Please call 1-800-926-2588.

### Training Opportunities

#### Dare to Be Safe!

Hosted by the Coeur d'Alene Childcare Commission, workshop will focus on disaster preparedness, child abuse, recognizing drug activity and immunizations.

**Monday, April 25th.....6:30-8:30 p.m.....FREE**

Contact Jayne at City Hall at 208-769-2300

#### Shot Smarts

Describe and discuss the current immunization schedule and why it is important for children to receive childhood vaccines.

**Friday, April 29th.....8 am-3:30 pm.....FREE**

Contact Andy Noble at 208-334-5901

#### Legal and Social Emotional Issues of Divorce for Young Children

What legal documents should I have on hand at my facility? What signs do children show when they're stressed? How do I help them?

**Tuesday, May 10th.....6-9p.m.....\$35**

Hosted by NIAEYC, call Jennifer Ross at 1-800-926-2588

#### Building Blocks for Literacy®

The program is designed to help early care educators foster important fundamental literacy skills. Participants learn strategies to help preschoolers develop essential pre-reading skills. 50 scholarships are available for our area, includes a 10 hour online course followed up with a 3 hour course on August 13th. You will receive literacy games, activities, alphabet

cards, children's books and a DVD to keep. You must complete the online course and attend the August class for the scholarship.

**Saturday, August 13th.....9 am-12 pm.....FREE (w/ scholarship)**

Contact Jeri Jessup at 208-577-1101

#### IdahoSTARS Professional Development System Orientation

Orientation will include enrollment information for the State and Training Registry System as well as other exciting information!

**Monday, May 9th.....6-7 pm.....Free!**

**Tuesday, June 14th.....6-7 p.m.....Free!**

Contact: Jennifer Ross @ 2-1-1 OR 1-800-926-2588

#### Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) Orientation

Intro to Idaho's voluntary system to rate and improve the quality of child care facilities. Learn what QRIS is, how to get involved and resources available to help improve your program.

**Monday, May 9th.....7-8 pm.....Free!**

**Tuesday, June 14th.....7-8 p.m.....Free!**

Contact: Jen Ross @ 2-1-1 OR 1-800-926-2588

#### ICCP Orientation

Learn how to register your business for Idaho's Child Care Subsidy Program (ICCP). Please contact Tish Aguiar for upcoming dates/times. You can also view the training schedule by visiting [www.idahostars.org](http://www.idahostars.org) or calling 2-1-1.

### Exciting News!

You can now view your training logs and register for classes online by visiting [www.idahostars.org](http://www.idahostars.org) and clicking on the training calendar!



## Congratulations to Carlyn's Child Care!



Carlyn Shaffer, a family care business owner in Hayden, Idaho, has recently been awarded a National Accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). Shaffer was excited about the challenge of meeting the qualifications for an accreditation saying "This is my second accreditation, the process through NAFCC has made me an even better preschool teacher and child care provider." Shaffer is one of only 10 providers in the state of Idaho that have earned national accreditation.

Shaffer has been providing care in her home for 14 years. She serves children three years through five years of age, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and participates in the USDA Food Program. The curriculum utilizes the Mother Goose Time materials and is enhanced through visits from local community service and business members, family events, and the inclusion of Spanish and Sign Language instruction.

NAFCC offers accreditation to providers across the country, aiding them in raising their standards

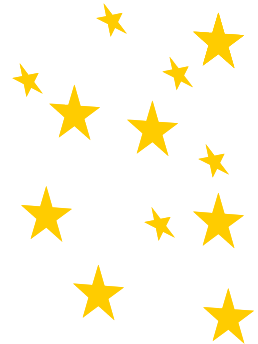
of quality care and gaining them the respect and recognition they deserve for their commitment to quality and children. The accreditation was made possible for Shaffer through a grant from the Idaho Stars program.

In addition to NAFCC, Shaffer is a member of the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children and serves as Treasurer for the North Idaho Family Child Care Association.

For more information about NAFCC, receiving an accreditation or finding an accredited provider, visit [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org)



*Be a Super Star  
in  
IdahoSTARS!*



IdahoSTARS CCRC Region 1  
Panhandle Health District  
8500 N. Atlas  
Hayden, ID 83835