



Reaching Out

Ramsey County Supplement

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Learn more about Parent Aware

Research shows that children who participate in high-quality early childhood education have greater success in kindergarten and early elementary grades. The Parent Aware Rating Tool is designed to recognize child care providers/early educators for the quality of care they deliver and to highlight the importance of nurturing learning-based care for all children. The rating tool will also support child care/early learning professionals in their efforts to incorporate the latest in early learning best practices.

Because early experiences last a lifetime, this work is important for Minnesota's children, families and child care professionals/early educators. The tool rates child care/early education programs on a one-to-four star scale. The star ratings are based on a number of areas, such as: **Family Partnerships, Teaching/Nurturing Materials and Strategies, Tracking Learning, Teacher/Caregiver Training, and Child Safety.**

HEALTHY LEARNERS

RCC will be offering several opportunities for free and low cost training and technical assistance in Ramsey County on nutrition and physical activity in the child care setting through a new initiative called Healthy Learners. Using the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self Assessment or NAP SACC curriculum, which originated out of the University of North Carolina's Center of Excellence for Training and Research, the goal is to promote healthy eating and physical activity with young children.

Parent Aware Informational Sessions

Call 651-222-2261 to sign up today!
Parent Aware Information Sessions in English

January 6, 2010 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Saint Paul Public Library, 1011 Rice Street, Saint Paul, MN 55117

January 11, 2010 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Saint Paul Public Library, Sun Ray, 2105 Wilson Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55119.

January 20, 2010 from 10 to 11:30 am at Resources for Child Caring, 10 Yorkton Court, Little Canada, MN 55117

February 3, 2010 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale Street, Saint Paul, MN 55104

March 10, 2010 from 6:30 to 8 pm at Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 N. Dale Street, St. Paul, MN 55104

April 5, 2010 from 10 to 11:30 am at Resources for Child Caring, 10 Yorkton Court, Little Canada, MN 55117



The project focuses on five areas **1) Childhood Obesity** **2) Healthy Eating for Children,** **3) Physical Activity for Children,** **4) Personal Health and Wellness for Staff (caregivers),** and **5) Working with Families.**

Please watch for mailings and e-mails about upcoming trainings. For more information on NAP SACC, contact Sandy Myers at 651-641-6635 or smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org.

BUSINESSWISE

Business Wise is 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.

Early Childhood Directors Group

The Metro Early Childhood Directors group meets every second Thursday, 10:00-12:00 at RCC West, 2121 E Hennepin Ave, Suite 250 in Minneapolis. The agenda consists of short training topics, updates and news from the early childhood care and education field, and resource sharing and networking amongst participants. For more information, please contact Elisha Durham, at edurham@resourcesforchildcaring.org or 651-641-3546. Meeting dates this newsletter period are:

January 14, 2010
February 11, 2010
March 11, 2010
April 8, 2010

Family Child Care

For over 25 years, Resources for Child Caring has been providing support to the business side of family child care. Current and archived articles pertinent to the business of family child care are listed at www.resourcesforchildcaring.org. Use the drop down box "For Child Care Providers" and click on the "Business of child care." If you have additional questions beyond the resources contained in these web pages and live in Minnesota, or would like to learn how to schedule or find training, please call the Family Child Care Business Support line at 651-641-6626 or e-mail fccbusinessinfo@resourcesforchildcare.org. For additional family child care business publications, contact Resources for Child Caring's publishing division, Redleaf Press, at 800-423-8309 or visit www.redleafpress.org.

WHAT IS ERS?

ERS stands for Environmental Rating Scale. A different version of the ERS is used for center, family, or infant toddler care and is designed to assess the child care setting. RCC has available openings for a limited number of child care programs to receive the Environmental Rating Scale (ERS) tool, and consultation. The ERS tool is used as part of the Parent Aware rating process, but this opportunity is available throughout Ramsey County to interested centers and family child care providers.

You and the consultant will work together to identify the strengths and needs of your program through discussion and joint use of the environmental rating tool, work to develop a plan of action to address the goals that you identify, implement strategies to accomplish the goals, and jointly evaluate the changes that take place in your program's environment. For more information call 651-641-6610.

RAMSEY COUNTY FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

Whether you're new to child care or you've experienced many years of child care, consider becoming a member of RCFCCA. We all have unique expertise and knowledge to share. Take this easy step forward and care to share. To learn more about membership, activities, and how to be involved, please visit the RCFCCA website <http://www.rcfcca.net/index.htm>