



Early Edition

A publication of ACSI Eastern Canada - Early Education Division

Enabling the Early Childhood Educator

Summer 2009

Issues



Updates



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ACSI News

Faith and Learning...

As Christian childcare centres, our uniqueness lies in our ability to integrate faith with learning, not in isolated pockets of time but rather simultaneously so that it is one and the same. It is our faith that drives us to do what we do, the energy that fuels us with the capacity to serve the needs of the Kingdom and the wisdom to know how to transform lives through Him. Just as our faith informs all aspects of our lives so should it shape all areas of our teaching.

Our role as directors is to create an environment in which our children and parents can see God in their surroundings and in their lives so that faith becomes a living part of how they respond to the world around them. Establishing a Christian world view during their formative years lay the basis for their attitude to school, work and life. Perhaps the most challenging responsibility we have is learning how to develop and manage a strong sense of communication with others, solve conflicts as they arise and learning to love those who don't want to be loved! We need to be living models 24/7 for the Kingdom and be able to embrace, face on, the mountains that often rise in front of us. I am often reminded of the words from "Our World Belongs to God" which says:

The rule of Jesus Christ covers the whole world.
To follow this Lord is to serve him everywhere,
Without fitting in,
As light in the darkness
As salt in a spoiling world.

As we teach our young children about the blessings that God gives us, we also need to share the struggles that we will encounter with our faith in a secular world. Christians are both light and salt to the world and what enables us to sustain this balance in our lives is our ongoing faith walk with Him.

Dr. Stephanie Ling, Early Education Director

A Noteworthy Quote...



- "A good exercise for the heart is to bend down and help another up."
"Never lose sight of the fact that the most important yardstick of your success will be how you treat other people."
"Only when we have knelt before God, can we stand before men."

Professional Development

ACSI Summer Institute

If you are looking for some great opportunities for professional development within ACSI, check out their Summer Institute from July 20-23rd on our website at www.acsiec.org to download the registration form and schedule of courses. It will be held at Redeemer University College in Ancaster, Ontario.

ACSI IEELC

 **ACSI International Early Education Leadership Conference**
September 30–October 2, 2009 Colorado Springs, Colorado
Featuring **Wess Stafford** (Compassion Int) & **Jim Daly** (Focus on the Family)

This is an awesome time to connect with our professional colleagues from North America and other countries. There are great speakers:

- Dr. Wess Stafford: President of Compassion International,
- Jim Daly, President/CEO of Focus on the Family,
- Dr. Milt Uecker, dean of the Graduate School at Columbia International University in South Carolina and
- Michael Evans, Assistant Director of ACSI Urban School Services.

For more information, go to www.acsi.org and download the full conference schedule.

"That in all things He might have pre-eminence" Colossians 1:18

Roles of a Director....



A childcare director's role has many functions some of which need to be learned as you go along. However, here are a few basic roles you need to fill:

- **Figurehead:** as a child care director you may be asked to perform many ceremonial duties. For example, you may be required to conduct tours of the facilities, speak at your church, service clubs and civic organizations, and attend functions hosted by regulatory groups of people in the province.
- **Leader:** you are recognized as a leader in every aspect of the work. Your attitude and outlook will serve as guide for colleagues, teachers and staff. You may need to evaluate and upgrade staff performance, reduce conflict, provide feedback on performance, and encourage professional growth and development.
- **Monitor:** a child care director must be aware of everything that is going on in a program. You will need to collect information by both asking questions and by formal means (such as meetings, memos, and reports).
- **Peacemaker:** you will need to handle scheduling problems, parental complaints and help smooth the way for positive interactions amongst staff as well.
- **Resource Person:** you will be responsible for deciding how scarce resources such as fees, budgets, materials, time, and how equipment will be distributed.

Although these are roles that you are seen embracing, there are many other tasks involved. To do them well, you need to be very competent and skilled in managing multiple tasks simultaneously. Officially, the Day Nurseries Act outlines the required responsibilities in great detail, but the following reflect a subjective description of what else is involved in the day of a director.

Quoted from an old childcare directors' manual, the following may still apply in today's context. Some obvious and not so obvious areas of your responsibilities include the following:

- You have to ensure that all the areas in the center, including the bathrooms, are clean and that there is adequate food for all the children.
- You have to be good at allocating resources well.
- You need to know if you should hire another teacher for the daycare or if you should make the teachers do extra shifts instead.
- You need to know what activities will benefit the kids most at the least cost.
- You will need to build a good rapport with young families.
- You have to make sure that the parents of the children feel safe leaving their children at the daycare.
- You need to have good communication skills with adults. You need to be competent as a businessperson and as a negotiator.
- Not only that, you also need good communication skills with children.
- One of the hardest tasks is balancing family time and work time.
- With your school parents, you need to help educate them so that their children are seen as human beings needing their care and not to be seen as a hassle or a problem.

Although outdated to some extent, these indicate that many skills are timeless and are applicable to us today. Our world is so much more sophisticated in terms of what our children know and understand yet the basics of treating each other with dignity and respect still hold true and sound as well as learning how to communicate effectively with each other. This is a life long learning process and it gets better with practice. No matter how many years you spend in directing a centre, there is always an opportunity to learn how to do things better.

Summer Reading & Resources.....



The following are great resources to help plan and develop strong foundations in all levels of teaching:

Cut and Tell Bible Stories (Gr. PreK - 3)

A snip here and a clip there in a folded piece of paper help teachers create an impressive visual aid. Ages 2 -8
64 pages (\$13.95) #12-3361

Bringing God's Seasons Inside (Gr. K - 3)

Great ideas that link the Gospel and the school year. Fun ways to increase student involvement.
Ages 5-8 (\$13.95) #124013

Bulletin Boards for Busy Hands (Gr. 2 -5)

A fun collection of 52 interactive ideas that follow biblical themes, holidays and Bible stories.#123261
All available from Augsburg Fortress Publications.



No Expiry Date...Friendship

Nurturing a friendship is like caring for your garden. You spread and water the seeds and pull out the irksome weeds. Soon the seeds will take root and your garden flourishes with abundance. At harvest time you discover all the love and care you have put in your garden which has produced a bountiful crop beyond your expectations.

You're never alone, I'm always near,
When you're troubled, down or blue.
Pick up the phone or send me a note,
I'm always here for you.



It doesn't matter where I'm at,
It doesn't matter when.
When you need someone to talk to,
I'm here to be your friend.

If you need someone to hold your hand,
or a hug to say I care.
If you need a shoulder to cry on,
for you I will be there.

Never feel you are a burden,
when the weight is too much to bare.
You might find if you look close enough,
a good friend will always be there.



Summer Earth...

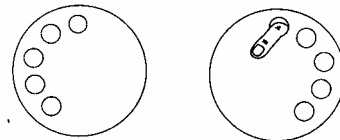
Summertime is usually a relaxing, fun season for everyone, but sometimes, we are too relaxed to care about our environment. We

see people littering and not being aware of such hazards for animals, people and the earth itself. Talk with the children about keeping their community and the whole Earth by not littering and picking up litter when they see it. Explain how birds or small animals may pick up small bits of plastic on the ground or other toxic refuse that was carelessly discarded. Take the children for a walk around the community and help them work out a weekly summer project in keeping their school and neighborhood environmentally healthy for everyone. Every litter bit hurts!

Poetry in Action...



Noodles and Numbers



Materials Required:

Paper plates Scissors and a Sunny Day!

Method:

1. Draw 5 circles the size of your finger on the plate.
2. Cut out the circles to make holes. Put one finger in the hole, wiggle it and begin the poem. Add more fingers as you add more 'noodles'.

One small noodle (*wiggle finger*)
On my noodle plate.

Salt and pepper (*pretend to sprinkle with other hand*)
Taste just great.
Mother's going to the store,
Mother, mother, get some more.

Two small noodles... (*stick in second finger*)
Three small noodles... (*continue up to five fingers*)
Mother, mother, (*shake head no*)
I don't need more!

Icy Tidbits for Summer Science...

Colored Ice Cubes

Quantity of water
3 ice cube trays
3 clear plastic glasses
Red, yellow, blue food coloring



1. Tint the water with food coloring and freeze to make one tray each of red, yellow and blue ice cubes.
2. Place 3 clear plastic glasses on a table outside and put a different colored ice cube into each glass.
3. Periodically, have the children observe as the ice changes to colored water.
4. Then place a red ice cube and a yellow one together in another glass and have the children observe them as the ice melts and creates the orange color.
5. Repeat the process using a blue and yellow ice cube to make green and then combine a red and blue cube to make purple.
6. Let the children experiment on their own using the remaining colored ice cubes.
7. Variation: in keeping with a theme, you can place plastic fish, animals, shapes etc. inside the ice cube trays before freezing them. All children love watching the cubes melt to reveal the hidden treasures !

Ice Cream In a Bag

Science Question:

If you cool liquids down, how do they change? This fun experiment allows young minds to explore and observe how freezing changes the properties of milk.

1 cup milk	2 tbsp. Sugar	1/4 c. salt
ice cubes	towel	twist tie
2 resealable sandwich bags		plastic shopping bag
larger resealable bag		

- Add sugar and milk to the small bag. Taste it; remove some of the air and seal it. Seal this bag inside another sandwich bag.
- Place ice cubes in the bottom of the big bag; add the small bag of milk & surround with more ice cubes. Sprinkle salt over the ice and seal the bag.
- Wrap a towel around the bag of ice; place into the plastic shopping bag and seal with the twist tie.
- Shake the bag for about 15 minutes; remove the small bag and quickly rinse off the salt with cold water. Enjoy the newly made ice cream !
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Taking Care of our World...



Earth Week

National Earth Day does not need to be limited to only one day; focus on this awareness for a full week .

Monday: Save-a-Tree Day

Try to spend an entire day without using paper. Be creative and have the children be conscious of paper products.

Tuesday: Walk-to-School Day

For children who live too far away to walk or bike to school, have groups of them dropped off down the street and walk the rest of the way with some of the adults.

Wednesday: Rain Forest Day

Hang strips of green crepe paper from wires or rope stretched across the room. Have the children draw, color and cut out pictures of rain forest animals to hang on these "vines". Develop their imagination and dramatize living in the rain forest.

Thursday: Endangered Animal Day

Visit the library or local zoo to study endangered animals. Make a class mural of endangered species and discuss ways to help save them.

Friday: Planting Day

Plant a tree, bush or plant on school property. If this is not possible, then plant various flower seeds in a window box or in separate milk cartons. When they are large enough to transplant, then the children can take them outdoors or give to someone for their garden.

A Lasting Impression...



Friendship

A friend is like a flower,
a rose to be exact,
Or maybe like a brand new gate
that never comes unlatched.
A friend is like an owl,
both beautiful and wise.
Or perhaps a friend is like a ghost,
whose spirit never dies.
A friend is like a heart that goes
strong until the end.
Where would we be in this world
if we didn't have a friend. -