



Happy Summer everyone!
Since summer is such a busy time, our newsletter will be a bit LESS busy for July and August. Have fun with the Summer Songs from the May newsletter (if you need tunes feel free to call Denita at 362-9065 and she will happily sing them for you). We will still be meeting monthly but our agenda will be about enjoying each other's company and some much needed R and R!
Enjoy your summer!

Our Next Meeting:

WHEN: Tuesday, July 11th, 7:00 pm

WHERE: The home of Denita Dinger. Contact Denita at either leroydi@hotmail.com or 362-9065. If you are emailing make sure to put Childcare Network in the subject line.

WHAT: We are planning an evening of relaxing around the fire pit with old friends and new. Please bring munchies to share, a beverage of your choice, and any burning issues you would like to discuss. You may also want to bring a chair in case we run short.

Summer "Meetings"

Tuesday, Aug. 8th: We are gathering at Olive Garden at 7pm for great food and even better conversation. Please RSVP to Pam at stefan@sio.midco.net by Sunday, Aug. 6th so we can give the Olive Garden a final count.

F.Y.I.

SeChildcareNetwork

Cari Lindner, a member of our Networking Group, has developed a discussion group called SeChildcareNetwork. It is FREE OF CHARGE and provided and monitored by Yahoo Groups preventing spam and making the site secure. To receive more information, contact Cari Lindner at 543-5435 or csindner@msn.com. Please visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SeChildCareNetwork> for the opportunity to sign up and view the site Cari created. This discussion group is for childcare providers in South Dakota offering friendship and support in all aspects of our careers from much needed venting to programming and business building ideas.

Family Child Care Professionals of South Dakota

Another great resource for childcare providers is the Family Childcare Professionals of South Dakota. The web site is www.SDFCC.org. Take a peak at the various resources and links that you will find on this site. Just click on "NETWORKING" then click on "SIOUX EMPIRE CHILD CARE NETWORK". There you will be able to view a copy of this newsletter. Take a look at the Photo Album or Bulletin Board Forum to see and hear from members of our networking group. There is a lot of great information for providers and parents alike!



South Dakota 211 is a database on line 24/7. You can access more than 3,000 social service, government, and community programs available through out South Dakota with the click of your mouse! Check it out! If you get stuck, email Pam at stefan@sio.midco.net and she will give you a hand!

South Dakota Public Broadcasting Television is pleased to announce that beginning on May 29, 2006, the acclaimed series "Signing Time!" will begin its new broadcast schedule. During the summer months, "Signing Time!" will air on SDPB TV on Monday and Friday afternoons from 2:00-2:30 p.m. Central Time/ 1:00-1:30 p.m. Mountain Time. We hope that your children and their friends will watch the program at these times and learn American Sign Language in a fun and easy way! The companion website for the series is www.signingtimekids.org.

Sherri Rodgers
Director, Education & Outreach Services
South Dakota Public Broadcasting
555 N. Dakota St.



Training Opportunity to become a Mentor through S.Dak.'s Mentor Program

In April's newsletter, I explained the benefits of the Mentor Program for providers just starting their businesses or for those providers experiencing burn out. Now, I wish to visit with you about the benefits of actually being a mentor. If you enjoy sharing those things that you value and cherish the most about your business with others, than this up coming training might just be the thing for you.

The training will be taking place in Pierre on September 22& 23 on a Friday and Saturday. It will entail two days of training on the following subjects: communication, skills for mentoring, finding valuable resources, diversity and special needs mentoring. Meals and the cost of your room will be provided for you by a Division of Child Care Services.

During the next month, a mailing will be sent out to each registered provider. If you have provided child care for at least three years, you may be eligible to participate in the mentor program.

If you enjoy gifting others your experience and knowledge, than this is the program for you. If you equally enjoy receiving those gifts from others, than you are going to benefit in ways you could never imagine. Not only will this training be attended by persons seeking to become a mentor like yourself, but also by many other mentors trained over the last 3 years who are coming to brush up on skills, as well. Meeting other providers across the state, doing what you do day in and day out, is an experience you don't want to miss. Networking with these individuals is an experience of a life time.

For more information on the mentor program please check out the information on the Family Child Care Professionals of South Dakota web site at <http://www.sdfcc.org/Professional/Mentor.htm> . If you would like to visit with a mentor in the program, feel free to contact me at stefan@sio.midco.net. Pamela J. Stefanich

