

Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections* for January 2007

Volume 5

Greetings! We hope that everyone has had a relaxing holiday season and that they are off to a good start this year! We have been working on some exciting new features to our website! Visit us at www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren.

Survey We are attaching the brief survey that we sent out last month in a separate e-mail. If you have not yet completed it, won't you please take 5 minutes to complete it? It would be great to have *your* input. Please turn it in by January 31, 2007.

Just a few more days at this low price!: Early Bird Registration for the WTC Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference ends **January 15, 2007**. Register while this amazing deal is still available: \$45 for the full conference!!

The 2007 Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference will be held **May 2 - 4, 2007** at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Interested? To view the type of sessions that are being planned, check out last year's Conference program at the link below.

<http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference2006/WTC%20Conference%20MASTER.pdf>

We hope to see you at the 2007 Conference!!! Register for the 2007 conference online:

http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/attendee_form.asp

Upcoming Workshop Sessions:

- **February 8 – 9, 2007** – North Little Rock – Institute for Healing Racism (contact Brenda Reynolds at reynoldsbrendak@uams.edu or 501-922-1880 for information)
- **February 19, 2007** - AR state HIPPIY Conference
- **February 22, 2007** - Searcy – WTC training (*tentative*)

New features on our website:

- **Archived E-bulletins-** Interested in seeing past issues of WTC Cultural Connections? Go to our website and click on the "What's New!" link or follow this link http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/whats_new/
- **Message Board-** Welcome the Children is starting an online message board to allow you to post questions, reply to other postings and share your experiences in working with children and families from diverse cultures. The link will be added to the "What's New!" section of the Welcome the Children website soon.

Articles and Websites of interest: (*Please note that any opinions included in articles are not necessarily those of WTC staff.*)

Authentic Happiness: As we are coming up on a time of year with cold weather, dismal landscapes, broken New Year's resolutions, etc., it is important to focus on what makes us happy. This website is by a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Martin Seligman, author of the book *Authentic Happiness* and director of the University of Pennsylvania Positive Psychology Center. The site offers several questionnaires related to life satisfaction. It is free, but you do have to register and they use the survey results (anonymously) for research purposes.

<http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/>

"Millions of U.S. Families "Linguistically Isolated," Census finds" This article (see attachment) includes statistics from the census about language communities around the country.

Genki English! This is a fun (and big) site with curricula and activities to be used in the classroom. The site and its materials were initially designed for use by teachers of Japanese children learning English but they are now used all over the world. The website states, "'Genki' is a really cool Japanese word that means 'fun', 'lively', 'energetic', 'full of life.' There isn't really a word for it in English, but if you try these ideas in your classroom, you'll know what it means!" The link below is for a page on early childhood games and activities that reinforce English vocabulary. There are full color photos of children doing the activities (many of which are very active) and a section where readers comment on variations they have used in their own classrooms. Check it out:

<http://genkienglish.net/kindergarten.htm>

New Workshops from Welcome the Children Project:

As we enter the New Year, consider having the WTC team present to your organization! We are excited about our newly developed training sessions. These are 2 stand-alone sessions that provide information on special topics in response to your questions and concerns raised in the Module 1 and 2 workshops:

Title: *Welcome the Children: “I said, You said, and then the Interpreter says ...”*

What can you as a teacher, service provider, or director, do to make interpreter-assisted parent conferences comfortable and effective for all involved? What qualities should you look for in an interpreter? This workshop showcases steps to conduct successful conferences with family members who are not fluent in English. **Duration of workshop:** 1 hour. For more information about having this training brought to your area, please contact Darlene Kurtz at 501-682-9900 or kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu

Title: *Welcome the Children: Making the Connection to Real Objects*

Connecting with Latino families through familiar objects can bring a wonderful and important cultural exchange into the classroom. Come explore real objects and simple resources to help you make these connections. **Duration of workshop:** 2-4 hours. For more information about having this training brought to your area, please contact Sabrina Zarco at 501-682-9900 or zarcosabrinae@uams.edu

Want to be a WTC trainer? We are planning to offer **train-the-trainer** sessions periodically throughout the year for people who have already attended the full two modules of WTC training and who meet the trainer guidelines. If you are interested in more information about **becoming a Welcome the Children Community Trainer, please contact Tanya Miller** by e-mail: millertanyas@uams.edu or phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD). Tanya works part-time and is generally in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Want to receive WTC training? WTC provides free training to early childhood professionals across Arkansas. If you have a group of people who work with children and families in the early childhood arena and would like us come to your area to provide training, please contact Sabrina Zarco zarcosabrinae@uams.edu or Darlene Kurtz kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu for more information. By phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

What’s going on in your “neck of the woods”? We welcome submissions of updates on culture related activities you are working on in your communities and events or other information you’d like to share. Please send items for consideration to Tanya Miller at millertanyas@uams.edu with “submission” in the subject line. We reserve the right to select and edit submissions.

Our Website Visit us at www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren to stay up-to-date on Welcome the Children project activities.

For more information, Contact Tanya Miller by e-mail: millertanyas@uams.edu or phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD). Or by mail: Partners for Inclusive Communities Attn: Tanya Miller / 2001 Pershing Circle, Suite 300 / North Little Rock, AR 72114-7199. Tanya works part-time and is generally available in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

To subscribe or un-subscribe If you wish to be added or removed from Welcome the Children e-mail distribution list, please e-mail Tanya Miller at millertanyas@uams.edu and put “add me to the WTC e-mail list” or “remove me from the WTC e-mail list” in the subject line.

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