

# Welcome the Children: *Cultural Connections*

## April 2007

## Volume 8

Hello Everyone!! We here with the Welcome the Children project hope you are having a nice start to Spring!! We are excited about our upcoming conference on May 2-4. There is still time to register!! The conference fee is \$55 through April 15<sup>th</sup> but \$65 thereafter. Also, the Arkansas Literary Festival is this month (April 20-22) and there is a link below to all the exciting event information. We have a short article from our own project trainer, Darlene Kurtz, as well.

### Upcoming Workshop Sessions:

- April 21 - WTC Real Objects Training at the Jacksonville Air Force Base Childcare Center – *session full*
- May 2, 3, & 4 - WTC Conference!

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

- **Arkansas Literary Festival** – Visit the festival’s website for details of locations and dates for this great local event. There will be several amazing authors featured, including:
  - Nikki Giovanni, world-renowned poet and author
  - Milton Vorst, author of works about the Middle East
  - Cheryl Shaw Barnes, children’s book author and illustrator
  - Plus, click on the section marked, “Just for kids” for other great events for young children up to teens!

There are many other amazing authors featured and tons of events held around Little Rock. For more information, go to <http://www.arkansasliteraryfestival.org/>

- **Encourage the Home Language: What does that mean?**

During the course of the workshop, “Second Language Development & Working with Families,” it is said that it is important for teachers to encourage the home language. But how does a teacher do that? Darlene offers these suggestions:

- refrain from insisting that only English is to be spoken in the school/center;
- let families speak their home language with their children in your presence;
- encourage families to speak their home language with their children at home;
- send home cassette tapes/CDs with story books in the home language;
- compliment children and families for learning and speaking two languages; and
- continue to be the best English-speaking model for these students everyday at your center. 😊

**It’s not too late to register!!** If you haven’t registered yet for the 2007 Welcome the Children Celebrating Cultural Harmony Conference, why not?? It will be held May 2 - 4, 2007 at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel, North Little Rock, Arkansas. We have sessions on so many topics including African American Culture, Asian American Culture, Latin American Culture, White Culture, The culture of homelessness; Disability Etiquette... the list goes on and on... **We hope you will join us at the 2007 Conference!!!** To find out more and register for the 2007 conference online, go to:

[http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/attendee\\_form.asp](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/conference/attendee_form.asp)

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**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](mailto:zarcosabrinae@uams.edu) or Darlene Kurtz [kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu](mailto:kurtzdarlenej@uams.edu) for more information. By phone: 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD).

**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](mailto: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.

**Comments/ Questions:** Contact Tanya Miller at [millertanyas@uams.edu](mailto:millertanyas@uams.edu) , 501-682-9900 or 800-342-2923 (V/TDD). Or visit us at our website: [www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren)

**Past issues of WTC Cultural Connections are available at the "What's New!" link on our website or follow this link: [http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/whats\\_new/](http://www.uams.edu/welcomethechildren/whats_new/)**

*Welcome the Children: Cultural Connections is a monthly distribution of information about events, articles, and other resources that relate to the Welcome the Children Project. Funding for Welcome the Children is provided by the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education. Project administered by Partners for Inclusive Communities (Partners), a program of The Department of Pediatrics, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Partners is Arkansas' University Center on Disabilities.*