Putting Our Best Foot Forward in 2011

How do we look?
- Smiling, neat, clean, professional?
- Humorous and fun-loving?
- Warm and huggable?
- Excited to see children, their families, co-workers?

How do we sound?
- Cheerful?
- Truly concerned? Annoyed or harsh?
- Instructional or critical?
- Team player? Flexible, negotiable?
- Christ-centered?

How do we feel?
- Proud to be professionals who genuinely care about children’s welfare and development?
- Loved by children and their families?
- Respected, appreciated and supported by co-workers?
- Secure in being open and honest with opinions and feelings?

(adapted from Southern Union & Professional Connections, Winter 2010, Vol. 13, #61)

Get An ECE Degree ONLINE!!

The bad news: Washington Adventist University (WAU) is located near the other Washington, as in D. C.—nearly 3,000 miles away from the Northwest, in Takoma Park, MD, a suburb of our nation’s capital.

The good news: Washington Adventist University’s new Early Childhood Care and Education program is offered 100% ONLINE!

This is an accelerated Bachelors of Arts degree program that can be completed in as little as TWO years!

The program begins spring semester, 2011. It is designed to prepare professional early childhood educators and service providers to meet the needs of young children and their families.

The focus of the program is to provide a balanced curriculum that reflects education theory, relevant practices, and a variety of field experiences and internships in early childhood settings.

Visit www.WAU.edu or call 877-2GO-BACK (877-246-2225)

“Let the little children come to Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.”
Luke 18:16
New ECE Center Opens in Pasco, WA

Small World Learning Center (SWLC), on the campus of Tri-City Junior Academy in Pasco, WA, celebrated its grand opening on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Many TCJA musicians helped make the event a great success.

A welcoming fire burned in front of the new center in an attempt to ward off the chill of the afternoon for the opening ceremony. TCJA first and second graders sang a scripture song, followed by the ribbon cutting, which included the Pasco Chamber of Commerce.

The children of SWLC led in a rousing rendition of Jingle Bells in the new multi-purpose room where refreshments were served. TCJA third and fourth graders presented Silent Night in sign language with black lights accenting their white gloves.

Brief presentations were made by TCJA Principal Anthony Oucherek, project manager Ben Shearer, and SWLC Director Janelle Clendenon. Tours of the new facility, door prizes, a fishing game for kids, as well as music by the TCJA band and Columbia Bell Ringers added to the festive atmosphere.

SWLC staff members were delighted for the opportunity to connect with many community and church members as well as potential clients.

Small World Learning Center offers programs for children ages 1 month to 12 years old including daycare for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, before and after school care and vacation camps for school age children, in addition to Pre-K and Kindergarten classes.

For more information visit: www.tcjasmallworld.com
call: 509-380-5600
e-mail: tcja.smallworld@gmail.com

Documenting & Reporting Injuries

Because, despite the most careful planning, injuries occur, every childcare program should have a comprehensive safety plan. Staff should be trained to prevent and manage injuries as well as how to document and record incidents when they occur. Any injury or incident should be documented (if in doubt, “do”).

There should be a written policy and procedure for documenting and reporting incidents involving children AND staff. Review this with parents when they enroll their child.

Include the following on the injury reporting form:

- Name, gender and age of injured
- Date and time of injury
- Location where injury took place
- Description of how injury occurred
- Name, contact information of witnesses
- What the injured one reported
- Bodily parts involved
- Description of any consumer product involved
- Name of staff responsible for supervising at time of incident
- Actions taken on behalf of injured
- Recommendation for prevention in the future
- Name, signature, position of person completing report
- Address of center
- Signature of parent/guardian (or injured staff member) that copy of report was received.

SAFETY INTERNET RESOURCES


ARM (Adventist Risk Management) recommends that a current copy of the Handbook for Public Playground Safety be kept on hand at each ECE center and be reviewed by all staff members after each publication update. Playground Safety Publications: www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/playpubs.html
You may remember that the NPUC early childhood education department offered $500 to the first three centers who responded, to be used toward attendance at the National Association for the Education on Young Children (NAEYC) Convention in Anaheim, CA, Nov. 3-6. Below are comments from two of those centers.

“Last November three of my co-workers Michele Lundgren-Nelson, Eileen Golden, Gretchen Pfeiffer, and I, had the privilege of attending the NAEYC Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. We, along with child care educators from across the US and around the world gathered to learn new skills for building quality programs, to be inspired with creative ideas, and be encouraged as educators. We were not disappointed.

The seminars and fellowship made the trip worth the effort. The topics ranged from infant to school age, covered a variety of curriculum subjects, and professional and program development.

On being able to attend this national convention, Michele commented, ‘I felt supported in what I do.’

We would encourage everyone who has the opportunity to attend the next NAEYC conference. Like us, I’m sure you won’t be disappointed.”

Annette Clark, Infant Teacher
Discoveryland Child Development Center, Portland, OR

“Shopping for Childcare Management Software?

According to Emerging Technologies, OFFICE CENTER is a management and accounting software that makes a world of difference.

Every center is a bit unique, and that’s the reason they’ve created Office Center to be extremely flexible.

In addition to the wide variety of built-in accounting and database reports, you can easily custom design your own reports to accommodate your specific needs! It interfaces directly with Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel with the simplest touch of a button.

Their advanced layout allows you to skip around in open forms. It’s simple to complete even the most complicated tasks with a minimum of effort, and it’s easy to find information. In fact, it’s so friendly it even talks to you! And many features are provided at no extra cost.

Quality, simplicity, and customer support have been the cornerstones of their success (they tout the best support policy in the business.) Call for a free demo CD: 800-729-4445 (Stacey Mozina) More info available at: www.etwebsite.com
Let’s Get Acquainted...

Great Falls, Montana was the birthplace and childhood home of Shani McConnachie (Shay-nee Ma-con-kee) until she ventured to Coeur D’Alene, Idaho for college. Married to husband Dean for ten years, the McConnachies have an eight year old son, Cade.

Dean and Shani serve as youth pastors for their church. Shani also loves playing and coaching basketball and serves as coach for basketball and volleyball at Lake City Junior Academy.

“Hiking, bike riding—anything active and/or outdoors you will find me and my family doing.”

After being a part of the business world for a number of years Shani joined the staff of LCJA in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho (located in the northern Idaho panhandle) four years ago. She now serves as the director of the LCJA preschool. “I love being part of the ‘firsts’: teaching children about God, about praying... all the ‘firsts’ are a gift from God!” Shani continues, “I am very active and hands on. My program is made to be versatile. Kids learn in so many different ways so I have made my program adaptable. One of the children’s favorites is sign language. A letter and word of the week.”

Shani’s growing program includes eighteen 3-5 year olds, with a full time assistant (about whom Shani adds, “Trina Sage is amazing!”).

Melissa Harriss is a recent transplant to the Northwest, having been born and raised in Texas. In 2010 she graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a degree in elementary education, with early childhood emphasis.

In 2008 Melissa volunteered for a year of service at the Adventist school in Dillingham, Alaska (population 2,000, located near Bristol Bay in southwestern AK), and fell in love with the people, the scenery, and the culture. The feeling was mutual as upon graduation she was eagerly hired to direct the combined pre-K/ kindergarten program which currently has nine students. With Melissa’s hobbies and interests being traveling, photography, Alaskan scenery and nature, reading and kayaking, it’s a perfect fit.

Melissa comments, “My school is located in bush Alaska. We have two small grocery stores. We don’t have a Wal-Mart or Dollar Tree to grab art supplies or toys. Even if I can find what I need in the stores here it is really expensive. I really have to plan ahead to make sure I have the needed supplies for upcoming units.”

She continues, “Though we are an Adventist school, we are a mission school. Most of our 30 students don’t have an Adventist background. Of my nine students only one has Adventist parents.” It’s no surprise that Bible activities top Melissa’s list of favorites for some of her students have never heard even the basic Bible stories.

Our Challenge

One year ago Newsweek magazine combed through its most popular books, movies, music and TV shows to sort out current American “obsessions”. What they found is quite concerning. In looking at the top categories...

| 70% - violence  | 20% - vampires |
| 60% - money     | 10% - politics |
| 45% - sex       | 10% - God      |
| 40% - youth     |                |

...one can’t help but wonder, “How do we prepare young children for the future? What a responsibility it is for us in Adventist early childhood education to shield children from these negative obsessions while making God the focal point of each day. The challenge of child evangelism is the challenge of developing each child’s spiritual domain.

Christine Gillan Byrne, Ed.S.

Blessings in 2011 from me and mine to YOU and YOURS!

-Sue