

Hello,

You have expressed interest in receiving more information about Welcome the Children Project or have attended our recent conference. In order to disseminate information about upcoming training sessions, resources, events in the community, and other information on culture and language, we have started a monthly e-bulletin. Below, you will find our first issue! If you do not wish to receive this monthly e-bulletin, please see below to un-subscribe, but we hope that you will enjoy it!

Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections* for September 2006 Volume 1

Save this Date!!! 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. Look for additional information coming soon! Our first annual conference was held in May 2006 and was filled with excellent speakers and excited participants. In case you missed it, please check out the 2006 Conference program at <http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference2006/WTC%20Conference%20MASTER.pdf> We hope to see you at the 2007 Conference!!!

Upcoming Trainings

- **Little Rock:** Register now for our upcoming WTC trainings in Little Rock, scheduled for September 28 and 29, 2006. Welcome the Children project provides training for Early Childhood Professionals serving Latin American families and currently includes two full-day modules:
 - **September 28th, Module 1 on Cultural Diversity**
 - **September 29th, Module 2 on Second Language Development and Working with Families.**

Both trainings are offered **free of charge** and will be held in the Main Street Mall building, located on Main Street in Little Rock, between Capitol and 6th Street. Validation for deck parking will be provided. Please see the attached registration form if you are interested. Directions will be provided upon receiving your completed registration form. For any questions about this training, please contact Darlene Kurtz kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu for more information. By phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

- **Jonesboro:** We will be offering Module 1 and Module 2 in the Jonesboro area soon. For more details about this training, contact Sabrina Zarco zarcosabrinae@uams.edu or by phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

Looking for a training site in Russellville or Conway: We have had a lot of interest shown for our training by people in the Russellville area and would like to come present training this fall. If you'd like to host two full days of training, please contact Darlene Kurtz kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu for more information. By phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

An article of interest "Interdependence or Independence?" <http://www.ccie.com/library/5011761.pdf>
Click here for a great article that relates to WTC Module 1 and takes a closer look at interdependence vs. independence. It is from the perspective of a teacher who has tried to understand how these different approaches can be recognized and accommodated in the classroom. Please take a few minutes to read it! It was written by **Janet Gonzalez-Mena**, who is well respected in the early childhood community.

Looking at Language This link contains a **lighthearted quiz** that our staff members took and found to be an interesting way to look at the numerous variations of the English language within the U.S.A.
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5496546>

WTC Around the State We have had a busy summer! We were welcomed to many places around the state. In recent weeks, we've been to the following places:

- **Hot Springs** for the Special Show Conference. At our exhibit table, it was great to see so many old friends and meet so many of you who showed a great interest in the project. We also presented two full and very engaged workshop sessions (Module 1 and Module 2).
- **Rogers and Little Rock** for the Weekday Early Education (WEE) conferences. We presented two sessions at each. Thanks for all the discussion and participation!
- **Gillham** at the DeQueen-Mena Educational Co-Op to present Module 1 and Module 2. We had the pleasure to be the first to use their beautiful new training facility with state of the art equipment!
- **Farmington** to present Module 2 to area speech and language professionals and special education teachers. Thanks for sharing all your stories from the field.

Thanks to all who participated and for the generous hospitality!

Want to be a WTC trainer? We are planning to offer a **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 between 20 and 45 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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