

Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections* for October 2006 Volume 2

Welcome to our Second Volume! We have many new subscribers this month. Thanks to all who have participated in our recent trainings, we have really enjoyed the lively discussions. Your passion for your work with children and families is very evident. As the holidays approach, remember to be respectful of all the different approaches that may be represented in your classrooms. Below we have included a great website that can provide information on holidays celebrated in Spanish speaking countries.

Upcoming Workshop Sessions: We will be presenting the following sessions at the upcoming AECA conference in Hot Springs on October 20 and 21 (tracks are listed in parentheses):

- I Said, you said, & then the interpreter says..." (FAM) presenter: Darlene Kurtz
 - Welcome the Children: Working with Latino Families and Children (FAM) presenter: Sabrina Zarco
 - Welcome the Children Making the Connection to Real Objects (CCC) presenter: Sabrina Zarco
- Other UAMS Partners staff will be presenting to, look for:
- A Bag of Laughs- Using Humor to manage Stress (CCC)
 - Encouraging and Supporting Positive Behavior in Young Children (CCC)
 - Autism Spectrum Disorders: Epidemic or Over-Identification? (CG&D)

Come join us! See the AECA website for more information:

http://www.arkansasearlychildhood.org/conference/Program_2006.pdf

Remember to note this on your calendar: 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 the link below. We hope to see you at the 2007 Conference!!!
<http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference2006/WTC%20Conference%20MASTER.pdf>

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

"Acquiring English as a Second Language: What's "Normal," What's Not" by Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin and Alejandro Brice. This is an excellent article that addresses some of the topics we cover in WTC Module 2. It addresses the "silent period" and other stages of typical development and talks about the role of education professionals in serving children and observing for possible delays.

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/easl.htm>

"A Match Made in ... Cuernavaca, Mexico" Here's an excerpt from this article about a new collaboration in the UAMS College of Public Health: "Our thinking is that collaborative research, and faculty and student exchanges can help us gain a better understanding of the public health issues encountered by our Latino population in Arkansas and enhance our ability to meet their public health needs here," Dr. Raczynski, Dean of College of Public Health.

<http://www.uams.edu/update/absolutenm/templates/news2003v2.asp?articleid=5375&zoneid=18>

Other Resources:

Holidays and Celebrations of Spanish-speaking holidays:

http://espanol.ucanr.org/Calendario/Major_Holidays_and_Celebrations_of_Spanish-Speaking_Countries.htm This site has a great month-by-month listing of special dates and holidays. Take a look at the dates for this month!

Music! Music is often called the, “international language.” Get children up and moving to different types of music with hand-made instruments! It can be a great way for everyone, including children with limited English, to be involved in the classroom. It’s even better if you can play music from their home country or in their home language. Parents can sometimes be helpful with this. The **Democrat Gazette** featured an article about instruments you can build out of discarded items. See Wednesday, October 4, 2006, Family Section, Page E1 and continued on page 6E. Note: Some of the materials suggested would not be safe for small children but the ideas can be modified. For example, rather than using the rubber balloons they suggest for covering yogurt containers, a piece paper with a layer of masking or packing tape can work well. Cheerios also make great, edible, and virtually worry-free noise makers.

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

- **Fort Smith**, where we provided Module 1 and Module 2 to pre-school educators. Thanks for the good discussions!
- **Little Rock**, where we had a group of professionals from the greater Little Rock area. We appreciate your stories and input.

Thanks to all who have participated in our recent trainings, we have really enjoyed the lively discussions. Your passion for your work with children and families is very evident. 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 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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