



# CHILD CARE

Spring 2010

## News

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### *President's Message* by Vicki Hoover, SCCCA President



The first official day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup> and hopefully with it will bring warmer temperatures and sunny days.

We have been lucky to have a few good days already and it's great to see people getting out and about doing things that will help boost our spirits and our economy.

Our 2010 SCCCA conference this year held in February was a great success. We hit a new attendance high, topping out with over 600 registrations. A big thanks to Cindy Walton McCawley, the committee chairperson, all the board members, our vendors and most of all to each of you that attended for making this conference the very best! It is very inspiring to see the number of returning teachers, but also this year the group of new members attending. Their attendance is proof of their professionalism and commitment to the education of young children.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> the NCCA and our association will be hosting a leadership conference for owners, directors and management. It's being held at the Saluda Shoals Conference Center in Columbia. Be sure to visit our website or the NCCA site for more details.

Our legislators are busy back at work and the association has many tasks at hand. We hosted a dinner with the LCI Committee last week and had the opportunity to discuss the many challenges facing our industry. Thanks to Chairman Bill Sandifer and his committee members for taking time out to meet with us. This year we have once again asked for a delay in the final ratio changes, due to the industry being hit hard and parents not able to incur higher tuition rates at this time. Some other items being looked at are the practicality of the Central Registry Check, licensed centers getting a reduction in personal property taxes, and reviewing the law regarding the regulation and licensing of all providers of childcare and preschool education. We must continue to educate our legislators, families and the general public that there is not a level playing field for all children that ensures their well being and safety. We encourage each of you make contact with your legislators and voice your concerns. Invite them out to your centers to see the wonderful educational programs that your centers offer.

Please remember that the Week of the Young Child is April 12<sup>th</sup>. In the Upstate there is an event planned at The Pavilion on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Continued to page 5

# Legislative Update

## Spring 2010

**Jeffrey N. Thordahl**

While the challenges for the private licensed child care industry are still immense, there is a growing understanding of the unique challenges of your child care world and the unfairness with the current rules and regulations. The SCCCA Board and your lobbying team have had several positive conversations with many members of the House recently. Hopefully many of you have created an opportunity to meet with your local legislators to discuss your challenges. It is still a critically important time to make the connection with them.

The first legislative item to keep in mind is the ratio delay provision that the SCCCA has lobbied to be placed in the budget again. Just this week, the House passed its version of the budget which included the SCCCA provision. Now, as the Senate begins debate on the budget bill, we will work to keep the provision in the Senate version over the next month or so.

In addition there are now three proposals for legislation that the SCCCA is circulating for support. Keep these in mind as you converse with your legislators. The proposals include property tax relief for child care centers, elimination of the central registry check, and language to ensure safety for all children in all child care settings.

The property tax proposal would provide significant tax relief for any licensed private child care center that is located in a school district that provides or pays for more than one pre-k program in the district. As you know, your property taxes go the county and over half of that amount goes to the school district for school use. These are the very schools that are saying they need more money for k-12 yet find the local money to fund their very own pre-k programs. Little does the average residential taxpayer realize how their property tax money is being spent. There needs to be a clear understanding by elected officials and taxpayers of this unfair development over the last several years.

If schools are going to remain in the business of pre-k education, they should not be using your tax money to do it. Most

legislators are unaware of the proliferation of the public school based pre-k programs.

As you all know, you conduct more background checks on your employees and do it more often than just about any other regulated entity. Amazingly, substitute teachers in public schools are not required to have even a SLED check at this time although there is pending legislation to require that. The requirement on licensed centers might be more palatable if the Central Registry Check system was completely trustworthy. Unfortunately we know from recent state reviews of the system that there are hundreds of people who should be on the registry but have not been appropriately added. You are paying for something that is not accurate. It is widely accepted that the SLED and FBI fingerprint checks are great background checks. Apparently now there is a free national sex offender internet check available. We are looking into that system on your behalf.

Finally, it is time to require that children in any child care setting have strong health and safety protections in place. The four hour exception in existing law may have served a useful purpose at one point in time when there were few such programs, but the proliferation of businesses conducting less than 4 hour programs simply to avoid regulation has grown exponentially over the last several years. In addition, the at-home based businesses should be strongly considered to be required to have significant regulation for the safety of the child. Every child in every setting deserves the opportunity to thrive in a protected environment. Parents deserve to know that there are strong protections in place. Most elected officials are not aware of the lack of regulation.

These four specific items present a fantastic opportunity for you to meet with your legislators. Please let us know if we can assist you in your efforts to meet with your elected officials.



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference A huge success!!!

By: *Cindy Walton-McCawley*

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference was perhaps the most successful conference in our history. It was certainly our largest conference. Many, many thanks to the ABC Child Care Program who provided scholarships to 300 participants in addition to sponsoring our keynote speaker. Thanks also to the SC TEACH program who also helped sponsor our keynote speaker. We had 566 participants and excluding presenters and vendors. We had 151 first time attendees! The keynote and featured speaker was, Diane Trister Dodge, President of Teaching Strategies Inc. and lead author of the Creative Curriculum who presented “Intentional Teaching: What It Looks Like and How To Do It.” In addition to the keynote, attendees could select from 12 breakout sessions in the morning, 2 breakout sessions at lunch, and 11 breakout sessions in the afternoon. Presenters from the conference hailed from 4 different states and three of the presenters, Ms. Dodge, Bill Corbett and Kathleen Walton have recently published books.

Here are some of the comments participants shared about Ms. Dodge’s keynote presentation:

“I was energized. I want to sit down with my staff so we can ensure that we are effectively using our interest areas to help children extend their understanding of math, literacy, science, social studies, arts and technology.”

“It’s great to have strategies that can help me become a more intentional teacher.”

“I learned to be conscious of my interaction and guidance and to create a safe, inviting environment that instills values, skills, character and confidence.”

Bill Corbett, President of Cooperative Kids, presented a breakout session titled, “No I Won’t and You Can’t Make Me!” Handling Children’s Power Struggles with Success.” His workshop was very helpful to attendees as evidenced by the following comments:

“This is the best session I have been to in years. Everyone should have this class. Must have him back.”

“Effectively presented ideas with demonstration and video clips and “tool box.”

“He offered excellent alternatives for changing behavior.”

“Wow! This information blew my mind! It is so helpful! This topic needs to be the keynote topic. Mr. Corbett is a very entertaining speaker with a wealth of knowledge. This makes so much sense!”

Another breakout session that was very well received was “The Effects of Domestic Violence on Child Development” presented by Dr. Catherine Ross, Director of Community Clinical and Education Services at SisterCare. Participants shared the following comments:

“This was excellent!”

“I learned that teachers can make the difference in an abused child’s life.”

“I enjoyed this class. I learned a lot of information from the doctor and the teenage speakers.”

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“Meeting with Your Legislator” was presented by Representative Shannon Erickson, S.C. House District No. 124 and Jeff Thordahl, Principal with MG & C Consulting. This workshop provided helpful information to attendees who shared the following comments:

“We have got to make our voices loud and clear in speaking out for children to our legislators, mayor, and councilman.”

“Helpful to hear about the threat of unregulated schools, i.e. Karate and gymnastics programs.”

“I learned the advantages of becoming an SCCCA member and resources to find your legislators.”

“Explore! Wonder! Investigate! Fun with Science” presented by Robin McCants, Education Specialist and Consultant. Her class elicited the following comments:

“Wonderful fun! I loved it!”

“I came away with ideas on how to set up a science center.”

“I learned that kids develop their skills of observation, exploration and investigation through science.”

While only a few of the comments can be shared in this article, please know that there was incredibly positive feedback about all of the presentations that were offered. We had 26 presenters sharing their knowledge and expertise. There was also a delightful atmosphere of pulling together. It was a record-size group for our conference and thanks to the contributions of 62 committee members and our presenters, our participants were provided with some terrific training!



Welcome to our newest members!

**Palmetto Insurance Company**

**The Traveling Trainer**

**Little Feet Child Development Center**

**After School Plus**

**James Island Presbyterian**



## SC CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

### THOMAS CHILD CARE BUS

**\* BUSES IN STOCK \***



14-Children Seating + Driver



30-Children Seating + Driver

**For More Information: Contact Todd B. Manuel at (800) 726-0779 x 125**

**[www.interstatetransportation.com](http://www.interstatetransportation.com)**

### **(President's Message Con't from page 1)**

There will be lots of things for the children to do, guest speakers, and lots of community involvement. This event is being hosted by The United Way and The Greenville Childcare Association. Please contact them for more information. Also note that May 4<sup>th</sup> is Teacher Appreciation Day. Be sure that you and your families take time to recognize our teachers for their dedication to the young children. Both of these events are a great opportunity to highlight the importance of what we do each day.

## **Congratulations to Bonnye Hughes**

**She was the SCCCA Conference winner of "How Many Hearts"**

**Bonnye guessed there were 1125 hearts. She was closest of all the folks who guessed....**

**Bonnye attended our conference this year from the Child Care Resource and Referral Center.**

# A spring break project...

## Tin Can Herb Pots

Age: 6 and up

Make these charming tin can herb pots and watch them grow all summer long! This project not only recycles, it creates new life, and is a great [Earth Day craft](#). Your child can watch her plants grow for months to come and be proud that she created the container that holds them.

Be sure to visit our main [Earth Day ideas](#) page for more green ideas, including additional [recycled crafts](#), [printables](#), [recipes](#), and [ways to teach kids about Earth Day!](#) Take our quiz to find out, [Are You Living Green?](#)

### What you'll need:

- Empty aluminum can
- Screwdriver and hammer
- Liquid gesso (recommended: Liquitex Basics Gesso)
- Acrylic craft paints in colors of your choice
- Acrylic sealer spray, matte finish
- Craft stick
- Thin cardboard
- Pinking shears
- Black permanent marker
- 5-10 small rocks, stones or pebbles
- 1.5 cups potting soil
- 4-inch potted herb plant
- White craft glue
- Water
- Flower stickers (optional)

### How to make it:

1. Completely wash and dry aluminum can. If necessary, sand off any rough edges from opening of can.
2. Turn can upside down. Parent should use screwdriver or other pointed object to poke holes in the bottom of the can. Use a hammer to tap the end of the screwdriver to make the holes.



3. Paint outside of can with one coat of gesso. Let dry completely.
4. Paint can in the desired color, repeat coats if needed.
5. Decorate however you like. Use a thin paint brush for long lines, dip the end of the paint brush into paint for polka dots.
6. Decorate with stickers if desired.
7. In a well-ventilated area, spray the outside of the completed can with acrylic sealer spray. Let dry.
8. Place enough rocks or pebbles in the bottom of the can to form a single layer.
9. Add enough potting soil to fill the can two-thirds full.
10. Remove potted herb from its container and transplant into the can.
11. Fill edges with remaining potting soil, gently pat down so that plant is firmly in the can but not compacted so much that it's too tight.
12. Place can on a plate (to catch any water drainage) and add some water to the newly planted herbs.
13. Paint craft stick whatever color you like. Allow to dry.
14. Cut a piece of thin cardboard into a small rectangle (about 1.5 x 3 inches) using pinking shears.
15. Paint both side of the cardboard with gesso, let dry.
16. Glue the rectangle to the top of the craft stick.
17. Use a black permanent marker to write the herb name onto the rectangle.
18. Insert your plant marker into the soil, being careful not to crush any roots along the way.
19. Place your new garden in a sunny window and remember to water them!



Thanks to everyone who participated! You made our conference a success. We are already looking toward conference 2011. That sounds so far away, but it will be here before we know it. Thanks again for your support of the SC Child Care Association.

## A Special thanks to the 2010 SCCCA Conference vendors ...

Capital Recovery Service  
 Environments, Inc.  
 FUNdamental Playgrounds  
 ABC Child Care Program Monitoring  
 Lakeshore Learning Materials  
 Cooperative Kids  
 US Foodservice  
 FCI Agency  
 GameTime c/o Cunningham Associates  
 Interstate Transportation Equipment, Inc.  
 School Investment Properties, Inc.  
 Kaplan Early Learning Company  
 Discount School Supply  
 Otto Morgan Studios



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