



# Early Childhood News

March – May 2010

Early Childhood Connections

## National Child Care Providers' Appreciation Day

National Child Care Provider Appreciation Day is May 7, 2010, and Early Childhood Connections would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do for the young children of South Dakota. Your dedication, energy and love for the children you care for deserves a special day of thanks! For more information, visit [www.appreciationday.org](http://www.appreciationday.org).



## Week of the Young Child Celebration

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, with nearly 100,000 members and a network of over 300 local, state, and regional Affiliates. This year, we celebrate it **April 11-17, 2010**. We will keep you posted on activities we are planning, and watch for upcoming events on our website at [www.earlychildhoodconnections.com](http://www.earlychildhoodconnections.com).

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.



NAEYC first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life. The Week of the Young Child is a time to plan how we--as citizens of a community, of a state, and of a nation--will better meet the needs of all young children and their families.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children's opportunities are our responsibilities and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of early environment--at home, at child care, at school, and in the community--that will promote their early learning. As you plan your events, visit [www.naeyc.org/woyc](http://www.naeyc.org/woyc) for ideas and strategies.

## April is Child Abuse Awareness Month

The Most Effective Way to Prevent Child Abuse is for communities to take action to support families. Protective factors are conditions in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well being of children and families. Research has shown that the following protective factors are linked to a lower incidence of child abuse and neglect:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents

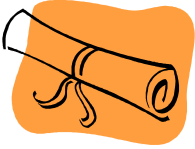


For more information on local support, call 2-1-1

### Our Mission:

To enrich the lives of children by working with the adults who affect their lives--parents, caregivers, and educators.

## Congratulations!!



Susan Kraemer, Sue Sigler and Carla Garner have recently earned their CDA credentials. Congratulations on this achievement and all of your hard work! If you are interested in receiving information on the Child Development Associate Credential, you can contact Kim Booth at [kimbooth@rushmore.com](mailto:kimbooth@rushmore.com) or at 342-6464.

### Do you have an e-mail address?

The ECC newsletter is sent out 4 times per year and normally we send over 300 hard copies through the mail. If you would like to receive the ECC newsletter by email, please call the office at 342-6464 or e-mail Debbie at [dhilt@rushmore.com](mailto:dhilt@rushmore.com).

### ECC Office Holiday Closing

The ECC office will be closed on the following day:

May 31, 2010 Memorial Day

Our normal business hours are:

Monday - Thursday 8 am to 5 pm; Friday 8 am to 4 pm

We are closed from 12 to 1 pm for the lunch hour.

## Designing Space for Infant and Toddler Learning

Many infants and toddlers learn about the world primarily through sensory exploration and physical activity. And many of them are spending up to 10 hours a day in various group child care settings. And while social skills begin to emerge in these early years, they are not fully developed until the preschool and elementary years.

Put two or three infants together and they explore each other like toys: touching eyes, mouthing clothes, tugging hair and climbing over one another. When 10 toddlers occupy the same space, many of their social interactions involve fighting over toys, pinching, biting and crying.

While a caring provider can help infants learn to appropriately solve their own social challenges, it's impossible to attend to every infant or toddler at all times. Caregivers can help themselves by rearranging existing space. Simple changes can help to ease stress related to grouping infants and toddlers.

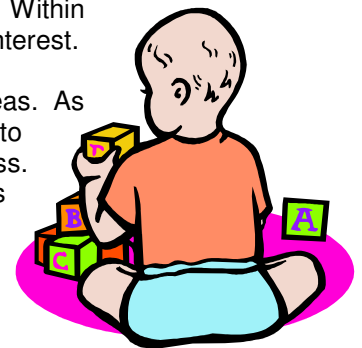
There are times when everyone wants to be alone, and this is especially true for young babies. Providing tunnels, creating spaces with old empty wading pools or open boxes, or even pulling a sofa out from the wall gives infants and toddlers a space to call their own for brief periods throughout the day. Another way is to separate play areas with low barriers. Place a low shelf to extend into the room rather than against the wall and you've created two areas rather than one open space. Use low platforms or covered mattresses to provide another level of floor space. Securely fastened area rugs can also help to separate a room.

Defining play spaces reinforces the message that there is room for only a couple of babies at a time. A choice of several interesting and private spaces encourages babies to spread out. In contrast, a single open room with all shelving against the walls encourages infants and toddlers to move freely from one activity to the next without exploring any one object. And, as they notice that someone else is playing with a coveted item, it can become a source of conflict. Within defined spaces, infants and toddlers spend more time exploring and focusing on single objects of interest.

As caregivers, we need to resist the adult notion that specific materials must be used in specific areas. As natural explorers, infants and toddlers will seek novel ways to use familiar objects. They may wish to take pots and pans to the block area and use them in building projects. Encourage that creativeness. Infants and toddlers are often fascinated by hauling and dumping. Have toddler-sized grocery carts and open-ended containers available to encourage this interest.

Avoid setting limits on what toys must be where. Limits can more appropriately be set by labeling shelves with pictures of objects used in that area. At the end of the play session, infants and toddlers can help by putting away toys in the right places. This activity supports babies' thinking, reasoning, remembering and imagining skills as they sort and create order around them.

Carefully observing baby play and experimenting with defined spaces can help a provider to determine the best environment for her or his specific group of babies. The environment is part of the provider's toolkit for fostering physical activity and exploration of the senses.



South Dakota Institute for Infant Toddler Development & Care at South Dakota State University

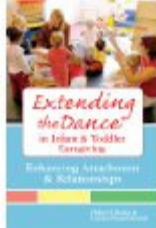
Early Childhood Connections is proud to be Western South Dakota's Early Childhood Enrichment Provider.

## A Great Read

### ***Extending the Dance in Infant & Toddler Caregiving***

by Helen H. Raikes, Ph.D., &  
Carolyn Pope Edwards, Ed.D.

This is a great read for Infant/Toddler teachers who seek to offer "Relationship-based care".



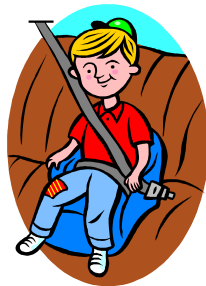
*"This blueprint for promoting attachment and relationships in early childhood settings provides professional caregivers and educators a fine key to developing nurturing relationships with kids. From promoting relationship-based programs that keep teachers and kids together to encouraging connections, this is a fine early learning tool."* Midwest Book Review

## Boosters Are For Big Kids

Most kids need to ride in a booster seat from about age 4 until age 10-12. If your child isn't using a booster, try the simple test below the next time you ride together in the car. You may find that your child is not yet ready to use a safety belt without a booster.

### **The 5-Step Test**

1. Does the child sit all the way back against the auto seat?
2. Do the child's knees bend comfortably at the edge of the auto seat?
3. Does the belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt as low as possible, touching the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated like this for the whole trip?



If you answered "no" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat to make both the shoulder belt and the lap belt fit right for the best crash protection. Your child will be more comfortable, too!

For best protection, all children should ride in the back seat until they are ready to drive. It's twice as safe as the front seat.

## Chewing Gum to Help Prevent Cavities??

Did you know that by allowing a child to chew certain gums or eating certain kinds of sugar, you can actually help prevent dental caries (cavities)? Studies have shown that by getting 6-10 grams of xylitol into a child's body each day will help in decreasing cavities and help with remineralization of the teeth.

Xylitol is a naturally occurring sweetener in some fruits and vegetables but at very low levels. Xylitol is also found in birch and other hard wood trees. The xylitol reduces the quantity of plaque in a child's mouth as well as making the plaque less adhesive to the tooth surface.

Other benefits of xylitol are that it changes the quantity and quality of a child's saliva and thus aids in remineralization of the teeth. There is a bacteria in the mouth that causes cavities. When this bacteria takes in the xylitol, the xylitol actually kills the bacteria which in turn decreases cavity formation. Mothers who chew xylitol containing gum can decrease cavity formation in their young children since the xylitol decreases the amount of the bacteria in the mother's mouth and therefore less is transmitted from the mother to the infant/child.



To help decrease cavity formation, xylitol must be taken into the child's system frequently each day (3-5 times per day) for several months to several years. The recommendation for chewing gum with xylitol is especially important for children 4 and 5 years of age and fourth and fifth graders for the maximum effect on the first and second permanent molars. Studies have also shown that parents are willing to have their children chew gum or eat candy that contains xylitol while the children are in school and childcare settings.

Chewing xylitol containing gum should not take the place of frequent tooth brushing with a fluoride toothpaste and regular fluoride treatments. All of these management regimes should be considered complimentary therapies which will assist all children to have stronger teeth that are carie free or have decreased numbers of caries.

## ECC now on Facebook

Get exclusive content and interact with Early Childhood Connections right from Facebook. Click on image to connect.



# Early Childhood Connections Training Calendar


**Please note: Classes will be canceled or rescheduled if enrollment does not include 6 participants on the day before or the day of the class.**

**\*\*Payment is due before classes are conducted, or the class completion certificate(s) will be withheld.\*\***

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Infant and Child CPR Training ~ Pathways: CPR</b>					
This introductory course includes First Responder information and hands-on experience with CPR mannequins required for Red Cross Certification. (Adult training available by request for total charge of \$30.)					
March 8	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
March 18	Thurs	ECC	Infant and Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
March 22	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
April 5	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
April 19	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
April 26	Mon.	Spearfish	Infant & Child Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
April 28	Wed.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
May 4	Tues.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
May 10	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
May 19	Wed.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
May 25	Tues.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25

<b>First Aid in Early Childhood Settings</b>					
<b>Pathways: First Aid</b>					
Participants will gain knowledge related to common childhood accidents and injuries in addition to receiving hands-on instruction that will enable caregivers to perform First Aid.					
March 1	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
March 31	Wed.	Spearfish	Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
April 5	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
May 3	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

<b>Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series II</b>					
March 4	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Harmonizing Cultural Diversity/Acknowledge, Ask &amp; Adapt</u> Cultural diversity and communication Instructor: Jennifer Nelson <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
March 4	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Harmonizing Cultural Diversity/Acknowledge, Ask &amp; Adapt</u> Cultural diversity and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
March 11	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Responding to Families/Protective Urges</u> Working with parents and communication Instructor: Jennifer Nelson <i>Pathways: Partnerships with Parents</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
March 11	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Responding to Families/Protective Urges</u> Working with parents and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Partnerships with Parents</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Enrichment Training</b>					
March 4	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Circle Time Fun</u> : Circle time is a great way to encourage young children to develop emotional and cognitive skills as well as participate in a group. Instructor will share Circle time activities ideas to help engage children in this important routine of the pre-schoolers day. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
March 8	Mon.	ECC	<u>Director's Network</u> : Guest speaker is Chad Tussing from the new Outdoor Campus. Facilitator: Autumn Gregory	6:30 – 8:00 pm	FREE
March 20	Sat.	Just Jymnastics 3660 Sturgis Rd Rapid City	The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and Early Childhood Connections present <u>Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children Ages 3-7</u> : Participants will receive the "Growing Up Wild" Curriculum book at end of Workshop. Project WILD is sponsored in South Dakota by the Department of Game, Fish & Parks thanks to the support of hunters and anglers. Instructor: Kim Booth  <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	No Charge  Pre-Registration Required
March 23	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Circle Time Fun</u> : Circle time is a great way to encourage young children to develop emotional and cognitive skills as well as participate in a group. Instructor will share Circle time activities ideas to help engage children in this important routine of the pre-schoolers day. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
March 25	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Child Abuse and Neglect</u> : This training will explain how to recognize child abuse, how to report it, and to understand the role of the child care provider. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Child Abuse and Neglect</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
April 7 April 14 April 21 April 28 May 5 May 12	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Sign Language for Infants, Toddlers, and Providers (Series Only)</u> : Sign language is not just for the deaf. Research shows many advantages for the hearing. Scientific studies suggest that "typical" children who learn to sign have higher IQ scores, are better adjusted and read at an earlier age. Learn the basics of functional sign language. Develop an appreciation for language development in a different form, and learn about a culture that has much to offer. Instructor: Shari O'Keefe <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$30 Series  \$15 for 1.5 CEU
April 13	Tues.	ECC	<u>Creative Lesson Planning Using the Reggio Approach</u> : Participants will explore the philosophy of the "Reggio Approach" and its inspiring methods of planning activities and lessons based on the child's interests and emerging curriculum. Instructor: Jan Tysdal <i>Pathways: Age Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
April 22	Thurs.	ECC	<u>SIDS and More</u> : The newest guidelines for decreasing the risk of SIDS will be covered. Sleep issues in children will also be discussed. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Program Safety</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
May 10	Mon.	ECC	<u>Director's Network</u> : Topic TBA Facilitator: Kim Booth	6:30 – 8:00 pm	FREE
May 10	Mon.	ECC	<u>Bullying</u> : This class will deal with the characteristics of Bullying including who bullies, how bullying makes people feel, interventions to address bullying behavior and how to educate victims on what to do or who to turn to. The class will provide a general overview of the culture of bullying and how to get involved to stop the cycle. Instructor: Jeff Wahl <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
May 20	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Oppositional Defiance</u> : This class will address the symptoms of oppositional children, how to work with oppositional children, and how to work cooperatively with the family of these children. The class will provide examples of oppositional traits and practical interventions to tackle the difficult behavior. Instructor: Jeff Wahl <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
May 20	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>SIDS and More</u> : The newest guidelines for decreasing the risk of SIDS will be covered. Sleep issues in children will also be discussed. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Program Safety</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
May 25	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</u> : This training will explain how to recognize child abuse, how to report it, and understand the role of the child care provider. Instructor: Jennifer Nelson <i>Pathways: Child Abuse &amp; Neglect</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
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**Intro to Child Care Training**  
**This session is designed for persons or staff members who are new to the childcare field.**

<b>Level I</b>					
March 1	Mon.	ECC	<u>Learning Environments</u> Instructor: Kim Booth Participants will gain an awareness of how the physical environment affects how children and adults feel and act. In an attractive and well-designed environment, children are more purposefully engaged in activities. <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge For New Child Care Staff
March 8	Mon.	ECC	<u>Guidance</u> Instructor: Kim Booth Participants will explore the various ways adults think about discipline and get an overview of best practices for caregivers to help children learn what the expectations are and control their own behavior. <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
March 15	Mon	ECC	<u>Health and Safety</u> Instructor: Deb Kuehn Participants will receive a brief overview of SD's health and safety standards as well as a quick overview of best practices. <i>Pathways: Program Safety, ID Communicable Diseases</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
April 20	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>How Children Learn</u> Instructor: Jennifer Nelson Participants will receive a blend of information and hands-on activities to help them understand how children develop and learn. <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development, Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
April 27	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Health and Safety</u> Instructor: Jennifer Nelson Participants will receive a brief overview of SD's health and safety standards as well as a quick overview of best practices. <i>Pathways: Program Safety, ID Communicable Diseases</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
May 4	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Guidance</u> Instructor: Jennifer Nelson Participants will explore the various ways adults think about discipline and get an overview of best practices for caregivers to help children learn what the expectations are and control their own behavior. <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
May 11	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Learning Environments</u> Instructor: Jennifer Nelson Participants will gain an awareness of how the physical environment affects how children and adults feel and act. In an attractive and well-designed environment, children are more purposefully engaged in activities. <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	

<b>Level II ~ Instructor: Kim Booth</b>					
March 29	Mon.	ECC	<u>Program Management/Regulations</u> Participants will receive a brief overview of SD's regulations and licensing standards as well as a quick overview of creating a lesson plan. <i>Pathways: Program Management and Regulation</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge for New Child Care Staff
April 5	Mon.	ECC	<u>Professionalism/Communication</u> Participants explore ways to build relationships and communicate effectively with parents and co-workers. <i>Pathways: Professionalism</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
April 12	Mon.	ECC	<u>Cultural Diversity</u> Participants will gain an awareness of the value in providing an inclusive education that addresses not only cultural diversity but also gender and differences in abilities. <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
April 19	Mon.	ECC	<u>Inclusion</u> Participants will receive a brief overview of the federal legislation that addresses the needs of children with disabilities along with basic information about welcoming all children into early childhood programs. <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	

**To Register, Contact: Early Childhood Connections (ECC)**  
**605-342-6464 - Toll Free 888-999-7759 - FAX 605-394-0153**  
 Email [dhilt@rushmore.com](mailto:dhilt@rushmore.com) or [kmurray@rushmore.com](mailto:kmurray@rushmore.com)

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Classes</b>					
Feb. 17 Feb. 24 March 3 Mar. 10 Mar. 17 Mar. 24	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 - 8:30 pm	No Charge  Pre Registration Required
Feb. 18 Feb. 25 March 4 March 11 March 18 March 25	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Bridget Stone	6:30 - 8:30 pm	No Charge  Pre Registration Required
April 1 April 8 April 15 April 22 April 29 May 6	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Kathryn Kettering	6:30 - 8:30 pm	No Charge  Pre Registration Required
May 13 May 20 May 27 June 3 June 10 June 17	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Kathryn Kettering	6:30 - 8:30 pm	No Charge  Pre Registration Required

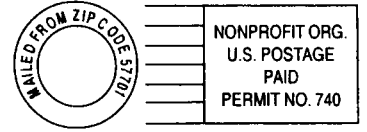
<b>Love and Logic (Series Only)</b>					
April 22 April 29 May 6 May 13 May 20 May 27 June 3	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Love and Logic (Series Only)</u> Instructor: Kevin Murray April 22: Raising Responsible Kids April 29: The Love and Logic Formula May 6: "C" Stands for Control That's Shared May 13: "O" is for Ownership of the Problem May 20: "O" is Also for Opportunity for Thinking May 27: "L" Let Empathy & Consequences Do the Teaching June 3: Let's Wrap It Up and Take It Home <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$50 single  \$60 couple

*Please Note: We realize at times it is difficult to find childcare in the evenings. However, it is not appropriate to bring children to classes at Early Childhood Connections. Our learning environment is not designed to ensure the safety of children. It is also important that we are respectful of fellow students and the instructor. Please make other arrangements for your children while attending classes at Early Childhood Connections. Thank you.*

**To Register, Contact: Early Childhood Connections (ECC)**  
**605-342-6464 - Toll Free 888-999-7759 - FAX 605-394-0153**  
 Email [dhilt@rushmore.com](mailto:dhilt@rushmore.com) or [kmurray@rushmore.com](mailto:kmurray@rushmore.com)

Early Childhood Connections  
809 South Street, Suite #304  
Rapid City, SD 57701-3585

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**Tired of Snow  
and Ready  
for Spring?**