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Summer 2010



**CHILD CARE  
RESOURCE NETWORK**  
Serving Parents, Providers & Community in  
Josephine, Jackson, Klamath and Lake County.  
A program of The Job Council

# Provider P R E S S

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## Child Friendly Classrooms

As early childhood educators we have all been in classrooms that are magical. These classrooms are warm and friendly with a hum of energy from young children engaged in "work" that is meaningful and to some may look like play. The room has an abundance of picture books accessible to children, an art center with paints, brushes, and other materials to plant the seeds of creativity. Children are working with partners or in small groups. Some may be in the dramatic play area learning about social skills, while others are using building blocks, and still others are watering classroom plants. The walls are covered with children's art and posters of beloved books, animals, and the seasons.

It may take a minute or two to find the classroom teacher because she is busy working on the floor with children helping them assemble a puzzle, writing a story that the child is dictating, or reading a book with children gathered around in a small community of learners. Once you find the teacher you notice a certain quality about them that is unique. She is calm and comfortable with the activity in the classroom. She isn't worried about controlling the students because they are engaged in a classroom community that is based on best practices and up to date research in the field of early childhood education. You may ask, where do these classrooms exist, and how can I make my classroom like the one described?

There are many excellent early childhood classrooms headed by men and women that are child-centered and fit a description similar to the one above. Many of the teachers in such classrooms have benefitted from ongoing professional development, collaboration with others in the field, and a strong personal philosophy of what good early childhood education looks, sounds, and feels like. I know this because I was one of these teachers and I now teach in an Early Childhood Development program working with these teachers to create child-centered classrooms.

Southern Oregon University and Rogue Community College have designed an online degree that allows students to earn their AA in Early Childhood Education at RCC. Students can then move seamlessly to their Early Childhood Development (ECD) Bachelor's degree at SOU. Rebecca C., a current student

and preschool teacher said, "The Early Childhood Development program has created a foundation of knowledge that is inspired by the most recent information and studies. The program provides me with the skills I need to be a successful leader, guide and researcher. I use the skills I am building every day when working with young children and I am grateful for the process. ECD is key for guiding young children to learn about themselves and our world around us."



The Early Childhood Development program at Southern Oregon University was created for busy early childhood professionals who want the opportunity to continue to grow in the field of early childhood education, while collaborating on an ongoing basis with peers in the field, learning up-to-date research about best practices in the classroom, and flexible enough to work with any professional's schedule. The instructors in the program have experience in the field and most still work with children on a daily basis. Before beginning the program, students complete a 1-credit online course to become familiar with the program so that they feel comfortable in an online environment. Students work closely with an advisor to plan out their quarterly and yearly schedule. This makes the process of getting through a degree that works with your timeline possible. As a way to bring together the community of learners, Saturday workshops are offered on a quarterly basis where early childhood educators can meet professors and peers. Preschool teachers desiring professional development hours can also participate in a day of hands-on activities.

## Toy Lending Library in Jackson County

Bring a bucket of toys to donate or trade for a "new" toy for your child care.

Open every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 10 AM to 2 PM. Near the Bear Creek Park

Call Cyd Hall at 773-5255 for directions

SO-PRO Chapter (Southern Oregon Provider Resource Organization) in Jackson County is going strong for the summer! We are a local network of child care providers in the Jackson/Josephine/Klamath area! Come check out a meeting. Call Jenny Thompson at 541-292-0181 for more info.

### YARD SALE

Saturday, July 17, 8:00 – 5:00

Sunday, July 18, 8:00 – 3:00

\*Come and shop or donate items to sell – we will pick up donations the week before! Proceeds will be used to send PRO members to trainings and conferences.

### MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES:

Sunday, July 18, 4:00 – 5:00

SO-PRO Meeting (after the sale)

Sunday, August 8, 2:00 – 4:00

Plan Your Preschool Activities

Sunday, Sept. 12, 2:00 – 4:00

Setting Up Learning Centers

Sunday, October 31, 2:00 – 5:00

Halloween Carnival for the Community

## Congratulations To Tammie O'Brien-Long!!!!!!!

### *I did it!*

Two and a half years later, I have completed thirteen college credits by taking early childhood classes at The Job Council, though the career pathways program, which earned me a certificate in Basic Childhood Education. With a long work day, night classes at The Job Council was convenient and very affordable; \$40 for ten hours of class, which was worth one college credit, a lot cheaper than RCC's \$109 dollars for one credit. I felt inspired after every class. I took the ideas and information and used them in my preschool, like observation of a child to ensure that I am meeting their needs as an individual (DAP) and creating a family friendly environment, involving the parents in the learning process. Also, it was a way to network with others in the field, by telling stories, sharing ideas, and hands on learning, which helped me become a better teacher. I am now ready to apply for step seven in the Oregon Registry and for my CDA Credential.

Going back to college was a great experience and worth all the time I spent in class. I was motivated because I was thirsty for knowledge. I needed confidence, and though knowledge I built my confidences. Now as a teacher I am proud of my work and I know that I am providing our community quality child care with an education. Thank you to all of you that helped me in my journey.

## Retirement John Thompson

John Thompson, regional manager for the Child Care Division, is retiring. After 31 years in public service, 21 of those with the CCD in Southern and now Eastern Oregon.

John has been a part of the Child Care Division from the early days of licensing, starting as a field worker and then manager. He was part of the initial team who formulated the budget, policies and procedures for child care in the state of Oregon helping form an early childhood care and education system that progressively moves towards higher quality and professionalism.

John is looking forward to retirement, spending time perfecting his organic farm and garden, and participating in his grandchildren's lives and growth.

If you would like to wish him well you are welcome to contact him at [john.w.thompson@state.or.us](mailto:john.w.thompson@state.or.us)

## Child Care Division Recorded Programs Information

*Do you operate a Preschool Program or School-Age Program? Please read on.*

A new law was passed by the Oregon legislature requires most unlicensed programs serving children to be recorded with the Child Care Division. Being recorded is different than being licensed in that there are only two requirements, that all adults who have contact with children have a background check and inform parents about recorded status. Unlike licensed programs, there are not extensive rules. The Division will not look at staff requirements, ratio of children to adults, equipment, activities, or any other aspects of the program. The Division will not inspect the program unless a program reports they will not do criminal background checks or post notice.

### **Preschool Programs**

All preschools that operate for four hours a day or less, are educational, and serve children from 36 months to the age when they are eligible for school must be recorded. These programs will remain exempt from licensure if they are currently exempt.

### **School Age Programs**

Programs offering more than 8 hours a week of care to school age children in place of the parents must also record with the Division.

Youth Development Programs are not required to record. These programs offer less than about 8 hours a week and have a single activity. They are not providing care in place of the parents. For instance, girl/boy/cub scouts, swim/dance lessons, tutoring.

### **Becoming Recorded**

In early July, the Division will send a mailing to programs that fall into the recorded program category. They will include information about how to become recorded. There is a \$20 application fee.

If you are required to become recorded you may download an application from the Division website or call and request the application. You will need to complete background checks for all personnel in your program who have contact with children. You will be asked to post a notice that the facility is recorded. If your program is for the purpose of enrichment and not child care, call the Division with this information.

### **Background Checks**

If you already have a process in place for background checks, that will not need to be changed. If not, you may contact the Oregon State Police to get checks completed.

*If you have any further questions on recorded programs you may contact the Division at [www.childcareinoregon.org](http://www.childcareinoregon.org) or 1-800-556-6616 for assistance.*

## The What, How and Why of Oregon's Quality Indicators for Child Care

### **What?**

Quality Indicators (QI) measures the structural indicators of child care quality that research has shown to be associated with more positive child outcomes. Oregon's QI are:

- Ratio of children to adults
- Group size
- Education of the caregiver
- Training of the caregiver
- Staff retention
- Accreditation
- Compensation (for child care centers only)

### **How?**

- QI data is collected by the Child Care Division (CCD) during the licensing renewal process from all licensed facilities. QI forms are included in the licensing checklist brought out to the facility by the CCD Licensing Specialist.
- Your QI data is entered into a statewide database by the Oregon Child Care Resource & Referral Network.
- Reports are produced by the Family Policy Program at Oregon State University.
- Reports are mailed directly to you, the provider or director; no one sees them before you do. Providers are encouraged to release their reports so their quality information can be provided to parents in their online search for child care.

### **Why?**

It's good for you!

- You will be able to evaluate the quality of your program and show how you stand out when compared with other providers, a great marketing tool parents will be able to access when deciding on care.
- By releasing a QI report, programs can receive a coupon half off their renewal fee from the CCD.

It's good for parents!

- Parents will be able to access a provider's QI information (with the program's permission) at [www.oregon-childcare.org](http://www.oregon-childcare.org) to help them make informed choices when choosing a provider.

It's good for kids!

- Higher quality child care leads to more healthy and well-rounded children.

### **A Few Tips**

#### **For registered homes, centers & certified homes:**

1. Include any and all education/training. Even one college level class changes a person from "HS/GED" to "some college".
2. Be certain to include any and all major and/or minor as well as the degrees themselves.

#### **For centers & certified homes:**

3. Include wage and benefit information
  - a. Include wages for the full range of Head Teachers and Teachers.
  - b. Medical benefits include anything relating to health care, vision or dental care.
  - c. Anything counts as an "other" benefit, including free/subsidized child care for staff, assistance with cost of trainings, paid time off, etc.
4. Be accurate about the group size and ratio forms. DO NOT ENTER enrollment information, enter the group size at any one time!
5. Include ALL the positions filled by each staff person! Currently the reports will only count staff in the "highest" position, but that might change.