



Sioux Empire

Childcare Network

monthly newsletter

March 2006

March Meeting

when: Tuesday, March 7th @ 7:00 pm

where: The lobby of the Women's Resource Center in Medical Building 1 on the Campus of Sioux Valley Hospital. Enter up the ramp on the left side of the building. Turn right down a long hallway. At the end of this hall is suite 204. This is the lobby of the Women's Resource Center.

agenda: Pam Stefanich is going to share an activity she experienced at the National Daycare Provider's Conference in Denver. Participants are needed! After this activity, your individual cups are going to be much fuller than when you arrived! That is a promise.

future meeting dates:

Tuesday evenings: April 4th, and May 9th. Watch for each month's meeting place in upcoming newsletters.

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

Question of the Month



What is your favorite "fun" snack recipe?

Applesauce Pops

from the kitchen of: Sharon Hurley

Spoon $\frac{1}{2}$ cup applesauce into seven 5 oz. cups. Insert a wooden stick for a handle. Cover and freeze until firm.

Mix

from the kitchen of Renae Boehmer

Ingredients:

anything snackable in your cupboards

- 1) Choose one child to write the recipe. Let them choose snackable ingredients from the cupboard and write them on a recipe card along with how much of that ingredient.
- 2) Child #2 creates the mix by following the recipe child #1 wrote.
- 3) Child #3 serves the snack to the waiting hungry children!

Not only is this a great snack, it's also a great literacy and math lesson as well!

Cloud Sandwich

from the kitchen of: Sharon Hurley

Ingredients:

graham crackers
marshmallow crème

Spread some marshmallow crème between two graham crackers.

Quickies

from the kitchen of Michelle Peterson

cheese and pretzels
cheese and crackers warmed or cold
raisins and graham crackers
apples and peanut butter

more snack recipes...


Bambi or Rudolph Snack

(depending on time of year)

from the kitchen of: Pam Stefanich

Ingredients:

toasted bread cut into triangles
raisins(eyes)
pretzels(antlers)
maraschino cherries(nose)

- 1) the triangle is the deer head: 
- 2) spread with butter or peanut butter
- 3) add raisin eyes, cherry nose and pretzel antlers

Easy Combos:

turkey slices and baby carrots
crackers and string cheese
graham crackers and pudding
graham crackers and yogurt
veggies and dip with crackers
apple sauce and Pillsbury cinnamon rolls

Tortilla Roll-ups

from the kitchen of: Denita Dinger

Ingredients:

small tortilla shells
various items: cheese & turkey, peanut butter& jelly,
butter & cinnamon/sugar etc.

Place items on tortilla, roll and enjoy!

The new question of the month is:

how have you benefited from government grants?

Let us know the value you have found in taking the time to apply for grants. Just email a list of valuable items you use in your child care business that were acquired with the help of grant money to Denita Dinger at leroydi@hotmail.com please put "child care grants" in the subject.



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

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 cslindner@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!

1st Annual State Family Child Care Conference

Friday Night May 5th - Saturday, May 6th



Please plan to join us at the BEAUTIFUL Sheraton Hotel in Sioux Falls. Our Conference committee is busy planning all the details and it is going to be **OUTSTANDING!**

We have a wonderful Keynote Speaker: **Lynn A. Manfredi-Petitt** author of *Circle of Love: Relationships Between Parents, Providers and Children in Family Child Care*.

Outstanding classes for family child care professionals, with a focus on the unique aspects of our industry will be offered.

You will be able to attend 7.5 hours of training, have a wonderful lunch, and celebrate with others who love and care for children in their homes. We want to meet you there!

If you are interested in volunteering either at the conference, prior to the conference, or after the conference, please email Pam Stefanich @ stefan@sio.midco.net with any interest and availability you may have. All help is greatly appreciated!

Facility: Lynette Lohan

Decorations/Hospitality: Debby Bullis

Vendors: Camille Dunnick and Melissa Albert

Work Shop: Renae Boehmer

Registration: Bobbe Wingert

Volunteers: Pam Stefanich

Logo/Shirts: Denita Dinger

Door Prizes: Tammy Remillard

Table Decorations: Gina Penisten



the Source taxes

Hiring a Tax Preparer

Look for a tax preparer that understands the family child care business. You ideally want a tax preparer that knows the questions to ask to get the most out of the deductions you are allowed. Here are some key questions to ask a potential tax preparer:

- What kind of training does the tax preparer have? Look for someone who is an enrolled agent, or EA (a credential that is issued by the IRS after the preparer passes a test), a certified public accountant (CPA), or a tax attorney, or a tax preparer who specializes in family child care taxes.
- How many family child care tax returns did the tax preparer complete last year?
- How many family child care tax returns that the tax preparer signed have been audited over the years? Was the preparer at fault in any of the audits?
- What does the preparer charge? Is the fee based on a flat amount per return or an hourly rate? If your tax return is complicated, a flat amount per return is usually preferable. Make sure you ask about all fees up front.
- Do you feel comfortable with the person?

Commonly asked Questions During Tax Preparation

- Should I depreciate my home as a business expense? (Yes, it is always better to take this deduction.)
- May I count in my Time-Space calculation the hours I spend cleaning my house, doing activity preparation, record keeping, and preparing meals for my business, after the children are gone? (YES)
- May I deduct as a food expense an amount greater than the reimbursement I received from the Food Program? (YES. you can deduct all food served to the children in you care.)
- May I depreciate the furniture and appliances that I purchased before I went into business? (YES)
- If I have an assistant whose only job is working for me 20 hours a week, can I treat her as an independent contractor? (NO, the IRS treats all assistants as employees) ... continued on next page

taxes continued...

If the tax preparer you are considering doesn't answer these questions correctly, and insists the above answers are wrong, you are probably better off looking elsewhere. If the preparer is willing to spend the time to learn more about your business, you may be able to work together.

Remember that even if you are using a tax preparer, you still have the responsibility of keeping good records for your business. Before you mail your tax return to the IRS, make sure you understand everything that the preparer did. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT IS ON YOUR TAX RETURN.**

Ask questions until you understand why the tax preparer made all the calculations. If you are audited and your tax preparer is unavailable, you will have to defend your return yourself.

source: Family Child Care Record-Keeping Guide by Tom Copeland, JD

a NEW source for providers in the sioux empire!

Tonya Ahrendt of Sioux Valley Child Services has given Pam Stefanich a very nice selection of Tom Copeland books to be checked out by providers in the Sioux Empire. They are the property of Child Services and those of you choosing to check them out will be asked for a deposit which will be returned to you when the book is returned to Pam. Below is the list of books currently available:

Tom Copeland books:

Family Child Care Record-Keeping Guide
Family Child Care Marketing Guide
Contracts & Policies
Legal & Insurance Guide
The Business of Family Child Care -- video

and also:

The Early Childhood Mentoring Curriculum, A Handbook for Mentors by Dan Bellm, Marcy Whitebook, Patty Hnatiuk

MARCH MAHEM

Chase a Leprechaun!

(tune of "Mary had a Little Lamb")

This little leprechaun skips along,
skips along, skips along!
I might catch him skipping along,
And find his pot of gold!

Feel free to change the actions of the leprechaun: crawls, rolls, creeps, tip toes, gallops etc. Let the children move like the leprechaun.

source: Funshine Express

Sneaky Little Leprechaun

(tune of: The Itsy Bitsy Spider)

A sneaky, little leprechaun,
peeking out today!
Looking for his gold,
And the rainbow far away!
Hiding in the shamrocks,
Surprising all who see...
The sneaky little leprechaun,
peeking out at me!

source: Funshine Express

