

Sioux Empire Childcare Network

monthly newsletter

December 2007

~December Meeting~

When:

Tuesday,
Dec. 4th
From 7 - 9 pm.

Where:

At the home of Cindy Brannum. Please RSVP at SEN@sdfcc.org by Dec. 30th. Cindy's address will be given at that time.

Agenda:

"Pamper Us Night"
Please share an appetizer or dessert. Other highlights of the evening:

- Artist & Jewelry Display
- Wine Sampling
- Massage Opportunity
- Spa Product Sampling

Future Meetings:

Jan. 8th
Feb. 12th

We are a small, friendly group always looking for new people to join us!



~Reindeer Food~



YOU NEED:

- Plain oatmeal
- Green and red glitter
- Large mixing bowl
- Individual bags (Ziploc or brown paper bag)

Begin a discussion with the children about how we leave cookies and milk for Santa. Then ask, "What about the reindeer?" Explain, surely they are hungry too. Ask your children what they think reindeer like to eat. Lead the discussion to conclude with oats.

Have the children measure the oatmeal into a large mixing bowl. Then take turns shaking the glitter in. The glitter adds sparkle to the food so the reindeer will see it from up in the sky. Each child takes their own bag of reindeer food home with directions for use stapled to the bag. You may suggestion to place the reindeer food in a cake pan when setting it outside. This will aid in future clean up!



Stages of Professionalism for Family Child Care

It always gives me comfort to look ahead, with any given project, and know where I am going or what path I am taking. This especially holds true with decisions I make for my family child care business. I came across the information below while seeking my Child Development Credential (CDA). This is an example of an outline or path that could be taken by family child care professionals. Warning: Hang on for the ride, because life sometimes provides interesting detours.

Survival

Stage 1

- Providers new to the field tend to devote most of their attention to learning routines and performing tasks.
- At times, they may feel insecure as they face the challenges of establishing a business in their homes and balancing their professional roles with their personal life.
- The concentrated focus is on immediate needs rather than long-term planning.
- It is important to seek out other providers and training opportunities.
- Establish a support network for yourself. Join a professional network or association.

Consolidation

Stage 2

- At this stage, providers become more confident and begin to look beyond simply completing daily routines.
- Most likely they have developed some systems that work for them.
- They have time to find new ways to accomplish routines tasks, and problems, and consider long-term goals.
- Active involvement in provider networks and associations are an opportunity for continued learning, as well as, a means of helping others in the same field.
- Providers may seek a higher level of learning through accreditation from the National Association for Family Child Care or assessment as a Child Development Associate (CDA).

Renewal

Stage 3

- Providers in this stage may need a renewal – new challenges to rekindle their excitement and commitment to caring for children.
- Providers will seek conferences, hold an office in a professional organization, or pursue specialized care such as respite care.

Maturity

Stage 4

- Providers at this stage are committed professionals.
- They understand the need to seek new ideas and skills.
- They become Mentors assisting providers entering the field of family child care.
- They may expand their licensing, specialize in a specific age group, or chose to work with special needs children.

**As a Childcare Professional, do you need:
support? ideas? encouragement?**

Sioux Empire Childcare Network

Our local network is a wonderful way to meet other providers and gain valuable information for your business. Please feel free to drop in on one of our monthly meetings. We are an easy group to get to know! At different times through out the year, the network provides workshops that providers can receive credit for those hours required by the City of Sioux Falls, Brandon, and the State of S. Dak. The network also provides parents in the community with a list of the openings currently available among its members. Check out their new website at www.SEChildCareNetwork.com. We are in just the beginning stages. It is a work in progress. We hope to have available resource information, our current list of openings, and a forum where parents and care givers can share important thoughts and information. A big thanks needs to go out to Cari Lindner for sharing her time and talents with this project!

Family Child Care Professionals of South Dakota

If you are looking for an opportunity to join a state provider association, this is a great choice. Their web site is found at www.SDFCC.org. Take a peak at the numerous resources and links that you will find on this site. The site provides great information for providers and parents alike! Check out the Photo Album or Bulletin Board Forum to see and hear from members of our SEN Networking Group and other providers across the state. You can get on the forum directly at www.sdfcc.net/forums. A short registration process is all that is required to post messages. I have to say there are some resources that can be found in these posts that my business could not do without.

SDAEC

South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children

The Mission of the South Dakota Association for the Education of Young Children is to serve and act on behalf of the needs, rights, and well-being of all young children with the primary focus on the provision of quality care and education services; and SDAEYC leads the effort to foster the growth, development, and collaboration of the professionals who care for and educate young children. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Sioux Falls Chapter of SDAEYC, please share your interest with Misty Barber at mistybbr@sio.midco.net. For more information, check out their website at www.sdaeYC.org.



CHILDREN RAISE VOICES IN JOY...

Tis Christmas

Sung To: "Away in a Manger"

'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas!
The Christmas bells ring.
The birthday of Jesus
Our Savior and King.
'tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas!
The candles all glow;
The birthday of Jesus
Let everyone know.
'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas!
The Christmas star shine
The birthday of Jesus
A glad, happy time!
'Tis Christmas! 'Tis Christmas!
Our Bible recalls
The birthday of Jesus
God's love gift to all.

Wise Men Still Seek Him

Sung To: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle, little star (hold diamond shaped hands above head)
Wise men followed from afar (shield eyes with hand)
They found the boy of whom we sing (hold out hand to show height of a little boy)
And gave him gifts fit for a king (arms, as if giving a gift)
They fell right down and gave a nod (kneel and bow head)
Jesus was the promised gift from God (clasp hands as if in prayer)

<http://www.preschooleducation.com/scchristmas.shtml>

Five Little Angels

One little angel standing next to you.
Here comes another, now there are two.
Two little angels singing with me.
In flies another one, now there are three.
Three little angels right outside my door.
Here comes another one, now there are four.
Four little angels dancin' a jive.
In comes another one, now there are five.
Five little angels joined the choir to sing
Praise and adoration to the newborn King.

J-E-S-U-S

Sung To: "Bingo"

The Lord above us gave his son and Jesus was his name-o.
J-E-S-U-S! J-E-S-U-S! J-E-S-U-S!
And Jesus was his name-o.
A Savior born on Christmas Day, And Jesus is His name-o.
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,
And Jesus is His name-o.
Wise men still seek Him today, And Jesus is His name-o.
J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S, J-E-S-U-S,
And Jesus is His name-o.

