



The 707 Provider Connection

Solano County Licensed Family Child Care Association

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“Overcoming Adversity ~ Reaching for Success”

Does your attitude need an empowerment adjustment? Could your business use some rejuvenation juice? Tired of doing the same old thing? If you answered “yes” to any of these questions.....mark your calendar!!! The annual CAFCC Conference is the solution!!!

California Association for Family Child Care
2010 Annual Conference
 April 23 - 25
 Crowne Plaza Hotel,
 San Francisco Airport

The conference will meet the needs of participants who are not able to attend classes regularly by providing essential information -- as well as fun and networking opportunities, in just one weekend. If you have never attended a CAFCC Conference, this

is the one you *DO NOT* want to miss. And it’s in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area.

The keynote speaker will be Robert “Bob” Brunson, family and marriage therapist, known for providing excellent motivational speeches to family child care providers. Bob’s testimonials will boost the enthusiasm and motivate the entire audience, leaving each person with a heartfelt sense of purpose and power to accomplish any and all dreams.

Presenters who are top-notch in the family child care field will offer a variety of workshops and pertinent information to assist providers in the daily operation of their business. Providers from all across the state will be in attendance, and networking opportunities will be avail-



able to everyone seeking to meet new peers and build lasting friendships.

For the last two years, Solano County has won the award for having the most attendees at the conference. Look out, because our goal is to win again!!

Making it easy on your budget, a layaway plan of three installments is available, and the **early-bird registration deadline has been extended to January 29th**. Mark your calendars and send in your registration payments now!

— Sharon Coleman

SCLFCCA Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendar!

Meetings are from 7- 9 p.m.

Training Room, Solano Family & Children’s Services



January 13 - Professionalism in Family Child Care
 Host: Emily Turner, 91 Carlisle Way, Benicia. 707-747-6420

February 10 - FCC Taxes: IRS Info & Updates (guest speaker)

March 10 - Working with Special Needs Children (guest speaker)

Caring for Children with Special Needs

Info on the internet

(You can also do an Internet search on the specific special need you are dealing with)

www.kidsource.com/kidsource/pages/toddlers.disabilities.html

Resources on special-needs issues, including information and organizations

www.uniquelygifted.org
Information on gifted children with special needs

www.nncc.org/Diversity/divers.disable.special.html

Tips for providers on including children with different types of special needs

www.ccplus.org
Resources on including children with special

Welcoming Children with Special Needs

Child care providers are sometimes faced with children who seem to be different from most others the same age. The differences can be minor or significant; parents may notice these differences — or do their best to deny them.

To understand these differences, it's important to learn as much as you can about typical development in areas including language, social interactions, small and gross motor skills, and self-help skills. There are lots of resources available on various ages and stages; one especially good source is Zero to Three (www.zerotothree.org). They have handouts on “your baby’s development” for each three-month period, such as six to nine months of age. For example, a child between the ages of six and



nine months usually becomes able to sit unassisted. If a child cannot do this by the time she/he is 10 months old, it may be a concern to bring to the parents' attention.

Unfortunately, most people do not understand that gifted children, as well as those with disabilities, may have special needs. For example, when a child enters kindergarten with the ability to read, add, and subtract, their emotional and physical abilities have not necessarily kept pace. Often such bright children feel out of place; that can lead them to a variety of negative behaviors. As the years pass, their special needs can become more pronounced if they don't get the assistance they need.

Children who have serious delays in any of the developmental areas (cognitive, language, social, fine and gross motor, and self-help) may need professional intervention. The child care provider can become an integral member of the child's treatment team. Make sure the parents know you are willing to help and to learn how to work with the child.

Physical therapists often write a treatment plan and teach the parents how to follow it. If the therapist knows a child care provider is willing to be an active participant, they are happy to include the provider in the plan.

—Lucy Andris

Local and Statewide Organizations Working on Care for Children with Special Needs

North Bay Regional Center
(707) 256-1100

MATRIX Parent Network & Resource Center FRC of the North Bay
(707) 558-1358

Solano Family & Children's Services
(707) 863-3950
(workshop/training on inclusive child care)

California MAP to Inclusive Child Care
www.cainclusivechildcare.org/camap
Information on specific disabilities, training and technical assistance resources, current activities, organizations for families, and more

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): How does it affect YOU?

Q. Are family child care providers required to comply with the ADA?

A. Yes. Family child care providers may not discriminate against children with disabilities and are required to make modifications to policies, activities, and procedures to include them. However this doesn't mean you have to make expensive architectural alterations, such as building ramps or altering bathrooms. You only have to make accommodations that are "readily achievable" without too much difficulty or expense.

Q. Can child care providers charge more for tuition for children with disabilities?

A. No. Under the ADA, child care providers cannot charge the family of a child with disabilities for the costs of complying with the ADA. Costs must be spread out to all the families enrolled, or taken as a tax credit or tax de-

duction. However, there are some exceptions. It appears that families may be charged for measures that go beyond compliance with the ADA, such as building a ramp that would be so expensive it would pose a hardship for the provider.

Q. Can a family child care home refuse to accept a child with a disability because they are concerned that their liability insurance rates will increase?

A. No. Under the ADA, a family child care home cannot refuse to accept a child with a disability, or to employ a staff person with a disability, because it fears its insurance company will raise its rates.

Q. Do family child care homes have to accept all children with disabilities, no matter what the type or level of disability?

A. No. Child care providers can legally refuse to accept a child with a disability if the child poses a direct threat to others, or if

providing an accommodation would pose an undue hardship on the provider, or if it would fundamentally change the program.

But providers must make a good-faith effort to consider each person on an individual basis, and not base their decision on the fact that the child has a disability or on myths and stereotypes about that disability. The most important step is for providers and parents to sit down together to discuss the specific needs of the child and see if they are able to meet those needs. If that involves costs, providers must analyze whether the costs would be an "undue burden."

Care providers should remember that there are tax credits or deductions available to help them make these accommodations, and investigate outside funding before they make a decision on whether an accommodation would be an "undue burden."

— June Regis

For information and assistance in complying with the ADA, contact the organizations listed on page 2

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When Children Bite

Whether you're a new provider or you've been in the field for years, nothing is much worse than seeing one child bite another. Sometimes the event isn't witnessed by anyone who can speak in complete sentences, so you have to be Sherlock Holmes and try to figure out what happened.

It's important to do your best to learn what happened immediately before the biting occurred. Long ago I learned the ABCs of problem behavior: the **antecedent** – what happened beforehand -- then the actual **behavior**, then the **consequence**.

Many parents and new providers are stunned

to discover one of their little guys bites! The first reaction is almost always anger:

“Why did you bite your friend!?” If only a child could tell us! Most biters don't understand what over-takes them and are far too young to be able to talk about it.

Most research about children who bite reaches similar conclusions about the “why”: the child may be tired, over-stimulated, teething, or frustrated. Part of our job is to figure out what might have led to the biting, then to reduce or eliminate the antecedent(s). It's also important that the consequence is consistent – nothing makes children crazier than having one of their pri-

mary caretakers change their reaction with no warning!

What should the consequence be? Unfortunately there are no easy answers. Parents and providers must work together to decide what actions should be taken when a child bites. The child who bites must understand that under no circumstances will biting be tolerated, although they may be too young to fully understand why. The biter should be involved in helping to soothe and care for the victim, so he/she sees firsthand how the other child is hurt.

—Lucy Andris

For more help in dealing with biting:

http://pediatrics.about.com/od/weeklyquestion/a/1106_biting.htm

<http://www.nncc.org/Guidance/bit.hurt.html#anchor397426>

Family Child Care Consulting Services

We offer useful information and helpful tips for improving:

- * Your FCC Environment
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- * Business Practices
- * ECE Education
- * Client Services

Helping FCC Providers with practical information and helpful tips to improve or start up their Family Child Care business.

Contact: Allyson Simes
MissAllyson@SBCglobal.net

707-446-1426 or 707-365-5583
*10% off services with this ad

How to Market Your Family Child Care Business

Identify the benefits of your program and communicate them to parents. Answer the question, "Why should a parent bring their child to your program?" Some answers might be: "Individual attention to help your child grow and learn," "Flexible hours to meet a parent's busy schedule," "Accredited by NAFCC," and so on. Ask the parents in your program, the children in your care, other providers, and your regulator for suggestions of benefits that describe your program.

2. Promote your program in an ongoing process of reaching out to current families, prospective families, and past families:

- o **Communicate regularly with current families** about the benefits of your program through a newsletter, emails, written notes, bulletin board postings, etc.

- o **Offer a finder's fee**, such as a period of free care, to current families if they refer a new family you enroll.

- o **Have a celebration** (holiday party, summer barbeque, etc.) where you invite both current and past families. Current families who meet past families will gain a greater appreciation for your work.

- o **Keep track of children after they leave your program** through letters and photos. Post these letters and photos (with permission) in a scrapbook or on your wall, so people can see how well children do after leaving your program.

3. Use the services of Solano Family & Children's Services to help promote your program:

- o **Regularly update your enrollment information**, including future vacancies.

- o **Talk to a referral counselor** on a regular basis about the supply and demand for child care. Ask for advice about how you can better meet the needs of parents.

- o **Ask for marketing resources** and information on how to write a business plan.

4. Compare the quality of care you offer with the rates you charge parents.

If you are offering a high-quality program, your rates should reflect this. The more you are able to communicate the benefits of your program, the higher your rates can be. Too often parents cannot see a difference in the quality between providers and therefore make their decision based on rates. It's up to providers to show parents what they are paying for. Set a goal of raising your rates once a year and include that in your contract.



Promoting Family Child Care

"In family child care, the ratio of children to adults is generally smaller than you would find in a child care center. We're able to offer individual attention in a relaxed, nurturing environment."

"Family child care providers share responsibility for each child's learning and growth."

There's a bond with the parent, rooted in trust, that endures over years."

These are two of the "talking points" on the benefits of family child care, taken from a "Media & Advocacy Training Toolkit" produced by the Alameda County Family Child Care Coalition.

The Toolkit provides detailed information on making the case for family child care to parents, policymakers, and the media.

To download a copy of this 26-page toolkit or a two-page brochure on family child care, go to: www.acgov.org/childcare/coalition.htm

Solano County Licensed
Family Child Care Association
c/o 980 McCoy Creek Circle
Suisun City, CA 94585

Visit us at
www.sclfccca.net

Solano County Licensed
Family Child Care Association
*"Promoting quality child care
by supporting the
professionalism of family child
care providers"*

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Newsletter Committee
Lucy Andris
Sharon Coleman
June Regis

2009 Association Highlights



Cheryl Galvez and June Regis share a hug at the Empowerment Seminar

April - Won an All-in-One Printer at the CAFCC Conference in Los Angeles for having the most attendees.

June – Received an \$11,500 grant from Center of Health Training to strengthen the association.

July – Due to the grant, the association was able to publish the first volume of "The 707 Provider Connection" newsletter



Provider Marla Nix assists motivational speaker Bob Brunson during his talk at the Empowerment Seminar

August – Held a Creative Curriculum training for providers and gave away 25 Creative Curriculum sets.

September – Welcomed newly elected officers; congratulations to Sharon Monts, Lameka Gratton, Claudia Claverie and Sharon Coleman.

November – Held an Empowerment Seminar to show appreciation to providers for the daily work they perform

with children. There was a fabulous turnout and excellent guest speakers; providers left with a feeling of rejuvenation and empowerment.

Happy New Year!!! We are hoping that in 2010 the blessings will continue for the association and its members so that family child care can resume its spiral climb to the TOP!!!

—Sharon Coleman