



CHILD CARE

Fall 2009

News

2009 – 2010 Board of Directors

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President's Message by Vicki Hoover, SCCCA President



Fall officially arrived on Tuesday September 22nd, and with fall comes some very

welcomed changes; trees with their leaves preparing for a brilliant explosion of color, morning air that is crisp and refreshing, our favorite football teams taking the field on a Saturday afternoon. And there are lots of pumpkins, colorful mums and fall festivals taking place within our communities.

With so much changing around us, it is also exciting to share the changes taking place within the SCCCA as we embark on another year. Our first meeting was a great success last week with almost 100% attendance from all existing and new members, ready to share their time, talents and expertise.

I want to take this opportunity to personally welcome everyone to our group and thank you for your thoughts, ideas and visions shared at last week's meeting. As we are forming our various committees and agendas for the New Year, a priority focus for us is to EDUCATE. While we are already nurturers and educators of young children, we also have an obligation to extend that learning to our Legislators, parents

and our communities.

The SCCCA desires to be viewed as an organization of professionals dedicated to promoting and insuring quality early care and education for all children. While child care arrangements vary, including home care, parks and recreation programs, Head Start, Church affiliations, private corporations, etc.... every child deserves consistent quality in a regulated care environment.

Unfortunately many people do not understand or are aware that many child care arrangements operate without any safeguards to monitor or regulate the quality care, safety of the environment, equipment, or background and credibility of staff providing immediate interaction and supervision. Again...we are educators, and our mission is to EDUCATE. Working together we can accomplish our mission.

And some great examples of already working together include: Cindy Walton-McCawley, conference committee chair for the second year, who has already scheduled Diana Trister Dodge (founder of Creative Curriculum) to be the key note speaker and presenter; thanks to Tami Nix for

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Legislative Update

Fall 2009

Jeffrey N. Thordahl and Hope Lanier



The General Assembly returns to Columbia in January, just a few short months from now. Of course much has been written about the possible impeachment of the Governor and how that may affect the next Session. Regardless of what happens with the Governor, we have pressing issues that need to be addressed.

The delay in the last level of implantation of the ratios was a good way to help hedge against the horrible economy we are facing while not sacrificing child safety. By all account this has gone well. But that relief is only temporary. Unless the General Assembly revisits that issue, the ratio levels will decrease next July. The public schools are rapidly implementing 3 and 4 year old programs that may or may not be licensed. There are after school programs popping up everywhere that do not have licensing requirements at all.

Several licensed centers have closed on short notice over the last month or two. The difficulty in complying with the DSS licensing regulation in contrast to all the unregulated settings for child care has been a main driver in those decisions to close. Unfortunately, children and parents are left with fewer and fewer licensed centers to pick from which is a hardship for all and should be a great concern to the state. Of course there are a number of employees who have been left without a job as well.

The SCCCA continues to maintain a strong lobbying effort to level the playing field and protect children in every child care setting. The missing ingredient in this effort is an engaged network of centers who are communicating their struggles to their legislators directly. The message this month is to get involved with SCCCA. Remain an active member, encourage others to join and make the effort to educate your local legislators.

Closer to January the SCCCA will have a legislative agenda ready. In the meantime, find some time to visit with your local legislator. Educate your parents as well on the struggles of complying with all of the state regulations at the same time many other child care settings are not regulated. Your voice cannot remain silent – your elected officials want to help business succeed, but they must understand your struggles.

Jump in and get the word out. The time is now. The SCCCA will work with you to make your voice heard. Call the SCCCA now.

Meet your Board of Directors



Angel Tarrant has been employed by a licensed child care facility continuously since 1992. She lives in Neeses and now owns centers in Lexington and Orangeburg Counties. Little Lambs was her first owned center. Angel loves spending as much time with her three sons as possible. As an owner of three child care facilities, she and her husband are the primary maintenance crew. She says that, “it seems our family bonds while painting, spreading sand, and putting together new equipment for the playground.”

Angel will serve as Secretary of the SCCCA during the 2009-2010 year. She has several goals for the Association, i.e., (1) to continue to fight to level the playing field, (2) to continue to press DSS to make information accurate and timely on the website and to also press them to be more timely in turnaround of licenses and (3) to support the Association in reviewing other state’s legislation and educating our legislature on hardships placed upon licensed child care facilities in South Carolina.



Lesly Crick is the President/Director of Toddler University Learning Center, Inc., located in Hilton Head. She has been on the SCCCA Board of Directors for two years. Lesly’s mother owned child care centers and homes, and when Lesly went to college at The University of Colorado, she did volunteer work at “Make a Mess Preschool” in Boulder.

When her youngest son was born in 1996, she decided it was time to get back into the business again. Eventually, she felt the opportunity was right and she started Toddler University. Lesly loves spending time with her children. She says that, “her children are her life.” Her daughter is on a travel soccer team out of Charleston, so she is constantly on the go between Hilton Head, Charleston, Columbia and Raleigh. She also spends time with her son fishing or playing golf. Her goals for the SCCCA this year is to see more parents as members as well as more centers from her area in Beaufort County as members.



A banner for a Halloween Safety Guide. On the left, two children are sitting on hay bales, one is carving a pumpkin. The text 'Halloween Safety Guide' is written in a large, orange, bubbly font. Below it, in a smaller, black, sans-serif font, is 'SAFETY TIPS FROM HALLOWEEN ONLINE'. The entire banner is set against a white background with an orange border.

Halloween Safety Guide

SAFETY TIPS FROM HALLOWEEN ONLINE

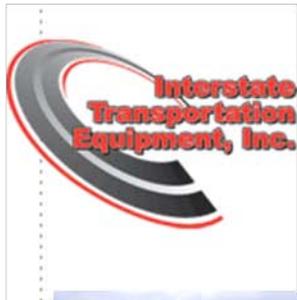
Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday. It would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.



- **Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof, the eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.**
- **If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure that they are far enough out of the way so that kids' costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.**
- **Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on.**
- **Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.**
- **Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.**
- **Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to, will help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.**

Make Halloween a fun, safe and happy time for your kids and they'll carry on the tradition that you taught them to their own families some day!



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30-Children Seating + Driver

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

agreeing to chair our membership committee as we concentrate on increasing our forces; Jeff, Hope, Billy and Kim, our lobbyists (a/k/a *The Dream Team*) for providing us guidance and direction. Your industry knowledge is priceless to our success. I close today reflecting on our victories from last year and energized by the opportunity to have a much larger impact this year.

Thank you all for your support, time and energy. It will be a year where we will all wear many hats, share some battle scars and celebrate our victories knowing the worthwhile work we do each day is for the children.

“The man who can make hard things easy is the educator.”

~Ralph Waldo Emerson



Diane Trister Dodge, M.S., is the founder and president of Teaching Strategies, Inc., a company that seeks to improve the quality of early childhood programs by developing and providing training on comprehensive curriculum and assessment systems for children under 5. She has been a preschool and kindergarten teacher; served as the education coordinator for Head Start and child care programs in Mississippi and Washington, D.C.; and directed national projects in education and human services. Ms. Dodge is the lead author of *The Creative Curriculum*[®] and is a well-known speaker. She served on the Governing Board of NAEYC (1990–1994) and the Center for the Child Care Workforce (1995–2002), and she was a member of the D.C. Mayor’s Advisory Committee on Early Childhood Development (1984–2009). For the 2002–2003 academic year, Diane was the Barbara E. (Mound) Hansen Early Childhood Lecturer at Iowa State University. In October 2004, she received the Bank Street College Alumni Association Recognition Award for outstanding accomplishments in the field of education.

Mark your calendars...

SCCCA Annual Conference
Saturday, February 6, 2010

Diane Trister Dodge, M.S.
Keynote Speaker

Trinity Baptist Church
2003 Charleston Highway
Cayce, South Carolina 29033

For more information, please contact

Karen C. Boyce
Executive Director
South Carolina Child Care Association
www.southcarolinachildcareassociation.com



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References Available Upon Request



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