



PRINCE GEORGE'S CHILD
RESOURCE CENTER, INC

Newsletter | Winter 2009



*Creating healthy and nurturing environments
for children by supporting their families and
educating their caregivers*

From the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is such an odd time to be operating a nonprofit. The economy is tanking but the need for our services keeps rising. We feel so optimistic about our new President but so nervous about the status of our funders and their budgets. Since we don't have a crystal ball, we did the next best thing and commenced a strategic planning process. The resulting document will serve as a guide through the inevitable bumps that are coming and keep the Resource Center focused on our mission: **to help create healthy and nurturing environments for children by supporting their families and educating their caregivers.**

Change is upon us in other ways as well. The Resource Center said goodbye to long-time board member Lynn Baldwin and welcomes three new board members: Stephen Hosea, an attorney and financial specialist; Kathy Channick, reading and learning specialist; and Nina Gilchrist, director of Learning World Child Development Center. They have already added their

expertise to our strategic planning process and will certainly enrich the board.

As 2008 drew to a close, we were moved by the generosity of our community during the holiday season. It seems as the economy worsened, the more one-on-one giving we experienced. Our families were overwhelmed with gratitude as corporate employees and individual donors showered them with toys, gifts, winter clothes, and food. People may have cut back on their own purchases but they opened their hearts to our needy families and we can't thank them enough. All I can say is that each donor should know that their gifts were cherished. Thank you!

I hope 2009 is kind to our families, staff members and friends throughout the community. We know it will be a tough year and wish everyone the best.

Marti Worshtil

Have you HEARD?

- ☀ **L. Coakley & Associates REB** hosted an Inaugural Soiree on January 18 at Hudson Restaurant Lounge in the District with proceeds benefiting the Resource Center. It was a wonderful event for networking and celebrating.
- ☀ We welcome **Bianca Whitfield** as our new Finance Director and **Ashley Harris** as administrative assistant.
- ☀ Congratulations to board member **Tracey Wayne Perry** on the birth of her daughter.
- ☀ The Resource Center has the best staff around! **Danitza Simpson**, Director of the Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center, was recently recognized for ten years of service. **Paul Armstrong**, Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator and **Lynette Twilley** were recognized for 15 dedicated years.
- ☀ Our Executive Director, **Marti Worshtil**, finished her tenure on the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations Board of Directors and thought she would have a lot of spare time. Ha! She has been appointed to Congresswoman

Donna Edwards' Nonprofit Advisory Committee. Marti also agreed to serve as an executive mentor through the Human Services Coalition of Prince George's County.

- ☀ Have you noticed what a great website we have? Special thanks to **Matt Miller of Mightyspark Industries** for going the extra mile to keep us up and running so we can better serve Prince George's County.
- ☀ There has been a staffing change for the annual Celebrate Children conference. Once the conference hit 1,000 participants it just became too big for Resource Center staff to coordinate as we also tried to do our day-to-day jobs. For 2009 conference information, please now **Sanders Shiver** at 301.431.6220.
- ☀ Additional parking at the Resource Center! If parking in front of our offices is full, you can now park easily behind our building and follow the newly-paved path to get to our entrance.

The Happiest of Holidays

We live in a truly generous community. For the second year in a row, the families we serve were recipients of books, presents and Christmas trees provided by agencies, businesses, a church, a university, individuals and our own employees.

Barnes & Noble of Bowie once again selected the Resource Center for their annual holiday book drive. Throughout November and December, the Resource Center received nearly 2,000 books! All children at our Family Support Center and Healthy Families program received books during the holidays and we will also be distributing books to child care programs. Books for “older” children will be given to the planned drop-in center at the Prince George’s County Courthouse. We thank *Barnes & Noble* of Bowie and all the donors.

Target of Largo also helped brighten the holidays for families participating in our Family Support Center and Healthy Families program. As members of United Way of the National Capital Area, we qualified to receive three gorgeous, fully-decorated Christmas trees that were delivered to families facing a meager holiday. Thank you *Target*!

There were many individuals, friends and co-workers who were Holiday Helpers – they adopted families with very specific needs and purchased toys, clothes and grocery store gift cards. It seemed that in these challenging times, people who could felt more compelled to help than ever. We know that one group of friends chose to adopt one of our families instead of buying presents for each other. Now *that* is the holiday spirit!

The Resource Center and our families are very grateful to those who participated in the Holiday Helper program:

Anonymous	Kareem Elbayar	Evong Nham	Linda Taifouri
Eugene Ahn	The Gilmore Family	May Nham	Sam Winokur
Jon and Amanda Anderson	Karen Goff	Louise Oliver	Jason White
Amber Berrian	Amy Hillsman	Kris O’Krepky	Kim Williams
Alison Brzowski	Terrie Holloway	Alexis Pike	Lynea Woody
Lindsay Brzowski	Lia and Marc Imhoff	Mia Pittman	Employees of Navigant Consulting
Mia Camp	Sandy King	Katie Raimondo	Employees of Prince George’s Child Resource Center
Jamie Chou	Rhonda Kirchner	Nisha Shah	Holy Family Catholic Church
Dawn Cottman	Christine Marr & Chris Denney	Kishawn Smith	
Candace Daniels	Rebekah Nahas	Anna Suter	
Nyel Daniels		Jason Suter	



Special thanks to University of Maryland Students, Faculty & Staff, Panhellenic Association, Resident Life, the City of College Park, and College Park Youth & Family Services for the generous donations given through the *From Our Heart to Yours* campaign.

We serve the most at-risk families in the County who face incredible challenges daily as they work to create safe and healthy environments for their children. Some are teen parents, many do not have access to health care, and often have abuse in their backgrounds. To all of you who helped, please know you made a significant difference for children and their parents this holiday season.

Membership Update

New Membership Rewards

Membership in the Resource Center is more valuable than ever! Every member who completes five (5) regular Resource Center workshops between January 1, 2009 and December 31, 2009 will receive one free three-hour workshop – a **\$35 value!** We have over 60 workshops in our January–April calendar, and will have new offerings in every calendar. Members also receive a discount on services offered by the Resource Center, including supplies in our newly updated Resource Room. **Make sure you have your membership card with you to receive these benefits.**

We're sweet on our members!

Our annual salute to our members will be held on

Tuesday, February 10, 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m. Please join us for an evening of great food (heavy on the chocolate), door prizes, and fellowship. RSVP to Ashley, 301.772.8420, ext. 221.

One last membership note: Child Care Center Staff or Group program staff (such as *Before and After School Extended Learning Program* staff) may choose to have an individual membership (\$30 per year) or they may choose to be a part of their center's membership (\$15 per individual). In order for a staff member to receive the \$15 membership, the Center Director must register for a Group Membership and list the staff member on the application form.

Resource Room Grand Opening

We are very excited about our newly updated Resource Room. We have added many new items, including a die cut machine and a laminator that is large enough to use on most posters. Do you need to make a picture schedule for your classroom? Come in and use the Boardmaker computer program. Need copies? Make them in the Resource Room. As we all look for ways to economize, the Resource Center is here to help. We are offering supplies at the lowest cost to help you enrich your program and ease the burden on your budget.

Hours: The Resource Room is open one hour before any scheduled training, and from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month, and by appointment during regular Resource Center Hours (8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday). Small fees apply for using the laminator and waxer; die cuts are based on the paper used. Members receive discounts on some services.



Lillie Williams, Walton Deal, Ruth Wesley, Jacqueline Tinch and Susie Joyner of St. Paul's King's Kids Child Development Center peruse the Resource Room library and experiment with the die cut machine.

Community Programs Staff Contacts:

General Information:

301.772.8420

Jodi Regner

Director of Community Programs
Ext: 243 • Email: jregner@pgcrc.org

Valerie Barnes, Assistant to the Director of
Community Programs

Ext: 238 • Email: vbarnes@pgcrc.org

Onsite Workshop Requests, Volunteer Hours

Paul Armstrong

Early Childhood Mental Health Coordinator

Ext: 241 or 301.772.3607

Email: parmstrong@pgcrc.org

Project WIN

Diane Embrey

Early Childhood Science Coordinator

Ext: 231 • Email: dembrey@pgcrc.org

Science Road Show, Science Fair

Kimberly Merritt

Technical Assistance Coordinator

Ext: 247 • Email: kmerritt@pgcrc.org

Licensing, Behavioral and Special Needs Assistance

Francine Bobbitt, Training Assistant

Ext: 229 • Email: fbobbitt@pgcrc.org

Workshop Registration, Requests a Calendar

Ashley Harris, Administrative Assistant

Ext: 221 • Email: aharris@pgcrc.org

Membership

Are you Credentialed?

Remember that you can use your **Professional Development Fund** dollars on any of our workshops. Another great opportunity to earn **Professional Activity Units** is to volunteer in the Resource Room. Help us while you help others in the provider community.

Science Road Show

Science Fair: Saturday, March 14, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Remember how much fun the Science Fair was last year? We're doing it again! Please join the Resource Center in partnership with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George's County Memorial Library System at Watkins Park on Saturday, March 14. The fair will include a variety of displays featuring hayrides, nature crafts, live animals, library resources for science educators, and experiments that can be performed at home. Child care providers will have the opportunity to earn one Professional Activity Unit and to register for the ongoing *Science Road Show* activities.



Experiencing nature up close.

Planning a Field Trip? The Science Road Show can help!

Spring is the perfect time to get the children outdoors and involved with nature. Why not let Diane lead your program in a day of activities at a local park? Discover the joy of science through nature activities.

An Old Tradition Returns

Director's Coffee Hour is returning to the Resource Center. Beginning Friday, February 6, the first Friday of every month is set aside for Center Directors to get together at the Resource Center for networking, program updates, and training. This is the time to talk to your colleagues, share the joy (and pain) of directing a child care center...and of course there is no fee.

Mark these **Funtastic Fridays**, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.:

- February 6
- April 3
- June 5
- March 6
- May 1
- July 10

Project WIN

Do you have children in your program who regularly exhibit challenging behavior? *Project WIN* can help! *Project WIN* provides social/emotional support to pre-school children in child care settings and offers free on-site consultation and support services for young children who are displaying behavioral or developmental challenges that are disruptive in a group setting. If your program could benefit from support services during child care hours, contact Paul Armstrong, *Project WIN* Coordinator, at 301.772.3607.

The LOCATE: Child Care Complaint Policy

Each year, the Resource Center publishes the *LOCATE Complaint Policy* so that the provider community is informed of the policy.

Through the LOCATE service, parents share feedback with the LOCATE staff on the programs in the files: licensed day care centers, registered family day care providers and accredited preschools. While this feedback is at times positive, it sometimes concerns complaints parents have about child caregivers. Of course, LOCATE and the Maryland Child Care Resource Network want to use this information in a way that is fair to providers and parents, while protecting children, as well.

Therefore, the LOCATE Complaint Policy was developed and has been in effect since its approval by the Maryland Committee for Children Board in November, 1983. According to this policy, all complaints made to LOCATE about child care providers/facilities are recorded. The type of complaint is then determined:

- **Less Serious Complaint – No Violation:** complaints that do not involve violations of child care regulations; complaints about situations which do not pose a threat to the safety, health or welfare of a child.
- **Less Serious Complaint Involving Violation:** complaints of any violation of the Office of Child Care (OCC) and/or Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) regulations, which do not pose a threat to the health, safety, or welfare of a child.

- **Serious Complaint:** any threat to the immediate health, safety, or welfare of a child.

When a parent calls LOCATE with a complaint, the counselor advises him/her to register the complaint directly with the appropriate regulatory agency and/or Child Protective Services. Names and telephone numbers of the person with whom the parent should speak are provided.

When a Serious Complaint is received concerning one of the providers or facilities in the LOCATE system, no referrals are made, by the counselors, to that provider/facility. The LOCATE Director also communicates with the appropriate regulatory agency personnel about the complaint, and maintains the "hold" on the provider's/facility's record until the agency's disposition of the complaint is known. Should the investigation result in no action, the "hold" status is removed from that provider's/facility's record. Should the license or registration be revoked, the record is removed from the LOCATE files. Providers are advised of LOCATE's actions in writing.

A provider may appeal the LOCATE Director's decision to cease referrals. Appeals are first addressed to the LOCATE Advisory Committee. Final appeals may be made to the board of the Maryland Committee for Children. It is the position of LOCATE and MCC that the Complaint Policy is both fair and workable. Safeguards and due process are afforded to the caregivers in the files, and parents' and children's rights to safety are addressed.

Technical Assistance

Are you trying to bring your child care program to the next level? The Resource Center is once again offering Technical Assistance services to help child care providers meet regulatory requirements, offer higher quality services, and support professional development. Contact Kimberly at ext. 247.

Parenting Classes in Spanish

Did you notice the Spanish language class for child care providers in our latest training calendar? We also have parenting classes for Spanish speaking parents. "Learning Together: Positive Discipline" is a series of eight classes held at our Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center. The classes are designed for any parent who wants to enrich their parenting skills. Contact Liliana Janssen-Checa at 301.431.6210 for dates and to register for the classes.

What's Ahead for Training

When child care providers speak, we listen! Everyone who attends a workshop at the Resource Center is asked to complete an evaluation and a needs assessment. This is one way you can tell us how we are doing and what you need. Every evaluation and needs assessment is read, and we keep track of all the training requests you make. We offered 14 new classes in our last training calendar and we promise to keep responding to your needs – just let us know what they are!

Maryland Model for School Readiness

We are pleased to receive support from Maryland State Department of Education for our programs. With this funding the Maryland Child Care Resource Network develops new programs, and we bring them to you. In February, we will start Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) Domain training. MMSR explores all seven learning domains in detail, including curriculum content, strategies for teaching, and assessment. Taking MMSR training will make you a better provider and better prepare the children in your care. Participants may attend all sessions, or choose the topics that are most relevant to you.

Personal and Social Development

February 2 & 5, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Social and emotional development is the foundation of school readiness. Explore ways of incorporating activities that contribute to social and emotional development in your program.

Language and Literacy – February 23 & 24, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Explore activities that enhance language and literacy learning and promote school readiness.

Mathematical Thinking – March 16 & 17, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Math can be fun. Explore creative ways to increase mathematical thinking skills by incorporating math activities throughout your program.

Scientific Thinking – April 29 & April 30, 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Scientific thinking skills can be incorporated across all domains of learning. Explore the scientific thinking domain and see how much fun science can be.

We will offer the full MMSR course (54 hours of training over 9 sessions) beginning in September. Look for details in our next calendar.

90 Hours Class

Our 90 Clock Hours course begins again on March 30. This course includes 45 hours of child development and 45 hours curriculum and planning for preschoolers. Our series runs in an accelerated format, allowing participants to achieve completion in only twelve weeks. Class size is limited, so register early. Contact Laura Terrell, Director of LOCATE Child Care at 301.772.8420, ext. 214 for details.

90 Clock Hour Course (Fee: \$325 plus book)

March '09

31..... 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

April '09

2, 14, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

25 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

May '09

5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, 28 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

30 9:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

June '09

2, 4, 8 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Pre-Service Modules

24 Hour Pre Service Training

This training meets the Office of Child Care requirements for new family child care providers and can be used as continuing training for current family providers and center staff. The Resource Center will offer all 24 hours of training in a three day period. Dates include January 9, 16 and 23, February 25, 26, and 27, and March 18, 19, and 20. Refer to the training calendar for schedule details.

Fee: \$40: Individual four-hour sessions; **\$225:** 24-hour series that includes all six four-hour sessions

Module 1: "From Baby to Bigger Steps: What Makes a Child Grow?"

Participants will receive an overview of leading child theorists, learning differences among children and the stages of child growth and development.

Module 2: "Planning for Success! Creating Opportunities to Grow and Learn"

Understand the components of a family child care curriculum and how to design a family child care home; includes child care center room design and an appropriate curriculum in group child care.

Module 3: "Keeping Kids Fit and Safe"

This workshop includes emergency preparedness, menu planning and health and safety concerns of young children.

Module 4: "Making it Work for All: Exploring Special Needs"

Explore ADA requirements and inclusive child care settings as well as health, behavioral and developmental concerns.

Module 5: "Keeping it Real! Professional Practices for a Successful Program"

This session includes professional business practices, policies and procedures, record keeping, OCC regulations, and appropriate guidance and supervision of young children.

Module 6: "Planting the Seed: Developing Connections with the World Around Us"

An overview of the importance of developing and maintaining relationships with children, families and the larger community.

Communication Pre-Service Module – "Communication Training for Child Care Providers"

Learn how positive communication among child care providers, parents and children is an important factor in establishing a healthy environment in the child care setting. This session meets the MSDE requirement for nine hours of communication training for child care providers.

DONORS

Thank you to our current supporters (July–December 2008). We couldn't do it without you.

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Prince George's Child Resource Center encourages the involvement and participation of individuals with disabilities in our programs, services and activities. Please let us know how we can best meet your needs, as we will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making reasonable accommodations to promote and encourage your participation.

PRINCE GEORGE'S CHILD RESOURCE CENTER, INC.

9475 Lottsford Road, Suite 202

Largo, MD 20774

Main Office (Hours: 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) 301.772.8420

Training ext. 229

Science Road Show ext. 231

Project WIN 301.772.3607

LOCATE: Child Care (Hours: 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.) 301.772.8400

Provider Vacancies/Updates 301.772.8411

Fax 301.772.8410

Adelphi/Langley Park Family Support Center

8908 Riggs Road

Adelphi, MD 20783

Phone: 301.431.6210 • Fax: 301.431.6212

Web: www.childresource.org • Email: pgcrc@childresource.org

Find out more about Resource Center news and events, register for workshops, check for job openings, use our helpful “resources” page, or help support our mission by making a secure donation.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Maryland Committee for Children www.mdchildcare.org

Other Area Resource and Referral Centers 410.752.7588

Maryland State Department of Education www.marylandpublicschools.org

Office of Child Care, Prince George’s 301.333.6940

Office of Child Care, Credentialing 410.767.6922

Maryland Child Development Council 202.387.0002

Prince George’s County Child Care Centers Association

James Haynes, President 301.341.5437

Prince George’s County Group Child Care Association

Lynn Baldwin, President 301.952.3674

Prince George’s County Family Child Care Association

Janice Gray, President 301.498.1516

Professional Child Care Provider Network of Prince George’s County

Phyllis Waters, President 301.899.9610

DBED: Day Care Financing Programs 410.767.6388

Prince George’s County Public Schools www.pgcps.org

Child and Adult Food Program 301.780.5810

Early Childhood Office 301.808.4000

School Boundaries/Student Transfers 301.952.6300

Prince George’s Community College www.pgcc.edu

Early Childhood Education 301.322.0158

The Arc of Prince George’s County 301.925.7050

Early Intervention Services

Infants and Toddlers (Ages 0–2) 301.265.8415

Child Find (Ages 3–5) 301.808.2719

Family Crisis Center (24 hours) 301.779.2100

Department of Social Services www.dhr.state.md.us

Child Care Subsidy 301.909.6200

Child Protective Services 301.909.2450

National Capital Poison Center 866.222.1222



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