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'State of the Young Child' Celebrates Successes, Looks Forward

The early childhood they should community celebrated the never under-successes of the past year estimate the and looked toward the future importance of April 24 at the second what they are annual "State of the Young doing by work-Child Celebration." ing with chil-

The event, held at First dren. United Methodist Church in "Each and Gastonia, brought together every one of teachers of young children, you should be child care center directors, very proud of health professionals, what you do concerned citizens and an for our coun- array of Gaston and Lincoln try," Johnson county residents with an said. "Each interest in early childhood and every one issues. of you should be proud

The keynote speaker for the event was Jeff Johnson, on-air personality for Charlotte television stations UPN46 and WB55. For years, Johnson has hosted the nationally recognized "STV — Student Television" and has spoken across the region promoting a positive outlook on life.

"Smart Start is very important to us at Capitol Broadcasting," Johnson told those attending. UPN46, WB55 and their affiliates across the state are airing the children's television program "Smart Start Kids" on weekend mornings.

Johnson told early childhood educators that



WB Personality Jeff Johnson with Partnership Administrative Assistant Jan Morgan at the second annual State of the Young Child Celebration April 24.

"Each and every one of you should be proud every day."

Part of the importance of making sure children have the best possible start in life, Johnson said, comes from knowing that they will one day be the adult citizens of the communities in which they live.

"Those kids will be the ones that are going to come up and be in the same seats that you're in today," Johnson said to the group. "Now, what are they going to bring to the table?"

Johnson also encouraged early childhood advocates who do not feel supported by the community at large to call attention to

the issues and to work to make the community aware of the importance of children's issues.

"We must call ourselves to action for that, I think," he said.

In addition, Lincoln County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jim Watson and Gaston County Schools Superintendent Dr. Ed Sadler updated those in attendance on More at Four and recent advancements for children in the public school system.

To conclude the program, updated information was presented on advancements for children and the early childhood community.



In-Service Training Opportunities

Developing Together is offering the following workshops that will count toward in-service training. There is no fee for these classes. Call Barbara Romich at (704) 484-8599 for times and locations.

- "Teaching Made Easy," May 13
- ITERS and ECERS, May 14 or May 27
- "Cooking with Preschoolers," May 15 or June 14
- "Positive Discipline," May 15 or May 29
- "Transitions," May 15
- "Outdoor Classroom," May 19, 21, 22 or June

- 14
- "Beyond Time-Out," May 27 or June 17
- "Lesson Planning for Preschoolers," June 17

On May 17, a day of workshops will be available geared toward family child care home providers. Contact Barbara Romich at (704) 484-8599 for more details.

Child Care Information is offering the following workshops that count as in-service training. The fee for the workshops is \$6 per hour. Fee for members of the Association of Early

Childhood Professionals of Gaston/Lincoln Counties is \$5 per hour. Call Child Care Information at (704) 864-8459 for times and locations.

- "Summer Fun," May 15; 2 hours
- "School-Age Activities," May 20; 2 hours
- "Emergency Planning," May 21; 2 hours
- "Developing Activities for June," May 31; 2 hours
- "Playground Safety," June 7; 3 hours
- "Squish, Squash, Splash," June 10; 2 hours

- "All About Asthma," June 12; 2 hours
- "Puppets," June 19; 2 hours
- "Problem Solving," June 24; 2 hours
- "Fire Safety," June 26; 2 hours
- "Developing Activities for July," June 27 or 28; 2 hours
- "Flip, Flop, Stop," July 1; 2 hours
- "Stress Management," July 8; 2 hours
- "Meet the Child Care Health Consultant," July 10; 2 hours
- "In the Park: Picnicking and Playground Activities," July 19; 3 hours

Early Childhood Professionals group connects

All professionals in the child care field are eligible for membership in the Association for Early Childhood Professionals of Gaston/Lincoln Counties.

The group works to promote developmentally appropriate practices for young children, strengthen professionalism, increase collaboration and provide opportunities for further training.

Membership is \$10 per person. Groups of 12 or more are eligible for the group rate of \$120. Family child care home providers pay \$10 per year.

For more information or details on member benefits, call (704) 864-8121 or Child Care Information at (704) 864-2459.



*Super***STARS**

The following child care centers or homes in Gaston and Lincoln counties have recently increased their STAR ratings:



- Carolina Kids Club, Gastonia
- Dacus Family Day Care, Gastonia
- Home Away From Home, Cherryville
- Maria's Little Tots, Iron Station
- Over the Rainbow Family Child Care Home, Lincolnton



- Bubbles of Joy, Kings Mountain
- Great Beginnings Child Development Center No. 2, Belmont
- Linda Skipper Family Child Care Home, Lincolnton
- Willie's Development Home, Dallas

To learn more about earning higher star ratings for your child care center or family child care home, call the Partnership at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

JUST FOR PARENTS

Project: Stone Hunt and Painting

With warmer days here again, this project will allow you to enjoy the outdoors with your child.

The painting portion of the project may be done indoors on a rainy day, or outside on a table or blanket if the sun is shining!

Materials:

- Smooth, flat stones suitable to paint
- Paints and paintbrushes, felt markers or paint pens (available at craft stores)

- Jar of water to clean paintbrushes
- Old shirts or paint smocks (if paints are not washable)

Directions:

First, take your child on a hunt for the stones you will paint. Point out the difference in the shapes of the stones and where they are discovered.

Help your child wash the stones well, removing all significant dirt, using a scrub brush with coarse

bristles, if necessary. Dry the stones thoroughly. You might let your child set them in the sun to dry.

When the stones are dry, let your child paint them. Paint the rocks in sequence, setting newly finished stones out to dry before moving on to the next one.

Your child can draw designs or pictures from their own imagination on the



stones, but you can also encourage them to draw things they saw during the stone hunt — trees, leaves, flowers or birds.

Painted stones can be used as paperweights, ornaments or even given by the child as gifts.

Adapted from the book 365 Days of Creative Play, Third Edition, by Sheila Ellison and Judith Gray

Searching for Child Care?

We may be able to help. The Partnership, with support from Smart Start and the North Carolina Division of Child Development, offers a free child care referral service to parents and guardians.

We can advise you of any open slots in legally operating facilities in Lincoln or Gaston counties that may

have your preferred rating, location, hours of operation and other features.

To find out which providers may have openings for your child, call Rebecca Powell, parent information assistant, at 704-922-0199 (Gaston) or 704-736-9991 (Lincoln). She may be reached via e-mail at parentinfo@pfclg.com.

'Luau' on its way to Lincoln

Sunrise Family Resource Center in Lincoln will hold an event for children and families that's not just fun, but also educational and informative.

"The Loving and Learning Luau" is presented in collaboration with the Lincoln County Child Abuse Coalition. Family activities

will include arts and crafts, games, safety tips and informational booths.

The Hawaiian-themed event will take place from 5-6:30 p.m. June 11 at the resource center, located inside the Head Start building at 118 Deaton Ave., Lincoln. Call (704) 742-9942 for more details.

Children... a wise investment.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln and Gaston Counties is working every day to make a difference in the lives of local children. Your support makes that difference possible. If you want to invest in the future of children in Lincoln and Gaston counties, please volunteer or make a tax-deductible donation.

Name _____

Address _____

Daytime phone _(____) _____

Amount enclosed: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 Other

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Please make checks payable to Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties. Return check with this form in person or via U.S. mail to Partnership for Children, 1012 Philadelphia Church Road, Dallas, NC 28034.

Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

1012 Philadelphia Church Road
Dallas, NC 28034
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fax: (704) 922-0996
On the Web: www.pfclg.com
E-mail: pfclg@pfclg.com

Our vision: A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.

Our mission: To serve as a leading advocate and financial resource, in collaboration with other community agencies, to provide affordable access to high quality services for young children.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- June 20 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office

Members of the community are invited to attend any board meeting. Please call ahead at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive the Partnership's newsletter by mail, call Shannon Clubb at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008 or e-mail her at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

Please include the following information:
Name

Organization, if applicable

Complete preferred mailing address (*Note whether address is home or work.*)

Daytime phone number (*if we have any questions*)

STAFF

- Sherry L. Browning, Executive Director
 - Tory L. Borne, Program Manager
- Shannon Clubb, Public Information Coordinator
 - Joyce Edge, Research Assistant
 - Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
 - Dawn Rippy, Contracts Manager
 - Elizabeth Sisk, Office Assistant
- Vicki Timmons, Finance Coordinator
 - Bobbie Weatherly, Purchasing Assistant

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