



Reaching Out

Hennepin County Supplement

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BUSINESS WISE OPPORTUNITIES

Business Wise, a project to improve the stability and accessibility of child care by introducing and/or building on business management skills and enhancing professional development of individuals working in family and center based child care programs, is up and running.

Family child care providers licensed less than 1 year may receive business training and coaching. Interested participants will meet with an RCC staff, under the guidance of Tom Copeland, Redleaf Press author of many Family Child Care business guides. If interested, please contact Fay Hopkins at fhopkins@resourcesforchildcare.org or 651-641-6624.

Center directors are invited to participate in a monthly directors group, with trainers and speakers, specific to the groups requests. The group is focusing on the needs of directors of programs of non-profit or single site programs. The Business Wise Directors group meets on 2nd Thursdays, 12:00-2:00 at alternating Minneapolis and Little Canada locations. Upcoming meetings:

Thursday May 8th RCC, 10 Yorkton Ct, St Paul 55117
Thursday June 12 RCC, Hennepin Square, 2021 E Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis 55413
Thursday July 10 RCC, 10 Yorkton Ct, St Paul 55117
Thursday August 14 RCC, Hennepin Square, 2021 Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis 55413

Both family child care providers and center directors will have the opportunity to learn more and receive support about earning a Child Development Associate credential, on their own, or a staff persons behalf. For more information on Business Wise, contact Sandy Myers, 651-641-6635 or smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org.

UPDATE VACANCIES ANYTIME

Update at your own convenience via our website at www.resourcesforchildcare.org. Let us know if you have made any changes to your hours or business practices, if you got a new puppy over the holiday or if anything else may have changed; by typing information in the comment box at the bottom of the update page. If you'd like us to contact you, please let us know in that same box. As always you may also contact us by phone at 651-641-0332, 651-641-6605 or 651-366-6788.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN ALLOWANCES PROGRAM

Pre-kindergarten allowances are available for 3 and 4 year old children in North Minneapolis and the Wayzata school district as part of an 18 month pilot, funded through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. To qualify, parents must have annual incomes less than 185% of poverty. Please refer families to 612-348-4111 if you think they may be eligible. Families must use a program rated as high quality by Parent Aware to receive the scholarship or allowance.

For more information on how you or your program can participate in Parent Aware, please see page two of this newsletter or visit www.parentawaratings.org.

HENNEPIN COUNTY AREAS PART OF PARENT AWARE

The **Parent Aware Rating Tool** is built upon the understanding that providing high-quality child care and early learning are not easy tasks and the pressures placed on our providers are many. The rating tool is designed to recognize early educators for the quality of care they deliver and build on this quality by supporting their efforts at program improvement.

Bringing together the latest research on children's learning and the current needs of our community, the Parent Aware Rating Tool will build upon the good work completed by earlier quality rating system planning efforts.

The three-year pilot of the Parent Aware Rating Tool will include licensed child care providers/early educators in five locations: Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties, the City of St. Paul, neighborhoods of North Minneapolis and the Wayzata School District. Programs will receive ratings using a point system. Program features in the following areas will be recognized:

- Learning environment and curriculum
- Adult/child interaction
- Staff/provider education
- Tracking child progress
- Children's health and safety
- Family partnerships

Please contact Valerie Peterson at valeriep@mnchildcare.org or 651-290-9704, ext. 107 for more information or to register for a program orientation, or visit <http://www.parentawareratings.org/about.html>

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Resources for Child Caring has limited dollars remaining through June 30, 2008 to offer training scholarships to Hennepin County providers and child care staff. Call 651-641-3549 to learn how to utilize the scholarships for the classes you plan to take.



Hennepin Licensed Family Childcare Association

Learn more about *your* county provider association and how you can become a member today! HLFCA is new and growing. We are working to support your local neighborhood groups and advocate for all providers in Hennepin County.

Call Sandy for membership information at (612) 729-8494.

PARENT-PROVIDER EVENT HOSTED BY HLFCA

The Hennepin County Family Child Care Association is hosting a parent-provider event on Wednesday April 30, 2008. Please join the members of HLFCA members as they welcome Michael Mann, story teller and author.

Learning Wise Media Choices that Set Kids up for Success in School and Life
Wednesday, April 30, 2008
7:00 P.M.

St Albert the Great Church
2836 33rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

HENNEPIN COUNTY FAMILY CHILD CARE PROVIDERS HONORED

The Hennepin Licensed Family Child Care Association recently honored four of its members at the annual recognition banquet held on April 22, 2008. The four providers, Ardell Allrich, Stefanie Berge, Sheryl Warner, and Robbie Newberg were selected for their dedication to the children and families they provide care for, and their commitment to the HLFCA mission.