

Help us keep our mailing list up to date!

Receiving duplicate copies of our newsletter?

Would you like it directed to a specific person?

New mailing address?

Give us a call, so we can keep our records current as well as our costs down....

Call 541-776-1234  
or 1-800-866-9034

*A note from our Local DHS office:*

"Child Care providers may be experiencing delays in payment from DHS. This is directly related to the increased caseloads causing a delay in processing benefits for eligible applicants. Self Sufficiency continues to serve all those eligible. We appreciate your patience and understanding."

THE JOB COUNCIL PROVIDING WORKFORCE RESOURCES

# Provider

## P R E S S

Winter 2008

### Getting your training hours for FREE?

Okay, we are all looking for a bargain and sometimes paying for trainings is a burden. There are some options to help you, if you are willing to do a little leg-work.

You may have heard of "Pathways to Professionalism." This partnership between the local community college (Rogue) and local child care resource and referral (CCRN) is unique in our state. We have worked hard to develop a calendar of classes that will give you access to new trainings to take you to a higher level of professionalism. Beyond that, RCC and SOU have developed a seamless process for individuals wishing to take their training beyond the community college.

**Here's how it works:** You sign up for the training hours you need for your licensing with CCD (or maybe a few more).

**1) Just sign up, for credit or not.** These classes are already heavily subsidized. RCC has waived their fees saving you about \$39 per term. Child Care Resource Network (CCRN) has added scholarship money to the pot making the Pathways ECE classes only \$4 an hour. Last-day sign ups are fine. If you want more help paying for classes, see option 2.

**2) See if you can get the classes for free.** Some scholarships are out there for non-traditional students and we are very lucky to have the John and Betty Gray Fund available for individuals currently working in the field of Early Childhood Care and Education, [www.centerline.pdx.edu/](http://www.centerline.pdx.edu/). To take advantage of this Fund you will need to plan ahead, apply for the scholarship, enroll in the class or classes (for credit), and complete your placement test with RCC. If you have questions on how to apply, contact them toll-free at 1-877-725-8535.

(If you are unable to attend a class you must cancel with Rogue Community College within TWO WORKING DAYS before the class or you will be responsible for the full cost.)

**AAHHHHGGGGGG!!!!!!! A PLACEMENT TEST?**

Okay, don't panic. The beautiful thing about the placement test is that you only have to take it ONCE, it is FREE, and you can even take it months before you intend to use it. AND it isn't really a test. It's more of a skills assessment tool the college uses to measure their students basic skills. It is required if you plan to take classes for credit. [www.roguecc.edu/PlacementTest/](http://www.roguecc.edu/PlacementTest/)

**3) Just want to be a student?** Go for it! Contact the RCC counseling office. There are other scholarships, as well as grants and loans, available for individuals planning to attend college full time.

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I hope you are just brimming with questions on how to make this work for you. Please contact us, even if you aren't sure this is for you, so we may explore your options. Lisa-842-2591, [lisaw@jobcouncil.org](mailto:lisaw@jobcouncil.org) or Eileen-245-7553, [emicke@roguecc.edu](mailto:emicke@roguecc.edu)

Class listings for each quarter: [www.oregonchildcaretraining.org](http://www.oregonchildcaretraining.org) click on Jackson/Josephine County

Or [www.roguecc.edu/Programs/CareerPathways/](http://www.roguecc.edu/Programs/CareerPathways/) click on ECE Certificates. Enroll online with RCC or at 541-956-7116.

### What is Mentoring?

The CCRN is able to offer mentoring services free of charge to providers in Jackson and Josephine Counties, through grants from the Jackson County Commission on Children and Families and the Oregon Community Foundation. A Statewide Mentoring program funded through the Oregon Child Care Resource and Referral Network is also available to providers of both counties.

Mentors can assist you in a wide variety of areas, from setting up your child care environment, ideas to encourage language and literacy skills for the children in your care, connecting you with training opportunities for professional growth and development and other community resources. Participants completing the Partnering with Providers program are eligible for funds to purchase equipment/ supplies for their programs.

Please call Patty at 842-2590 to find out more about these exciting opportunities!

## In these tough times, how do we keep our business afloat?

We hear you. Many, many providers tell us they are experiencing a drop in enrollment because of parents' layoffs or other woes of these economic times. What we find, just like with any business, those individuals who are better prepared, are willing to adjust to the needs of their clients, or are offering a more competitive product are the ones to survive. Here are some things to consider.

- 1) Have you called us to report any new vacancies?
- 2) Are your rates right for your market area and licensing level?
- 3) Are your hours and days of operation broad enough to meet the needs of working families?
- 4) Are you licensed?
- 5) Are you willing to accept DHS?
- 6) Are you on the USDA food program?
- 7) Does your home have curb appeal?
- 8) Is your home clean and inviting?
- 9) If you have pets, are they child-friendly?
- 10) Is your phone answered in a friendly, upbeat, professional manner (whether by person or machine)?
- 11) Do you offer quality with lots of age appropriate activities and/or school readiness?
- 12) Do you market your business online or with flyers?

Please contact us to report your vacancies, to get information on market rates, advice on how to make your business more appealing, how to include early literacy activities, or how to get licensed/listed. Consider listing your business online at sites like Craig's List. If you are licensed, brag about what you've done to make that happen. There is no guarantee these steps will see you through these hard times but putting the effort into it will give you that fighting edge!

## New CCD Licensing Rules (Child Care Division 1-800-556-6616)

### Pets:

If you are licensed family child care home hopefully you received the notice of a couple of changes in the rules for animals. The Child Care Division now requires you show proof of immunization for dogs and cats (including the ones outdoors). Before your renewal date arrives, you may want to contact your veterinarian for a printout of your animals' vaccines.

Also, CCD is now asking that children's access to exotic pets, such as snakes, lizards, monkeys, ferrets, and hooked-beaked birds, be limited. If you have these or other exotic pets in your home, and have not received the notice, we encourage you to contact the Child Care Division for further details.

### Above the first floor:

As of January 1st, 2009, if you have planning to become newly licensed, or move your licensing to a new location, there is a change. CCD is no longer licensing providers who plan to have child care children above the first floor. If you need more information on this change contact the CCD.

### Every Other Year Howdy-do

And lastly, if you are a registered provider you should have also received notice of another change starting January 1st, 2009. CCD is starting an annual visit with registered providers on the years they are not renewing their license. The new visit is NOT an inspection! Child Care Division is hoping to use this time as a way to touch bases with providers, offer support, and maybe read a book to the kids. Again, contact CCD for more info.

## Growing the Profession: Identity, Purpose, & Leadership Development for Early Care & Education

*Early Care and Education (ECE) is a field that faces many challenges to its professional status.*

- Practitioners tend to be isolated, working long hours with little flexibility.

- Many practitioners "fell" into the field after becoming parents or caring for the children of others on an informal basis and do not see themselves as professionals.

*(continued...)*

- Often, ECE is perceived as a service industry with minimal regulation, low wages, and poor status or respect accorded its workers. There is little recognition that work in the field requires in-depth knowledge and specialized skills acquired only through significant effort and education.

- ECE serves the needs of young children and families in diverse and inclusive settings. While the diversity and inclusiveness of the field are vital strengths, they increase the complexity of communicating a consistent identity and purpose for the field.

- Finally, the field is experiencing significant retirements among current field leaders with few new leaders filling the void.

*To champion the professional status of ECE, to encourage professional engagement and quality practice among its workers, and to effectively contribute to preschool-related public policy, the field **must** develop and promote a collective professional identity and purpose and build its own leadership capacity.*

### Project Goals

- Strengthen and re-energize professional identity, increasing involvement in professional activities and organizations in the State.
- Develop, support, and sustain a cadre of leaders in targeted areas.
- Build links among and between local, regional, and state ECE leaders.
- Create a vision for the future of ECE in the State.

*Growing the Profession is generously funded by a Meyer Memorial Trust Grass Roots Grant. Most significantly, grant funding will provide \$100 stipends to nearly two thirds of summit participants to cover travel costs, lost wages, payment of substitute caregivers, and so forth.*

### Project Activities

1. Identity, purpose, and leadership summits with follow-up support.

Two-day summits will be conducted in 8 Oregon regions. The summits will explore identity and purpose in the field, build connections between ECE professionals,

and facilitate leadership development, fostering communication, conflict resolution, facilitation, and collaboration skills.

An estimated 160 new, emerging, and potential ECE leaders will participate, including ECE degree-seeking students and equitable representation of the field's diversity.

Regional leader mentors will participate in summit implementation and follow-up support. Leader mentors will be drawn from the upcoming Western States Leadership Network conference and from local professional support organizations, resource and referral agencies, and community colleges.

2. Identity, Purpose, and Leadership Website for Oregon. A website will be developed to provide connection and support for regional working groups. The website will include local, state, and national resource links. The site will provide...

- Increased connection and communication within and among regional ECE leader groups.
- Centralized access to supporting project documentation, ECE and leadership resources, and other relevant links.
- Paperless communication and dissemination of information between project coordinator and project participants.

### Specifics

160 participants + 32 leader mentors

20 participants in each region representing different program types (family child care, center-based care, Head Start/OPK, etc.). Additional slots available at cost.

Two-day summits to be scheduled on Friday/Saturday between September 2008 and March 2009.

100, \$100 stipends available to those working directly with children and families

Step 3 Training Approval in process through the Oregon Registry Trainer Program

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