

Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections* for November 2006

Volume 3

Welcome to our Third Volume! We had a great time at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference. It was nice to see so many of you there! November is already here! Please keep Welcome the Children training in mind as you continue to schedule trainings now and into the new year.

Upcoming Workshop Sessions:

Monday, Nov. 13th Darlene Kurtz will present at Pulaski Tech at the request of Trude Puckett. The topic will be "Strategies for English-language Learners & Families."

Saturday, December 9, 2006- Module 1 at the University of Arkansas, Monticello

Saturday, December 16, 2006- Module 2 also at the University of Arkansas, Monticello

A Good Question: Bilingual Language Development for Children with Disabilities:

A participant at a recent *Welcome the Children Workshop* on "Second Language Development & Working with Families" raised a good question. The teacher asked: "Which language should a child with a communicative disability learn at the preschool, the language spoken at home or English?" Perhaps you have wondered about this too.

Both languages may be taught with the home language being reinforced at home and English taught at preschool. Research and conference presenters agree that all children can be served best by allowing the family to continue a rich language environment with the child at home in their native language. At the childcare center or preschool, staff members can teach the child in English providing visual aids, manipulatives and modeling to develop English vocabulary and more. Most children continue their schooling in the United States so therefore it is a true advantage that they learn English in their early years. As we learn in the *Welcome the Children* workshops, all children learn best when they have a good foundation in their home language. This is also true for children with disabilities of any kind. Please let your parents know which vocabulary word groups the child is learning at school each week or month to enhance the child's overall language development in both languages.- *Darlene Kurtz, WTC Trainer*
References: A. Brice, PhD., University of Central Florida; R. Valdivia, PhD., West Ed; I. Villanueva, PhD., West Ed

New Workshops from Welcome the Children Project:

We are pleased to announce two new training sessions are available from Welcome the Children:

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

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

"How Culture Shock Affects Newcomers" by Judie Haynes. Do you have children in your school or center who have recently come to the U.S. from another country? If so, this article is a "MUST READ." In a clear and concise way, it describes four stages of culture shock that children experience. It warns, "Don't underestimate the results of culture shock. The emotional upheaval of moving can be devastating to any child. These

symptoms are compounded when the child comes from a different culture and does not speak English.” (Thanks to Deanne Barrett of Little Rock School District for recommending this article.)
<http://www.everythingsl.net/in-services/cultureshock.php>

Other Resources

Check out the newest additions to our links and resources page on our Welcome the e Children website! <http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/links/>

Don't Forget! 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>

You may register for the 2007 conference online at

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

WTC Around the State: We have been developing our new modules and got the chance to pilot a short segment of each at the Arkansas Early Childhood Association Conference in Hot Springs. Thanks to Maria Touchstone, North Little Rock ESL Coordinator and a new WTC Advisory Board member for the invitation to present information about *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). It was well received!

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 zarcosabriniae@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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