



Columbia River Family Childcare Association State Report

April 24, 2010

Columbia River Family Childcare Association welcomed Robin Hefely as our new State Rep. We also welcomed a total of 5 new members since the last State Meeting.

CRFCCA President, Kathy Miller, attended SEIU Bargaining in April as SEIU Secretary and will be reporting throughout the year to CRFCCA members on all SEIU matters.

The Department of Early Learning expressed thanks to *Columbia River Family Child Care Association* for their input on the new "Child Care Check". Brandon Chapman, DEL Child Care Check Coordinator, writes "Many thanks to those from the Columbia River Family Child Care Association who offered input in this process to make the newly named *Child Care Check* much more user-friendly. CRFCCA suggested the name "Child Care Check" which is now the new name of the LCCIC.

CRFCCA was excited and please to have announced to her members that we received a Grant from the Foundation for Early Learning for our 2010 Spring Mini-Conference! This has enabled us to lower our registration fee for the entire conference. Those attending can now earn up to 4 STARS Hours, lunch and some wonderful presentations for ONLY \$20.00 as well as some great raffle prizes!

In March CRFCCA presented the STARS training "Circle Time Strategies". Our Trainer, Debra Shope was lively, engaging and a blast! The crowd loved her! She shared with us how fun our big group was too! It's safe to say, a lot of providers will be making their own "Herman the Worm" prop. We were pleased to welcome 38 providers to our meeting who went home with some great handouts. !

In April CRFCCA presented the STARS Training "Bringing Nature Indoors". This unique class was presented on site by Ebie Mountford at her Childcare Center, Country Friends, in Hockinson. What a treat everyone in attendance had. Ebbie gave a short talk on her philosophy of teaching children through nature. We enjoyed an amazing tour of her facility and came back with some wonderful ideas to implement into our childcare facilities. We thank Ebbie for being such a strong support of CRFCCA .

May 3, 2010—Sarah Theberge from Clark College will be presenting our STARS training "The Reggio Approach" and Guest Speaker, Gaelynn Mills , Early Childhood Coordinator, Evergreen Public Schools will give a presentation on Kindergarten Readiness.

CRFCCA Future Scheduled STARS Trainings and Workshops:

May 3, 2010—Sarah Theberge from Clark College, Vancouver, will be presenting a 1.5 STARS Hour Class entitled “The Reggio Approach and special Guest Speaker, Gaelynn Mills, Early Childhood Coordinator, Evergreen Public Schools will make a 30 minute presentation on Kindergarten Readiness.

May 15, 2010—CRFCCA partners with PNWCCN to present their first annual 2010 Spring Mini Conference. This Conference features a 2 STARS Hour Training by Amy Lang, www.birdsandbeesandkids.com/, “Playing Doctor, What’s Normal and What’s Not”, a 1 hour STARS Training from the Early Childhood Coordinators from Vancouver Public Schools, Laura Dilley and Molly Mowers on how we as partners of early learning can help children prepare to be kindergarten ready and we will close with our Keynote Speaker, Josh Verville from the Department of Early Learning (1 STARS Hour). Josh shares that “I’m excited to share all of the wonderful things DEL is working towards with partners in preparing young children for kindergarten and the critical role a childcare provider plays in school readiness. CRFCCA will provide lunch for those that register for the entire conference. CRFCCA was able to reduce the price of this 4 STARS Hour conference to \$20.00 due to a grant received from The Foundation for Early Learning. We look forward to welcoming Carol Wilson, WSFCCA President and Joan Aarts, WSFCCA Treasurer, to our Conference. Sponsors for our conference: Oakiwear, Resource & Referral. Amy Lang and PNWCCN will have vendor tables to shop as well as Oakiwear and Resource & Referral. Oakiwear has donated three of their neoprene outfits for outdoor play, www.oakiwear.com, R&R has donated 3 first aid boxes, CRFCCA and PNWCCN have donated 2 sand and water tables, butterfly pavilions and more for our raffle.

June 7, 2010—At our June meeting our STARS training, “Dealing with Bullies” will be presented by Michelle McRae.

July 10, 2010—CRFCCA is presenting a 2 STARS Hour Workshop, “Creating an Outdoor Classroom” where we will learn different materials that you can incorporate into your own outdoor environment to create your own Outdoor Classroom.

August 2, 2010—Sandi Clemans will be presenting out August STARS class “Policies and Procedures”. Writing your Policies and Procedures is one of the most important things you'll ever create for your business. Childcare Providers need to follow procedures listed in their P&P so well thought out wording is crucial. Sandi will explain how you can be held liable if you don't; not only by parents, but by DEL as well, if you find yourself in an Adverse Licensing Action. We encourage everyone from all over the state to bring their policies & procedures to edit and attend this one.

September 6, 2010—Debra Shope will present “Children Learn Through Play” at our September meeting. The act of play extends far beyond the recreational factor. It enables children to learn many skills, such as decision making, turn taking, and, significantly, language skills and social interaction, monitoring, and reciprocity.