YOU are BEAR-y Special!

We are excited about our FIRST EVER Northwest Adventist Early Childhood Directors/Head Teachers Workshop, June 12 and 13, 2011. The workshop will begin with lunch on Sunday at the North Pacific Union Conference headquarters (5709 N 20th St, Ridgefield, WA—I-5 exit 14) and end with lunch on Monday. Ya’ll come because...YOU are BEAR-y special!

Co-sponsored by the North Pacific Union and its six conferences, the workshop is free to all directors/head teachers. In fact your travel and one night’s lodging are also free! When your registration form is received, accommodations will be reserved for you at the Phoenix Inn Suites in Vancouver, WA (across the river from Portland, OR).

One of the purposes of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for networking. The territory covered by the North Pacific Union is vast—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington! We have much to learn from each other. Some centers/schools are located hundreds of miles from their conference headquarters, with directors having never met their conference personnel. Others are in urban environments. Each has its own personality. But we share a common goal: making a difference in the lives of little people and their families.

The workshop will also be a time for training and education. One of our guests will be Dr. Christine Gillan Byrne. From Thousand Oaks, CA, Dr. Byrne heads the work of ECE for our sister organization, Pacific Union Conference. Dr. Byrne has a passion for young children and has made early childhood education her life ministry, serving for many years as director of Kiddie College, a child development center on the campus of Union College, Lincoln, NE. A presenter for and member of NAEYC, Dr. Byrne is also editor of Adventist Child Care Network (ACCN) newsletter, a published author, and a highly respected advocate for early childhood education. Most importantly, you will find her, as I have, a warm and trusted friend and colleague with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share.

“In the little children come to Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”
Luke 18:16

NORTHWEST Adventist Early Childhood Education
ALASKA IDAHO MONTANA OREGON WASHINGTON

In this issue--
• YOU are BEAR-y Special
• Did You Know That…
• Why Employees Leave
• Let’s Get Acquainted
• A Sister-Center in the Pacific
• Tools for Teachers
• Individualizing Instruction…
• Workshop Details
• Workshop Registration Form
Why Employees Leave

Targeted Leadership: Building a Team that Hits the Mark, School-age Notes provides insight on how to keep good people from leaving early childhood education programs...

“...according to a Saratoga Institute survey of nearly 20,000 exit interviews, 89% of employers believe that people who voluntarily leave the organization do so for more money.

The actual number of employees who leave for money is 12%. The disparity highlights the delusion leaders cling to that employees mostly leave for better pay rather than recognize the fact that far more leave for reasons more personal and avoidable. People don’t leave jobs, they leave supervisors.

In that same survey, ‘lack of career growth and advancement opportunities; no perceivable career path,’ was the 2nd most cited reason for an employee leaving, following poor management.

Imagine that for a moment: The 2nd most significant reason driving voluntary turnover is the employee did not see her future there because no one communicated it to her. Good employees leave when no one notices they are there and when no one communicates to them what they can accomplish. They stay not because they see a paycheck, but because they see a future.”

Be sure to take the time and effort to communicate to your employees regarding their value to the program. Tell them what strengths you see and how to grow professionally. The Adventist church needs high-quality early childhood leaders in ways we are just now discovering.

Exchange Every Day is a free service of Exchange Magazine. View this article online at www.ChildCareExchange.com (Thanks, ACCN!)

Let’s Get Acquainted

Jonathan Beckner is director of Little Friends Christian Preschool and Daycare in La Grande, Oregon, (which because of its location is actually part of the Idaho Conference). Born in beautiful McCall, Idaho, Jonathan graduated from Walla Walla College (now University) and has, with his wife and daughter, lived in La Grande since 2006.

Jonathan comments, “I love working with the little ones. They teach me a lot about life and how to be a kid at heart.” He adds, “I really love the administration part of my job, interacting with the children and helping them find the joy of learning about life and Jesus! Jonathan continues, “...(Early Childhood Education and Care) is an area that is SO important to the life of our church and our schools.... So much of our education emphasis is on the 16 years after preschool and kindergarten that they get lost in the educational ladder of achievement.”

Little Friends is a state certified preschool and childcare center serving 20 preschoolers, plus 8 to 15 who come for childcare. Ninety-five percent of the staff have achieved “level 10” (10 being the highest level) for the state of Oregon Registry of child care providers.

A Sister-Center in the Pacific

I was delighted to add “nanny” to my grandma title when accompanying my son, and his wife (their 10th anniversary) and my two little granddaughters to the lovely island of Kauai over spring break. While exploring this relatively small island we discovered the Kahili Adventist School...and preschool!

The adventure continued when we left the main road to travel on red dirt for about a mile. But the trip was well worth it. Located in a broad, grassy, idyllic setting that includes a small lake and some cabins for visitors, the school backs up to a lush forest and towering green mountain peaks.

It was spring break at the school, but “Miss Mei” was busy with her preschoolers in a separate building adjacent to the school. She welcomed us with that warm Hawaiian hospitality—a hug for each of us—as if she had been expecting us.
Individualizing Instruction in Preschool Classrooms

GET TO KNOW EACH CHILD

Consistently observe individual children
Identify what each child does that leads to success
Notice when & where a child persists to achieve a goal
Note when the child has difficulty achieving a goal & why
Collaborate with families & specialists to better understand & support each child

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

Build on situations that interest the child & in which he is successful
Capture the child’s attention with appealing items, textures, or changes in voice
Show interest in what the child is doing

SCAFFOLD LEARNING

Support a child’s learning opportunities with strategies such as verbal reminders or modeling a skill
Encourage each child’s independence
Use the learning environment effectively
Include peers in the classroom and families in the process

MONITOR CHILDREN’S PROGRESS

Give a strategy enough time to work
Consistently implement a strategy or changes
Observe frequently enough to get the information needed
Keep track of the skills or behaviors to be monitored
Find time to write down & review observations
Use the information gathered to make changes in curriculum and/or teaching strategies

(Mary B. Boat, Laurie A. Dinnebeil & Youlmi Bae)

TOOLS For TEACHERS


This book helps children discover the world of science through explorations in classroom centers. Organized by topic, chapters cover concepts like light and shadows, water, motion, and change. The 100 activities can help children to develop three basic science skills: observing, classifying, and organizing and communicating observations. Each activity includes a list of related books, vocabulary words, and ideas for individualization, family involvement, and assessment.

Let’s Move  www.letsmove.gov

Started by First Lady Michelle Obama, this is a nationwide campaign to combat childhood obesity. The website offers tools and information that teachers and families can use, including recipes, tips for making healthier food choices, and physical activity ideas.

Building Blocks for Literacy  www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org

This is a free online resource for early childhood educators and parents. Preschool teachers will be interested in the self-pace professional development workshop which uses audio and video recordings to demonstrate techniques like shared book reading to promote children’s early literacy. The Family Forum offers activities, games, book suggestions, and other ideas for supporting children’s literacy at home. All users must register to access the free resources. For a $50 fee, users can earn 12 professional development hours or CEUs upon successful completion of the course.

Simon DOESN’T Say…

This game offers a new twist for children who are already familiar with Simon Says. First review opposites, like: over/under, open/closed, big/little, in front/behind, ground/sky, etc. Then explain that Opposite Simon will say what to do, “But you should do the opposite.” For example, in response to “take one big step,” the children take one small step. If you say, “Opposite Simon says, ‘Point to the sky,’” children point to the ground. Keep the directions simple.

TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN, Vol.4, No. 1 (Thanks, Tamara!)
The BEAR Essentials—

- Networking, training, education, a bit of fun, a change of pace...and did we mention networking? YOU deserve this!

- Travel and accommodations expenses, and meals during the workshop are being provided for you by your local conference and the North Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (NPUC).

- The workshop will begin with registration and lunch at NOON on Sunday, June 12 at the NPUC office (5709 n. 20th St, Ridgefield, WA—north of Vancouver, WA, exit 14 off of I-5).

- Accommodations are being arranged for you at the Phoenix Inn Suites, 12712 SE 2nd Circle, Vancouver, WA.

- Monday’s meetings will be held at the Phoenix Inn Suites, ending at approximately 2 p.m.

- Dress is business casual.

- You will find the registration form on the back of this page. (The deadline is April 21—don’t delay!)

- In order for staff other than directors and head teachers to attend please contact your local conference liaison for authorization.
Submit the above form to your local conference education department liaison by APRIL 21.