



The Crier

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DHS Approved—Sanitation In Your Child Care Business Class

Concerned about RSV, H1N1, seasonal flu and other communicable diseases spreading in your child care business? What are the appropriate sanitizing solutions to use? There is surprising information on the product labels. Learn the myths and facts of sanitation practices in your child care business. A class on Sanitation will be held on Wednesday, January 13, 2010 from 6:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at the US Bank Building, 414 A Avenue, Vinton. Jean Randolph RN, Child Care Nurse Consultant, will present this class to both home providers and center staff. We will promote a valuable exchange of ideas and experiences covering the ways to reduce the spread of germs, best procedure for hand washing, diapering and the products you should use to keep the children in your care safe and healthy. For those participating in QECE (Quality Early Childhood Environments) and the Environmental Rating Scales, learn ways to raise your evaluation scores in the areas of health practices, diapering/toileting, meals/snacks, napping and room arrangements to promote healthier practices. Contact **HACAP at 319/739-1556 or 800/233-0054 to register for this class.**

Changes Affecting Providers—Effective January 2010

By now you are aware that the state of Iowa is experiencing difficult times financially. As a result, across-the-board cuts were mandated for all programs receiving state funds. Benton County Empowerment is largely funded with state dollars as well as federal funds. Both of these funds were recently cut substantially from the amount that was received at this time last year. Because of these budget reductions, Benton County Empowerment had a difficult decision to make: how to implement these cuts with the least impact on our families and providers in the county.

There will be several changes that providers will notice immediately. First, this will be the last provider newsletter to be mailed. Future newsletters can be found on our website: www.bccempowerment.com. If you are interested in receiving

the newsletter via e-mail, you will need to contact me with your correct e-mail address. The newsletter will still include information on upcoming provider classes, so I encourage to bookmark our site to be aware of educational opportunities as they become available.

Which leads me to the next change. Because of the decrease in dollars, we are no longer able to fund two programs that were contracted through another organization. One of those programs is the Home Child Care Consultant. The provider classes that were offered as part of this contract will now be provided by Kirkwood and **will still be offered tuition free with Empowerment funds to all providers serving children 0-5-years-old.** Empowerment will continue to support provider education through the end of the fiscal year, but will cancel classes

if there are not enough participants. Empowerment will not longer be offering in-home consultant services but any questions providers have can still be directed to me. In-home child care provider incentive opportunities will no longer be offered, but we encourage you to continue to strive towards quality.

Another program that has been affected is Quality Early Childhood Environments (QECE). I will be assuming all of the duties required to continue the program for those classrooms currently and previously involved. Empowerment is committed to continuing this program. Our office will no longer be distributing the story sack tubs, as it is cost prohibitive to redistribute them to providers when home visits are no longer taking place. If you have any questions on the changes please feel free to contact Heidi at the Empowerment office.



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Helping our children to enter school happy, healthy and ready to learn.

Reminder: Call our office no later than December 15th with any childcare openings you have available. We will list them in our next parent newsletter.

Using Simple Cooking As Learning—Ages 0-5 Years

This educational opportunity will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood Vinton Center, 111 West Third Street.

Fun learning activities begin with a few ingredients and children who are eager to help cook

and bake. Cooking can teach so many lessons. Explore several easy, healthy recipes and tie in activities you can use with children related to baking and cooking. The class is for adults and most of the recipes have been taste tested in classrooms and at home over

several years. Bon appetite!

To register for this class contact the Kirkwood Vinton Center at 319/472-2318. Meets CDA Competency: Steps to advance children's physical and intellectual development.

Pediatric Medic First Aid/CPR—Vinton

Stacey Farmer will present a Pediatric Medic First Aid/CPR class on December 16, 2009 from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. at the US Bank Building, 414 A Avenue, Vinton. This training is being offered to individuals who will learn basic care skills in first-aid, CPR and obstructed airway for infants, children and adults. This course meets OSHA requirements for day care and preschool workers. Two-year recommended renewal. **Contact HACAP at 319/739-1556 or 800/233-0054 to register for this class.** Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come first-served basis.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

One child in every 166 is now recognized as being in the autism spectrum. Learn why this may be, how to recognize early signs, and how you can help the at risk child. How can you interact positively and get your message across? What are the differences between these children and other children? How can you help the ASD person feel better—with Dr. McGuire MD, FAAP, board certified developmental and behavioral pediatrician. This class will be held Tuesday, February 16, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Kirkwood Vinton Center, 111 West Third Street. **To register for this class contact Kirkwood at 319/472-2318.** Meets CDA Competency: To support social and emotional development and to provide positive guidance.