

## Inclusion Project News

Based on requests from the Inclusion Summit held in June 2005, child care providers were searching for an outlet to share ideas and learn from other child care professionals who have worked with children with special needs. Child Care Links welcomes you to a Provider Forum for all child care professionals to discuss the successes and challenges of working with children with special needs.

The Provider Forum also offers the opportunity to network with other providers to discuss strategies in working with challenging behaviors and meeting the needs of ALL children in their care. This Provider



## Child Development Corps News

Mills College and East Bay Association for the Education of Young Children will be presenting an Early Care and Education Conference on Saturday, February 25, 2006. The title of the conference is Children, Our Future... Diversity, Our Strength. It is a day for parents, educators and child/family advocates to come together to attend exciting workshops and share ideas.

EBAEYC is celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> year so save the date and plan on having a great time attending the conference on February 25 from 8 – 5 pm College credit is available. For more information contact Trevor at (510) 499-7237, Carolyn at (510) 535-6105 or Sandra (510) 436-2549.

Forum is an opportunity for child care professionals to provide input in the support and resources needed to create a successful, quality and caring environment for all children.

**Date:** Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**Place:** Child Care Links Conference Room, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 104, Pleasanton

**Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**RSVP:** Kim Marshall, Inclusion Project Coordinator, (925) 249-3940

### Here are some other important dates to save:

- **February 7**, Child Development Permit Workshop 6-8 pm in the Child Care Links Conference Room. If you need information or curious how to apply for a Permit this is the workshop for you. Please call Kelly Van Raden to register at (925) 249-3920.
- **February 21**, Harms/ Clifford Training for Family Child Care Providers- location to be announced. 6:15-9:30 pm. Call Kelly Van Raden to register at (925) 249-3920.
- **February 27**, Optimal Environments for Infants and Toddlers presented by Dayna Turner. This free workshop will be held in the Child Care Links Conference room from 6-8 pm. Please call Kelly Van Raden to register at (925) 249-3920.

**Attention Providers!**  
Be on the look out for flyers on upcoming inclusion trainings and workshops!

### The Enhanced Mentor Program

*Would you like a helping hand? Are there areas of your classroom, program or family child care home you would like to improve?*

The Enhanced Mentor Program has certified Mentor Teachers available to help you in areas including:

- curriculum development
- circle time and transitions
- indoor/outdoor environment
- developmentally appropriate practice
- behavior management
- literacy activities
- completing your Harms/Clifford self-assessment for the Child Development Corps.

Mentors are paid through the Enhanced Mentor Program so all services are free of charge. Mentors will come directly to your site at a time that is convenient for you! Please call Tracy Park at (510) 875-2475 or [tracy.park@acgov.org](mailto:tracy.park@acgov.org) for more information.

### Are you interested in becoming a certified California Early Childhood Mentor Teacher or Director Mentor?

If you are an experienced child care provider, becoming a Mentor has great benefits. You can receive stipends for providing support and guidance to Early Child Development students and child care providers! You will expand your leadership and professional development opportunities! Network with other leaders in the early care and education field! Call Jackie Fitzgerald at (925) 373-4935 for more information.

## Child Care Initiative Project-CCIP

### January Calendar

**1110:** Provider Forum for those serving children with special needs, 6:30pm– 8:30pm. Contact: Kim Marshall

**1111:** Child Passenger Safety Class-4-5 pm. Contact: Shauna Brown

**1111:** Choosing Child Care, 6:30 pm. Contact: Shauna Brown

**1112:** Family Read Night/Spanish, 6:30–7:30 pm, Hill N Dale (CAPE, Inc.) 4150 Dorman Road, Pleasanton. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**1112:** Family Read Night/English, 6-7 pm. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**1117:** Directors of the Valley (DOV) Meeting, 1:00-2:30 pm. For location and information, call Laura Reno at (925) 373-0865

**1124:** Valley Family Child Care Association Meeting (VFCCA), 6:30-9:00 pm. For more information, please call Judy D'India at (925) 245-1816

**1125:** Car Seat Fitting Station- by appointment only! Contact: Main office (925) 417-8733

Participation in the CCIP program is voluntary. If you receive a participant letter and do not want to continue training this year, please contact CCIP staff, Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923, to be taken off the participant list.

#### When attending CCIP trainings, please remember to:

Make sure to bring your professional growth training verification forms with you when attending training. Child Care Links is not always able to provide contact information for individual trainers. Certificates and verification forms will be issued by the agency providing the training. It is the responsibility of the provider to track the title, date and number of hours of training attended.

**There have been changes to the training schedule based on funding and trainer availability. Please double-check your schedule with the newsletter calendar.**

## Tri-ValleyHelp.org

Check out this new website coming to the Tri-Valley in January. The site will provide current information about all of the human service organizations in the Tri-Valley. The home page will feature a topic directory that will provide quick links to services, and there will be comprehensive information about each organization that includes service descriptions, locations, hours, eligibility requirements, costs, language capabilities, and ADA accessibility.

The website was developed by the Tri-Valley Health Collaborative, which is a group of community leaders, health and human services professionals, local officials, interested citizens, and representatives from the education and faith communities who are committed to finding solutions to health care challenges in the Tri-Valley.

## Health & Safety

Reimbursement of health & safety training costs is available for family home providers, family home provider aides, license exempt providers and center based staff in the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin and Sunol. Training must have occurred between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. Each eligible participant may receive up to \$65.00 for the completion of health and safety training (CPR, first aid, prevention of infectious disease, preventative health practices, and injury prevention). The recipient must pay at least \$5.00 of the cost of the training. For more information, contact Pru Bartlett.

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR INFORMATION

#### **Please note:**

All training is held at Child Care Links (CCL) Conference Room, 1020 Serpentine Lane, Suite 104 in Pleasanton, **unless otherwise noted**. Registration is **required** for all CCL training & workshops.

#### **Calendar contacts:**

**Main Office**  
(925) 417-8733

**Pru Bartlett, R & R Specialist,**  
(925) 249-3935 –or–  
pbartlett@childcarelinks.org

**Shauna Brown, Community Specialist,** (925) 249-3925 –or–  
shaunabrown@childcarelinks.org

**Donnamarie Fuller, Project Specialist,** (925) 249-3923 –or–  
donnamarie@childcarelinks.org

**Kim Marshall, Inclusion Project Coordinator,** (925) 249-3940 –or–  
kmarshall@childcarelinks.org

**Kelly Van Raden, Career Advocate,** (925) 249-3920 –or–  
kvanraden@childcarelinks.org

# Family Read Night

Family Read Night is a great opportunity to set aside the hectic over-scheduling of life and spend some time together as a family— no matter what age you are.

Child Care Links' Family Read Night program is offered in English and Spanish at the following sites:

## English

January 12, 2006, 6-7 pm

Child Care Links' Conference Room, 1020 Serpentine Lane, #102, Pleasanton

February 9, 2006, 6-7 pm

Livermore Play School, 5261 East Avenue, Livermore

## Spanish

January 12, 2006, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

Hill N Dale (CAPE, Inc.) 4150 Dorman Road, Pleasanton

February 2, 2006, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Leahy (CAPE, Inc. & LHA) Preschool Room, 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore

Please contact Donnamarie Fuller at (925) 249-3923 for more information. Registration for Family Read Night **will be required** as space and parking are limited.

## From the Shelf... at the Fran Caulkins Memorial Resource Library

Looking for ideas for your infants, toddlers and two year olds? Try Story S-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-r-s for Infants, Toddlers and Twos, by Shirley Rains, Karen Miller and Leah Curry-Rood. Over 50 books are highlighted, offering over 100 activities that support and enrich concepts shared during story time. Tips about reading techniques and activity planning are provided for each age group.

## Valley Family Child Care Association

### Mission:

To provide education opportunities, support, networking, and fellowship for fellow licensed family child care providers. Informed and educated members provide a higher quality of child care.

**President:** Renee Luce  
(925) 606-8298

**Membership:** Penelope Meleas-Wagner, (925) 294-58231

## Directors of the Valley (DOV)

### Goals:

Directors of the Valley or "DOV" meet to offer each other encouragement, to share concerns of interest with the group and to advocate for children, families, and the child care profession.

**Co-Chair:** Laura Reno  
(925) 373-0865

**Co-Chair:** Joan Hottinger  
(925) 846-5455

## February Calendar

**2/11:** Developmentally Appropriate Practice & How to Implement It with Deya Brashears-Hill (tentative), 7-9 pm. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**2/12:** Family Read Night/Spanish, 6:30–7:30 pm, Leahy (CAPE, Inc. & LHA) Preschool Room, 3203 Leahy Way, Livermore. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**2/17:** Child Development Permit Workshop 6-8 pm. For more information or curious how to apply for a Permit- this is the workshop for you. Contact: Kelly Van Raden

**2/18:** Child Passenger Safety Class-4-5 pm. Contact: Shauna Brown

**2/18:** Choosing Child Care, 6:30 pm. Contact: Shauna Brown

**2/19:** Family Read Night/English, 6-7 pm Livermore Play School, 5261 East Avenue, Livermore. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**2/15:** Creating a Lending Library Wednesday, 7-9 pm. Contact: Donnamarie Fuller

**2/21:** Directors of the Valley (DOV) Meeting, 1:00-2:30 pm. For location and information, call Laura Reno at (925) 373-0865

**2/21:** Harms Clifford Training for Family Child Care Providers- location to be announced. 6:15-9:30 pm. Contact: Kelly Van Raden

**2/21:** Valley Family Child Care Association Meeting (VFCCA), 6:30-9:00 pm. Contact: Judy D'India (925) 245-1816

**2/22:** Car Seat Fitting Station- by appointment only! Contact: Main office (925) 417-8733

**2/27:** Optimal Environments for Infants and Toddlers presented by Dayna Turner. This free workshop will be held in the Child Care Links Conference room from 6-8 pm. Contact: Kelly Van Raden

## Tips for Family Child Care Providers: *Being a Good Neighbor*

### What's new in Pleasanton...

Advocates for Kindergarten Readiness presents A School Readiness and Transition Workshop Series— Building Relationships between Early Care Educators and Kindergarten Teachers in Pleasanton. Workshops will be held at the Pleasanton Senior Center from 9am-1pm on the following topics: Transition to Kindergarten— Building a Bridge together, 1/21/06; Respect for Cultural Awareness in Our Community, 2/25/06; Strategies for Fostering Social Emotional Development and Mental Health in Our Community, 3/18/05; Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Kindergarten Readiness and Beyond, 4/29/05. For more information contact Tammy Gardner at (925) 475-6112

### What's New in Dublin...

Camp Parks residential housing component includes 114 new single family homes. This housing is currently 75% full with military families. There are currently 4 providers set up and they receive extensive training through the Army including health & safety, Anti-bias curriculum and anti-terrorism awareness.

### What's New in Livermore...

If you haven't had the opportunity to check out the Robert Livermore Community Center— bring the whole family out on January 7th, 9am-1pm, for the LARPD Community Showcase. The event will include LARPD Class Demonstrations, an obstacle course for the kids by the U.S. Marines, and free coffee, bagels & goodie bags!

**Providing written instructions to parents & sharing them with neighbors can demonstrate that you're a good neighbor and committed to ensuring the children's safety!**

Family child care homes are a very important child care resource in any community. They provide an intimate, home-like setting for children being cared for away from their own homes. For this reason, California law offers certain protections for family day care.

However, it is important for family child care homes to be compatible with residential neighborhoods, by working to minimize negative impacts that can result from their operation. Providers need to be sensitive to neighbors' concerns about traffic, parking and noise, and to be proactive, along with parents, in preventing problems.

The following are some suggestions for measures that can help to create and maintain good relations:

#### **Parking, Traffic, and Safety**

Ask parents of children you care for to be considerate of neighbors. Give them instructions such as:

- Do not block, turn around in, or park in neighbors' driveways.
- Do not double park, or honk their horns when picking up children.
- Supervise children carefully between vehicles and your home, to keep them from running into the street or across neighbors' yards. If parents park across the street, they must escort their children even more carefully.
- Do not allow children to cross or play on neighbors' property without their permission.

Set up your schedule in a way that allows parents to come and go over a

period of time, to reduce the parking impact.

#### **Get to know your neighbors**

Take the time to get to know your neighbors, to explain your routine, number of children cared for, and, maybe, to invite them to visit your program. Encourage them to talk to you first if they have a concern or complaint. Be willing to compromise. Use a mediation service to help resolve issues, if necessary.

#### **Noise**

When children are playing outside, be aware of the noise level. Children who are having a loud tantrum or argument should be taken indoors until they quiet down.

Normal noise of children's play is generally not a problem for neighbors, unless their homes are very close to your yard or they need to sleep. In extreme cases, it is possible to construct fencing in a way that provides a good sound barrier. Vegetation, like tall hedges, can also help.

Limit outdoor play time to hours of the day when neighbors are least likely to be disturbed- after 9:00 a.m. and before 5:00 p.m. Be sure there are periods during the day when all children are indoors. If you have a neighbor who works nights and sleeps during the day, or works from home, discuss a schedule that would be least disruptive.

If you care for children who arrive very early in the morning or leave very late at night, talk to the parents about coming and going quietly, in consideration of neighbors.