

News from Early Childhood Care & Education Services July 2011

a note from the director

growing with accreditation:
an update



*"you rake and you hoe and
you keep the weeds down,
and you might find... you
might find...
... a shoot growin' up from a
root growin' down from a
seed in the hole in the
ground!"*



(Tom Hunter)

Dear Families,

To see what is in front of one's nose
needs a constant struggle.

George Orwell (1903-1950)

We are currently engaged in an in-depth and comprehensive look to see 'what is in front our noses' known here as NAEYC Accreditation renewal! As we continue to work our way through review and documentation of more than 400 criteria we consider once again how our own program meets current best practice through this professional lens. Although it is an extraordinarily time-consuming (occasionally redundant) and painstaking process- in fact it continues to be a valuable tool that guides our growth while providing re-affirmation of the quality we provide. With July and September submission deadlines looming, this seems a good time to share where we are in this process.

The Standards we are examining include: Relationships, Teaching, Curriculum, Assessment, Health, Teachers, Families, Community, Physical Environment and Leadership and Management... effectively leaving no stone unturned! We use information from classroom observation tools, program observation tools, staff surveys and family surveys to determine focus areas for improvement or clarification.

Four years ago during this process we revised or created several written policies defining areas ranging from 'how we limit sun exposure' to sharing in-depth information on our assessment process with families. This time around we have only made minor revisions or 'refinements' for clarification to policy. In addition our self assessment this past 6 months prompted:

- √ Addition of an 'accreditation update' and/or information regarding program evaluation and survey results in each family newsletter; the family and staff

surveys indicated a need for more regular sharing of program evaluation.

- √ Sharing of more information: how families can be involved in the program, available activities for families in the community and accessible community resources (posted or through the list serv)
- √ Updating and dissemination of Family Resource Guide
- √ Updating the 'choking foods' policy
- √ Installing additional mirrors for increased supervision of all areas
- √ Increasing our emergency preparedness supplies
- √ Review and revision of our emergency preparedness plan.
- √ Elimination of the microwave to heat infant food
- √ Health and safety walk-through by UCSB Environmental Health and Safety
- √ Classroom observations by outside observers re. accreditation criteria
- √ And more... !

The accreditation process is so extensive that four years ago the program closed an additional 2 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days to allow time for teachers and administrators to review and work towards completion. As you know, many campus departments are routinely closed to the public in the early morning or late afternoon to allow time for 'paperwork' completion. For the Children's Centers, open 10 hours a day and engaged the whole time, the accreditation project and other on-going documentation requirements challenge us to be creative in making more time in our days. During this renewal process we are completing as much as possible outside of regular hours (providing overtime) and also taking advantage of low attendance and extra staffing to give additional prep time whenever possible. Accreditation was also the focus of our entire June professional development day. Nonetheless one additional workday is still required. We will be closed on Friday August 5th to allow for a concentrated 8 hours to wrap-up this phase of the process. Our scheduled September Professional Development days will cover mandated training topics, an extended emergency plan drill

	<p>and review, classroom and curriculum preparation for the new school year and preparation for the NAEYC assessor 'visit' which could occur as early as mid-October.</p> <p>We know that closure days can pose a hardship for many families when making alternative child care arrangements. If you would like to post a request or offer to other families sharing child care and 'play dates' for August 5th, there will be a 'parent-to parent' area in each front office on which to post your notices. On the bright side Accreditation Renewal is just once every 4 years!</p> <p>I wholeheartedly thank you for supporting the program in so many ways, not the least of which is this 'gift of time'. By doing so you acknowledge the teachers' and staffs' strong commitment to excellence, allowing us the time to engage in the necessary reflection and <i>work</i> to provide you, our families, with a program that strives for the highest standards.</p> <p>- stretching, improving and growing... always.</p> <p><i>Warm regards,</i> <i>Leslie</i> <i>Director, ECCES</i></p>
<p>Opportunities for involvement</p>	<p>Translation resources: In order to make a new family's beginning as welcoming and meaningful as possible we offer translation assistance for intake and parent conferences if requested but we need help!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) We'd like to extend a list of individuals who can offer this valuable support. If you are fluent in a language other than English and would be willing to offer this assistance, please contact the front office or me at leslie.voss@sa.ucsb.edu (provide: your name, languages & email contact) 2) We would also like to translate the following into as many languages as possible so that families are aware of the translation service we may provide and possibly more comfortable in requesting it. Bring a paper (hard

	<p>copy) of the translation to the front office. I am requesting a paper copy rather than computer transmittal so that we are able to capture and verify and accents and/or characters correctly. Please include your name and the language in which you are translating. Thanks!</p> <p>To be translated:</p> <p><i>"Language(s) spoken at home":</i></p> <p>And</p> <p><i>"Would you like translation assistance for parent-teacher conferences?"</i></p>
<p>Calendar</p>	<p>Friday August 5th Accreditation Work Day CENTERS CLOSED</p> <p>Monday September 5th Labor Day National Holiday CENTERS CLOSED</p> <p>Wed -Fri Sept. 14TH - 16TH ECCES Annual Fall Professional Development Plus! CENTERS CLOSED</p> <p>Friday Sept. 23rd 2011-2012 Morning Welcome Coffee OFCC & UCC</p> <p>Tues Sept 27th (UCC) Family Orientation and Q&A Wed Sept 28th (OFCC) 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.</p> <p>2011-2012 ANNUAL CALENDAR COMING SOON Fall Quarter Potlucks, pumpkin patch field trips and carving, family conferences, Holiday Sharing and more</p>
<p>Community Events</p>	<p>Thursday Night Concerts 6-8:30pm • Chase Palm Park (Cabrillo Blvd. at Calle César Chávez) Take a picnic dinner and enjoy!</p> <p>July 14 Tizer</p>

Contemporary Jazz

July 21 Soul City Survivors

Hot Buttered Soul

July 28 Captain Cardiac & the
Coronaries

Oldies but Goodies

Aug 11 Music Jam-boree featuring
youth bands False Puppet,
Jaded Cloud, Bad Jack & Guests

Aug 18 Sgt. Pepper

Beatles Tribute

**The Center for Developmental Play and Learning
Invites you to their next**

PARENT NIGHT

**THE "I" IN D.I.R. : How Individual Differences
in Sensory Processing Affect Development**

When: Friday JULY 15th, 2011

6:30 - 8:00pm - CDPL Play Room

4675 Via Los Santos, Santa Barbara

If you have any questions please contact Co-Directors:

Pat Marquart 729-2051 or Jeanne White 637-5272

Limited childcare is available

Please let them know if you are planning to bring your child

Warm regards,

UCSB Early Childhood Care and Education Services

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University of California at Santa Barbara

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