

VOLUME 1. ISSUE 2

JANUARY 2009

ALABAMA FAMILY CHILD CARE ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter and Correspondence- Fran Clampitt
256-337-6067

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

GOALS FOR 2009

As we welcome in the New Year, ALFCCA is proud to announce the following goals for 2009:

1. To launch an ALFCCA webpage that contains information about ALFCCA, family childcare providers, and resources for parents, providers, and agencies.
2. Continue to building our contacts with family childcare providers, companies, and agencies in Alabama.
3. Continue to gather information about Health and Home Insurance for family childcare providers.
4. To collaborate with local associations about their concerns in family childcare across the state.
5. To provide information to family childcare providers about membership, dues and statewide online childcare news through the website.

We hope you take some time to reflect on the blessing given to your family in 2008. In 2009, try to work on areas that promote our profession as well as how we actually impact individuals- strive to be the best you can in 2009! I wish you a blessed new year!

Submitted by Amy Waine, President

CONFERENCES :

Shelby County Mini Marathon

Date: January 24th, 2009

Place: Christ Church United Methodist

5191 Caldwell Mill Rd

Birmingham, Alabama

6 to 7 hours of Training

Box lunches will be available for \$5.00

If reserved by January 17th.

Featured Presenters:

UCP, Auburn Partnerships, ALFCCA

Homewood Library, McWaine Science Center

And others.

Contact Person: Tammy Lipham

205-991-6417

FOCAL'S CHILDCARE STRATEGY MEETING

January 21st

12:00-2:30

Juliet Morgan Hampton Library

245 High St.

Montgomery, Al

All people interested or thinking about childcare are invited to attend.

Please RSVP at 1-800-300-0232

This will reserve you a lunch.

CHILDCARE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

“Rounding Up Quality Childcare”

When: February 20th and 21st, 2009

Where: Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville Alabama.

Contact Information: 256-764-9381

OR

cernewsletter.com

Continuing Educational Units (C.E.U.) Available On-Site- please register in advance for these. Up to 11 hours of credit hours. Friday night entertainment will be provided by Troy Goldsby, a singer from Florence Alabama.



CHILDCARE HAPPENINGS

FOCAL, THE FEDERATION OF CHILDCARE CENTERS OF ALABAMA has been holding childcare strategy meetings, Teumbay Barnes Childcare Organizer with FOCAL gave a great overview of the childcare strategy meeting in November. We are hoping it will give you information in order for you to become involved with looking out for your childcare program. The legislature will be going back in session February 3rd, 2009. We may be calling on you to write letters or make very important calls at a minutes notice. Please be willing to contact other providers in your area and get our information out as quickly as you can. A child's safety may be at stake, a parent's daycare subsidy or your childcare slot. **BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILY CHILDCARE!**

FOCAL CHILDCARE STRATEGY NOTES: From Montgomery (November 2008 Meeting)

This group was formed because of the additional cuts to the childcare subsidy program.

- A) DHR raised the co-pay of parents
- B) Eliminated the sibling discounts
- C) Lowered the income guidelines
- D) Reduced the number and budgets of CMA's
- E) How many children have been eliminated?

Priorities:

1. Subsidy Cuts
2. Exempt Care/ Legislature Issue
3. Pre-k funding; increase vs. decrease
4. Increase in subsidy payments
5. Meeting with DHR Commissioner

Notes:

The funding is being offset by older childcare programs. (Pre-K)

How does the childcare offset the workforce

TANF

Full-pay parents

Children are getting in the subsidy program through the backdoor (i.e. child abuse and neglect, TANF and Foster care.)

Do the preachers know and understand what they are signing off on in regards to exempt care?

Exempt care is less work for DHR because of the personal liability on the licensing worker.

Exempt Childcare:

There needs to be more public awareness, it should be brought to the Governor's attention. DHR says it's not their area because it falls under the NCLB act, and also was

formed with the help of former Governor Fob James in 1981. Under former Governor Don Siegelman: there had to be certification each month EAN bill, which stated that exempt care facilities were in compliance with the minimum standards and gave CMA's the right to report licensing problems which in turn gave DHR authority to go in and inspect. However, DHR could go in an exempt center only if there were suspicions of fraud. This had to do with these exempt facilities being able to receive subsidy payments from the state. If they were not following the guidelines of the subsidy they would be committing fraud of the states subsidy program.

Pre-K Funding:

While Pre-K has been funded, childcare has not. Where does childcare stand? Melanie Bridgeforth stated, " VOICES is one of the lead agencies that advocated for Pre-K funding and the funding comes from the Educational Trust fund and childcare funding comes from the General Fund. Pre-K was acknowledged as a good program that has helped cripple the childcare industry.

These notes were taken from discussion within the group of participants that attended the meeting.

Editorial: Fran Clampitt

I would like to take a moment and address an issue I raised a couple of years ago concerning the ALFCCA working with agencies that are funded by the DHR. The reason for my concern was that I was worried that if the ALFCCA received financial support from these agencies we would not feel that ALFCCA could go to DHR with concerns or issues of it membership. I have heard that other members have raised this issue again to Amy Waine ALFCCA president in the last year. First I would like to explain to all of you that I never said we should not work with these agencies. I said we should not receive funding through them. My many years in childcare have been spent working and collaborating with many of our states childcare agencies. Unity in the childcare field is a must and my position on this will never change. In regards to my concern about funding, the ALFCCA board has talked with some of the agencies and my concerns have been addressed and are unfounded. My understanding is that the ALFCCA has never received any direct funding. We as a childcare association can address DHR at anytime needed, without repercussion from anyone.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or comments about this issue. franclampitt@knology.net or 256-337-6067.

ARE YOU ACTIVE?

Are you an active member?
The kind that would be missed.
Or are you content that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd.
Or would you rather stay at home and complain both long and loud?

Do you give a little time and help make things tick?
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the clique?

There's quite a program schedule that means success if done.
And it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.

So come to the meetings and help with the meetings and help with hand and heart.
Don't be just another member, but take an active part.

Think it over member, are you right or wrong?
Are you an active member?
Or do you just belong?

Author Unknown

QUALITY CHILD CARE ISN'T EXPENSIVE....

IT'S PRICELESS!!!!!!!





Condolences To:

Lillie Hood- On the loss of her beloved mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lillie and her family.

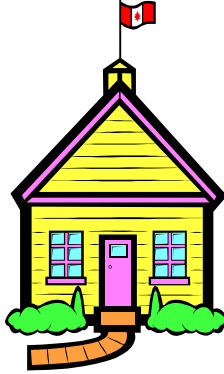
Thinking of You:

Ours thoughts go out to Dionne Edison and her family at this time. Dionne was misplaced during the holidays due to a fire at her home.

If anyone has information for this column please email Fran at franclampitt@knology.net or mail her at
607 Ambrose Dr.
Madison, AL. 35758

DID YOU ENJOY THE ALFCCA COMPLIMENARY COPY OF THE STATE NEWSLETTER?

If you enjoyed reading what is going on in your state concerning childcare, then become a member of the ALFCCA. The Alabama Family Child Care Association is a non-profit organization. Membership is open to all licensed and registered early childcare educators, individual, or organizations that are an advocate for children throughout Alabama. The purpose of the ALFCCA is to support early childcare educators, promoting professionalism and endorsing quality childcare. Our membership coordinator is Katrina Lister; you may have received a letter from her already. If not you can reach Katrina at 256-837-0858 or by email at k.lister@mchsi.com. Let's make Early Childhood Education number 1 along side of the number 1 Pre-K!! We've been educating young children for years. We know the job, its time others know how important we are to Alabama.



Montgomery Home Child Care Association:
President : Lillie Hood

Lillie reports that elections will be held in January for officers of the Montgomery HCCA.

DeKalb County Home Childcare Association:
Contact: Brenda Blansit

We hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season.

DeKalb county, has lost a long time education director to retirement. Dr.Thomas will be missed by all of Northwest Alabama provider's. We all wish her many happy and lazy days ahead (ha-ha.)

Judy Davidson is our current education director. She has been providing workshops and trainings along side Dr. Thomas for years in DeKalb and surrounding counties. In the upcoming years we'll continue to receive excellent trainings as I the past.

DeKalb county is blessed to have an awesome resource library in Fort Payne. It is open to childcare providers on Wednesdays from 4:00- 6:30pm beginning January 7th, 2009.Providers are encouraged to check this wonderful service out.

Beginning in January, the Childcare Resource Network will be offering the "Alabama Early Learning Guidelines" training. Everyone is looking forward as this is going to be an excellent, and informative workshop to all childcare providers.

DeKalb county residents are really concerned with the hosiery mills closing, as well as the many other industries that have started lay-offs. This is going to cause a domino affect, which will be felt by all. Childcare will definitely be impacted! For those that have already been hit with low enrollment, and have been made cut backs the questions now are " Will I have to close or try to maintain my business in hopes things will take a positive turn in the year to come?" "Will I be one of the unemployed?" " Who will care for the children in this area?"

On a positive note, I want to say a special thank you to all providers in our area. Each of us has always been willing to help other providers any way we could. May GOD BLESS each of you in the coming year.



Madison County Home Child Care Association:
Earlene Mitchell, President

The HCCA held a Christmas open house at their new meeting place in December. Members were introduced to the new facility by President Earlene Mitchell and board members. Refreshments were served and plans for 2009 were discussed. We did some brainstorming on how we as an association could help our members in the coming year. The economy has hit many of our members, and we are in hopes of finding ways to help our members during this difficult time. One way was the offering of scholarships to the local CER conference in February to members interested in attending. This would help providers obtain credit hours to meet the yearly Minimum Standards training hours. We would like to wish all of Alabama's childcare professionals a great New Year and we hope to see you at the conference!

Cullman County Home Childcare Association:
Glenda Aderhold and Amy Sivley, Contact Person's



We would like to thank Glenda Aderhold for the lovely Christmas party she threw for us at her home. Congratulations to Pam Basinger on opening up her new daycare home. Pam worked for her mother in a group home for twelve years and has also recently adopted a beautiful baby girl named Shanie. Good luck to you Pam!!

The Cullman County association of childcare providers is seeking speakers at low cost or no cost. If you are interested, please contact Glenda Aderhold at 256-734-4311.

Submitted by: Amy Sivley

DON'T FORGET THE ALABAMA 4TH ANNUAL PRE-K
CONFERENCE
APRIL 7TH-9TH
MONTGOMERY, AL.
CONTACT: VOICES FOR ALABAMA'S CHILDREN
800-444-5437
INFO@ALAVOICES.ORG



Child FRIENDLY RECIPE :

Rice Krispie Treat Easter Eggs

Ingredients:

Marshmallows

Margarine

Vanilla

Rice Krispies or Fruity Pepples

Food Coloring

Directions:

1. Use the regular recipe on the back of the Rice Krispies Box, using the food coloring to color the marshmallows.
2. Separate into smaller portions for ore colors.
3. After mixing the colored marshmallows with the Rice Krispies let children Shape the mixture when cooled enough into egg shapes using their hands (grease their hands with cooking oil before handling mixture).



Ants On A Log

Submitted By: Claudia Keith

Materials Needed:

Celery Sticks

Peanut Butter (**Make sure none of your children have allergies to peanuts.**)

Cream Cheese could be used instead of the Peanut Butter

Raisins

Directions:

Give each child a celery stick. (Talk about color green, shades of green, texture of the celery stick, and have older children measure the sticks.) Let them spread the peanut butter or cream cheese on the celery stick with a butter or plastic knife

(Fine motor skills.) Using the raisins as ants (Talk about ants as insects, what they like to eat, where they live.) have the children put the raisins on the celery sticks using the number of the week. (Cognitive, science, and fine motor skills.) Then eat away!!

St. Patrick's Day Spread

Ingredients for one:

Whipped cream cheese
Green Food Coloring
Crackers

Utensils and Supplies:

Snack-size resealable bag for each child
Jumbo craft stick for each child
Napkin for each child

Directions:

Wash Hands

Put cream cheese in bags

Squirt a drop green food coloring in bag.

Have child squeeze bag till cream cheese is green

Spread and its snack time!!

Childcare activities:

Sandwiches Are Super!

How many are there?

Chances are your children have a few favorites when it comes to sandwiches. But just how many types of sandwiches are there? Explain to your little ones that a sandwich can be any type of bread with a filling. Then ask them to try and think of as many types of sandwiches they can. List the sandwiches on a sheet of bread-shaped cardboard. Display the list throughout your sandwich unit and invite them to add to it, as they like.

Singing About Sandwiches:

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Chicken salad or grilled cheese,

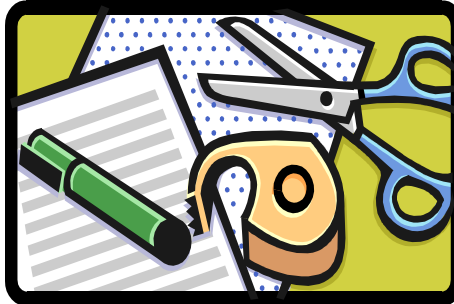
Peanut butter if you please.

Ham or turkey, tuna fish.

Or bologna, if you wish.

Any sandwich is a treat!
What kind do you like to eat?

Have your children make a graft of their favorite sandwiches. See which are their favorites.



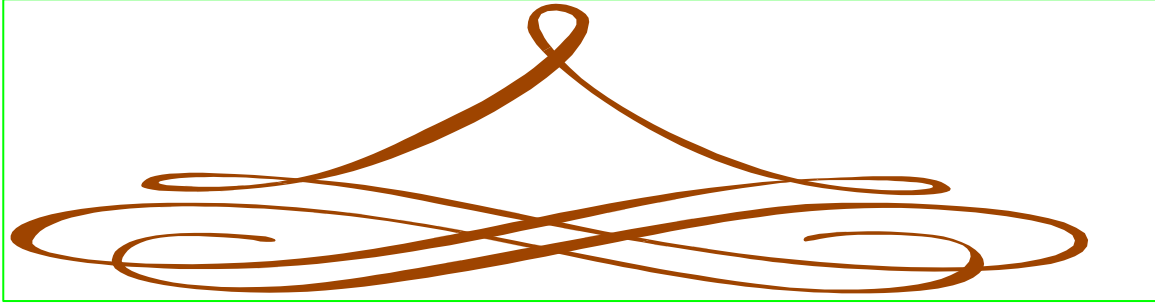
Bread Puzzles

Use a slice of bread and cut into shapes. See if your preschoolers can put the bread back together again.

Letter Sound Sandwiches:

Make a cardboard upper bun and lower bun. Write the upper case letter on top of the bun and the lower case letter on the bottom of the bun. Glue top bun to the top of a piece of construction paper and the bottom bun to the bottom of the paper. Have children put cut out pictures that begin with that letter sound in between the buns.





See us at the [Auburn Family Childcare Partnerships](#) website. It will be updated in the next few weeks. Just type in the above underline and click on it and it will take you to the website. Then click on State Association.

Thanks to Amy Waine, our President and her board for charging on through in some difficult times. A special thank you to the past board members who worked very hard getting ALFCCA organized. The providers and advocates appreciate the hard work and determination on all your part. A very special thank you to Dr. Ellen Able who laid the groundwork for the ALFCCA, and Elaine Miller and her FCCP staff who have worked hard to help the ALFCCA strive for Quality in Alabama!!



“What nourishes the imagination? Probably more than anything else, loving caring adults who encourage the imagination play of a child’s on making.”

Fred Rogers

