



Reaching Out

Ramsey 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 Theresa Fountain at tfountain@resourcesforchildcare.org or 651-641-6610.

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.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ALLOWANCES AND SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN ST PAUL

The St Paul Early Childhood Scholarship Program will be available to families with children prenatal to five years old in St Paul's North End and Frogtown.

Children three or four years old, in the city of St Paul, may also be eligible for an early childhood allowance. To qualify, parents must have annual incomes less than 185% of poverty. Please refer families to Resources for Child Caring, 651-641-6604 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 the article on page 2.

Staff for the projects are:

Patti Kester, Scholarship Coordinator 651-233-2261

Katie Holmes, Allowance Coordinator 651-641-6614



RAMSEY 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>

YOUR SPACE

Resources for Child Caring would like to reserve space in each issue to promote activities and events that are going on in Ramsey County, that support high quality child care. If you are an association, a network, or other groups that wants to get your information out to the other child care providers, programs, and staff in Ramsey County, please call or e-mail Sandy Myers at 651-641-6635 or smyers@resourcesforchildcare.org. This newsletter is mailed three times a year and is sent to all family childcare, centers and school age programs in the county.

LIBRARY NEWS

Want a new library card? Apply online at www.resourcesforchildcare.org/library/libraryapp.cfm. Once you have a card, stop by to check out one of the library's new DVDs from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The DVDs cover topics ranging from block play to classroom games to challenging behavior. When you visit the library, be sure to greet Frances Veit, who will join RCC in mid May as the agency's librarian. For more information on the library, call 651-641-3544 or contact Pennig through AOL Instant Messenger at [RCCLibraryHelp](https://www.aol.com/InstantMessenger/RCCLibraryHelp). You may also send an e-mail to rpennig@resourcesforchildcare.org.

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>

UPDATE VACANCIES ANYTIME

The referral department would like to encourage all caregivers to update your current vacancies and/or expected vacancies through March, 2008. You can 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.