

PROVIDER CONNECTION

Child Care Health Consultant Training Opportunities

The following educational opportunities will be available for child care providers in the near future at the Gaston County Health Department. The programs are free of charge and those attending will receive an in-service training credit.

- **Understanding Asthma in the Day-care Setting**, Tuesday, Nov. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; presented by Rita Heath, pulmonary educator.
- **Caution Curriculum**, Thursday, Nov. 6, 6:30-

8:30 p.m.; presented by Caroline Taddei, Carolina Poison Control. An education program for anyone taking care of young children on how to poison-proof your environment and what to do in an emergency.

- **Ages and Stages Questionnaire**, Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; presented by Kathy Hudson, early intervention specialist.
- **SIDS**, Thursday, Dec. 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; presented by Marilyn Gore, Cooperative Extension

Service. This training is designed to familiarize child care providers with the issues surrounding SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and the new law.

All programs will be held in the Community Room of the Gaston County Health Department, 991 W. Hudson Blvd., Gastonia. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Call Catherine Becker, Child Care Health Consultant, at (704) 862-6116 or e-mail her at cbecker@co.gaston.nc.us.

Child Care Health Consultants in Lincoln and Gaston counties are available as a resource for con-

sultation and education to child care providers, children and parents on health, safety and nutrition concerns in child care facilities.

Services can be provided by phone consultation, site visits and technical assistance.

The following workshops are planned for early 2004:

- **Beyond Band-Aids: Accidents, Illness and Medication Safety**
- **Get Ready, Get Set, Go!: Field Trip and Transportation Safety**
- **Infant-Toddler Zone: Infant and Toddler Safety**

Those interested in hosting the above workshops should contact Catherine Becker at (704) 862-6116.

Child Care Information Launches Parent-Provider Assistance Hotline

Child Care Information agency has launched a hotline designed to help connect local parents and child care providers with information they need.

The Parent-Provider Assistance Hotline is a free service that encourages parents or child care providers to call for answers to questions on any one of a variety of topics.

Child Care Information's Joyce Brison said the agency was prepared to either answer questions if they had the relevant information on hand or direct callers to another local agency that could serve as a better resource. The hotline is equipped to answer questions in the areas of child development, local agencies, child abuse and neglect, parenting skills, family issues, health and nutrition and adolescent and teen issues. As a follow-up, callers will be mailed a packet with information pertinent to their question after their agency was prepared to call, in addition to being given whatever information, contact numbers and names are available over the phone.



Volunteers will be staffing the hotline 24 hours a day. A significant number of people have already volunteered, Brison said.

"That's an asset that we have 28 people who volunteered to answer the phone at night," she said.

The toll-free number for the Parent-Provider Assistance Hotline is 1-866-866-2459. The hotline is available to all local parents, providers, guardians or interested parties.

For more information on the Parent-Provider Hotline or for information on volunteering, call Child Care Information at (704) 864-2459.

Apply to be linked to Partnership's Web site

The Partnership's Web site, www.pfclg.com, serves as a source for parents, providers and individuals seeking to learn more about the Partnership.

The site includes a page of links to the Web pages of local, state and national organizations that visitors to the site may find helpful.

Child care providers whose center or home has a Web page and who wish to be linked to the Partnership's web site may apply to be linked by e-mailing the Web address to publicinfo@pfclg.com. All sites will be reviewed.

JUST FOR PARENTS

Autumn Project: Leafy Table Mats

Here's what you'll need:

- Sturdy colored paper or posterboard
- Glue or double-sided tape
- Clear self-adhesive plastic
- An assortment of autumn leaves

Directions:

Help your child gather a variety of autumn leaves to use in making the table mat. Gather fern fronds and maple leaves, red and yellow, and discuss the differences between the leaves as you and your child find them.



place them between two pieces of newspaper and press them inside a heavy book for a week, if possible.

Cut the sturdy paper or posterboard to appropriate table mat size.

After collecting the leaves, Allow your child to arrange the leaves on the paper in

their own design, securing each with a small amount of glue or tape.



Cut the clear plastic slightly larger than the paper itself and place it adhesive side down on the tablemat so that it seals and protects the leaves. Fold the sides of the adhesive plastic under the

mat. Trim off any excess plastic and your child's one-of-a-kind table mats are ready to use! They can be wiped clean after use with a damp cloth.

Adapted from the book, "365 Days of Creative Play" by Sheila Ellison and Judith Gray. Published by Sourcebooks, Inc.

Very Important Parents Offers 'Parenting Matters' Course

The Very Important Parents program, or VIP, will offer an extended course for parents.

The course, called "Parenting Matters," was designed for parents or guardians who may need help with the sometimes-difficult task of raising children. The program has an educational focus, but sessions are designed to put parents at ease with an informal approach to learning. There is no cost for the program, but class size is limited to 15 participants in each session.

Sessions are planned for Nov. 18, 20, 25 and Dec. 2, 4, 9, 11 and 16. Each session lasts from 10-11:30 am and is held at the Gaston County Citizens Resource Center, 1303 Dallas-

Cherryville Highway, Dallas. Sessions cover a variety of topics fundamental to good parenting, such as personal stress management, understanding children and helping children learn. These sessions are appropriate for parents of children of any age, but the focus will be on parents of children ages 0-5.

The VIP program provides families with young children with a centralized source of information on positive child development and offers parents the opportunity to improve their parenting skills through education and support.

Parents interested in taking the course should contact Belinda Anderson, parent educator, at (704) 922-2122.

Children... a wise investment.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & 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
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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

- October 24 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office
- November 21 — Partnership Board of Directors meeting, noon, Partnership office
- November 27-28 — Holiday; office closed

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*)

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- Sherry L. Browning, Executive Director
 - Tory L. Borne, Program Manager
- Shannon Clubb, Public Information Coordinator
- Diane Hines, Early Childhood Education Director
 - Jan Morgan, Administrative Assistant
- Rebecca Powell, Parent Information Assistant
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 - Elizabeth Sisk, Office Assistant
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