



*Improving the lives of families through child care services, research and advocacy.
Mejorando las vidas de las familias a través de los servicios de cuidado de niños, su investigación y apoyo.*

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Los Angeles, CA 90008-4908

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5110 Goldleaf Circle
Suite 150
Los Angeles, Ca 90056-1282

www.crystalstairs.org

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Resource & Referral Department	Departamento de Recursos y Referencias
Referral Service 888-KIDS-247	Servicio de Recursos 888-KIDS-247
CCCIP (California Child Care Initiative Project) 888-KIDS-247	CCCIP (El Proyecto de Iniciativa de California para el Cuidado de Niños) 888-KIDS-247
SPAN (Support Provider Accreditation Now) 323-421-1412/English 323-421-2103/Spanish	SPAN (Apoyo para que el Proveedor Reciba Acreditación Inmediata) 323-421-1412/English 323-421-2103/Spanish
SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Project) 888-KIDS-247	SNAP (Proyecto de Asesoría para Necesidades Especiales) 888-KIDS-247
Resource Library 323-421-2151	Biblioteca de Recursos 323-421-2151

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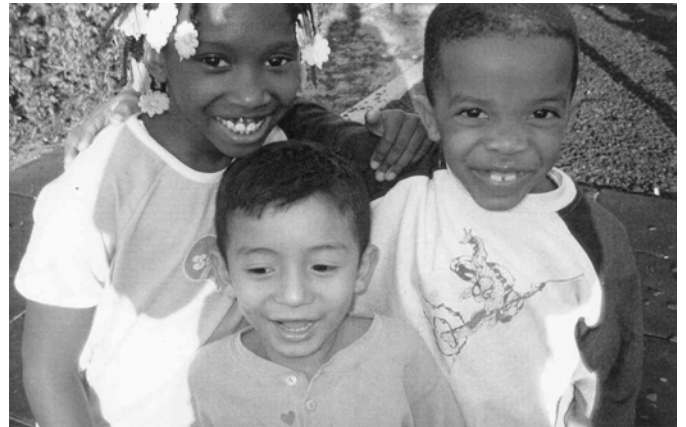
SUMMER 2005

Seven Easy Steps: Become a Squeaky Wheel for Your Child Care Business

By Sydney Kamlager-Santner, Public Affairs Department Manager

On January 10, 2005, the Governor released his second State Budget proposal. He has proposed a \$111.2 billion spending plan. There is an estimated \$8.1 billion shortfall in this year's state budget, which means the state is \$8.1 billion short of money. And yet, for a second year in a row, the budget contains no new taxes and relies heavily on borrowing.

There are a number of proposals in this year's budget bill (the budget has to be approved and signed into law) that would impact child care professionals, families who need subsidized child care, and children. For example, the 2005-06 Budget proposes to save \$62.6 million due to creating a tiered reimbursement system that links the rate at which a provider will be reimbursed, and what type of provider they are (center, licensed FCCH, or license-exempt) with their level of training. There is also a separate proposal to reduce rates for providers who serve only subsidized children.



Families will also be affected by the proposals in the budget bill. For example, there is a proposal to phase-out and eventually eliminate Stage 3. There is a proposal to reduce the income eligibility level for parents who are seeking subsidized child care, and there is a proposal to create time limits in the CalWORKs child care system. One thing is for sure, if a proposal will affect a provider, it will also affect a parent and their child. And vice versa.

This means it is important to become an advocate for child care – your business, your future, the future of the children you care for and the families who call on you to be their child care provider. Families need child care providers. Communities need child care providers. Our economy needs child care providers.

Although the word, advocate, sounds scary and like it will take a lot of your time, chances are that you are advocating and you don't even know it!

(Seven Easy Steps continued on page 4)

RESOURCES

POISON CONTROL CENTER
(800) 876-4766

**NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION
INFORMATION HOTLINE**
(800) 232-2522

**NAFCC (National Association for
Family Child Care)**
www.nafcc.org

**DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES/
COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING
DIVISION**
http://www.cclid.ca.gov

**CALIFORNIA CHILD CARE
HEALTHLINE & NUTRITION**
(800) 333-3212
www.childcarehealth.org

**TOY RESOURCE HELPLINE for
Special Needs Children**
(800) 366-PLAY

CHILD CARE LAW PROJECT
(Public Counsel)
(213) 385-2977

**NAEYC (National Association for
the Education of Young
Children)**
www.naeyc.org

FIRST 5 LA CONNECT
(888) 347-7855
www.first5LAconnect.org

**CHILD ABUSE REPORTING
HOTLINE**
(800) 540-4000

**NNCC (National Network of
Child Care)**
www.nncc.org

**CCHP (California Child Care Health
Program)**
www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org

Table of Contents

Seven Easy Steps: Become a Squeaky Wheel for Your Child Care Business	1,4
Resources	2
Creating Invitations for Learning	3
Selecting Books to Read Aloud	5
The Essence of DAP	6
About Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)	7-8
Fun Recipes	8
Summer Field Trip Ideas	9
What Children Are Learning?	10
Professional Development and Training Opportunities Calendar	11

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Creating Invitations for Learning

In the **Beginning Workshop** on "Environments to Engage Children" in the May/June 2004 issue of **Exchange**, Deb Curtis offers a wide variety of ideas on invitations to children "to wonder, explore, and create in as many ways as possible." She identifies the following "principles for designing invitations for learning."

Exploring: Children are drawn to the sensory aspect of materials.

Principle: Look for collections that have textures, interesting surfaces for touching or looking at or looking through, things that make sounds or move in interesting ways. Natural materials are always a good source for this kind of exploration.



Transforming: Children are completely mesmerized with transforming materials and rearranging the world around them.

Principle: Look for materials and substances that can be changed, moved, reconfigured, or otherwise have some kind of cause and effect quality.

Organizing and Designing: With an interesting, varied collection of materials preschool children will organize them by their attributes or use them in beautiful designs.

Principle: Find collections of materials that have similarities and differences and can be used for sorting, patterning, and designing.

Building and Constructing: Young children like to put things together in relationship to each other, to connect things to other things, and to use building and construction materials to represent many aspects of their ideas and understandings.

Principle: Along with typical early childhood construction materials, seek out interesting shapes and sizes of items for building as well as things that can be used to decorate constructions. I also look for loose parts and recycled materials that resemble parts of something else, such as an airplane wing, a boat shape, or a dinosaur's scales.

Dramatizing: With limited props preschool-age children will turn anything into dramatic play.

Principle: Keep an eye out for props and figures that can be added to any of the above background materials for an adventure or story.

Drawing: Drawing is a natural medium for young children to express their ideas.

Principle: Regularly provide tools for children to draw and write as a part of Invitations.

Reading: Children will thoughtfully study books, stories, photos, posters, diagrams, and instructions to enrich the use of materials by offering new suggestions and extensions, and support the development of literacy skills.

Principle: Include resource books, stories, photos, posters, diagrams, and instructions to enrich the use of the materials by offering new suggestions and extensions, and support the development of literacy skills.

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(Seven Easy Steps continued from page 1)

Below are seven simple steps for you to practice and share with others. If you practice them regularly, you will be surprised at the results. Feel free to pass the information along.

TELL... a friend why child care is important to you, your children and to the future of California. Tell them how much child care contributes to the state economy (it leverages over \$15 billion in revenue a year). Tell them how it keeps children safe, and allows parents to go to work relatively worry-free and how it keeps businesses in the community.

BRING... a friend, a colleague or a community leader to your business to show them how you make a difference. Sometimes, it takes others, outside of the child care field, to help the general public see how critical you are to the community.

VISIT... your elected state representatives, or their staff, in their home offices (Fridays are best) or in Sacramento. You may even consider going with other providers that you know, or going with your provider association (if you are a member of a network). Lastly, you could call our Public Affairs Department at 323-421-2631 and ask for their staff to go with you.

WRITE... letters to your elected officials in support of child care and local community businesses. (If you have a computer, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html> to find your local legislator).

CALL... the local media and invite them to an event in your center, or community. Block club parties, special events, vigils and rallies are good press opportunities.

MARKET YOURSELF... everywhere you go. Some people still do not really know all that it takes to be a child care provider. The best one to market your business, your profession and your skills is you. Don't be afraid to talk to people about your schooling, classes you take, how you develop curriculum, and how your children are succeeding while in your care.

ATTEND EVENTS... that Crystal Stairs hosts. The agency hosts a number of workshops and events that are geared toward helping you succeed and keeping you informed. Advocacy workshops, accreditation information sessions, "How to Market Your Business" seminars are a just a few. Attend these and stay informed and up-to-date on what is happening in the child care field. Let Crystal Stairs be a resource for you.



For more information on how to get more involved in the policy making process please contact Sydney Kamlager, Manager of the Public Affairs Department, at (323) 421-2631.

Local Members of Congress in the Crystal Stairs, Inc. Service Area

Gilbert Cedillo	213-612-9566	Maxine Waters	323-757-8900
Edward Vincent	310-412-0393	Juanita Millender-McDonald	310-538-1190
Kevin Murray	310-641-4391	Fabian Nunez	213-620-4646
Martha Escutia	562-929-6060	Karen Bass	PO Box 942849 Sacramento, CA 94249
Xavier Becerra	213-483-1425	Mark Ridley-Thomas	213-745-6656
Hilda Solis	323-307-9904	Jerome Horton	310-412-6400
Diane Watson	323-965-1422	Mervyn Dymally	310-223-1201
Lucille Roybal-Allard	213-628-9230	Yvonne B. Burke	213-974-2222
Grace Napolitano	562-801-2134		

Selecting Books to Read Aloud

The January 2004 issue of **Extensions**, the curriculum newsletter of the **High/Scope** Membership Association, focused on the "Whys and Hows of Reading Aloud." The publication starts out by observing, "Reading aloud has been found to be one of the most important ways adults can foster children's emerging literacy." In the newsletter, Linda Weikel Ranweiler provides recommendations for selecting books to read aloud. She suggests:

- Books that contain rhyme and alliteration . . . allow you to draw attention to the fact that words are made up of various sounds, helping them to develop phonic awareness.
- Predictable books . . . which help children think of themselves as readers.
- Books with easily remembered phrases or lines for children to chant.
- Books that invite physical as well as verbal participation.
- Books that reflect the identities, home languages, family structures, and cultures of the children in your class.
- Wordless books that demonstrate to children how they can make up the story as they "read" the pictures.
- Big books of familiar stories or poems.
- Alphabet books that invite the response of involvement of the child in the read-aloud experience.



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To learn more about **Extensions** and **High/Scope's** literacy initiative, go to www.highscope.org.

To learn about **Beginning Workshops** collections on "Building Literacy," "Talking," and "Storytelling," go to: <http://mail.ccie.com/go/eed/0139>

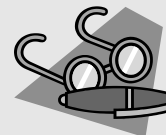
Do Your Children Have Health Insurance?

Crystal Stairs, Inc. can help you apply for
Free or Low Cost Health Care Coverage Programs

We can help with your application, redetermination, or recertification for:



**Medi-Cal
Healthy Families
Healthy Kids
Kaiser Permanente**



All Plans include Health, Dental and Vision coverage!

Your immigration status does not matter

For more information, technical assistance or to make an appointment, please call:

(323) 299-9295

Produced with funding from County of Los Angeles, Department of Health Services, First 5 LA and the California Endowment

The Essence of DAP

In a March, 1993 **Exchange** article by Marjorie Kostelnik, "Recognizing the Essentials of Developmentally Appropriate Practice (or DAP)." Marjorie describes these essentials. . .

1. Developmentally appropriate means taking into account everything we know about how children develop and learn and matching that to the content and strategies planned for them in early childhood programs.
2. Developmentally appropriate means treating children as individuals, not as a cohort group.
3. Developmentally appropriate means treating children with respect – recognizing children's changing capabilities and having faith in their capacity to develop and learn.



In other words, we must first think about what children are like and then create activities, routines, and expectations that accommodate and complement those characteristics. In addition, we must know more than a few descriptive facts about a child, such as age and gender, to design appropriate programs. We have to look at children within the context of their family, culture, community, past experience, and current circumstances to create age-appropriate, as well as individually-appropriate, living and learning environments. Finally, we must recognize the unique ways in which children are children, not simply miniature adults. Experiences and expectation planned for children should reflect the notion that early childhood is a time of life qualitatively different from the later school years and adulthood.

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

IMAGINE

Working Together
Making A Difference

2005
Crystal Stairs
EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Saturday, July 16, 2005

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Convention Center

Join us for this special day!

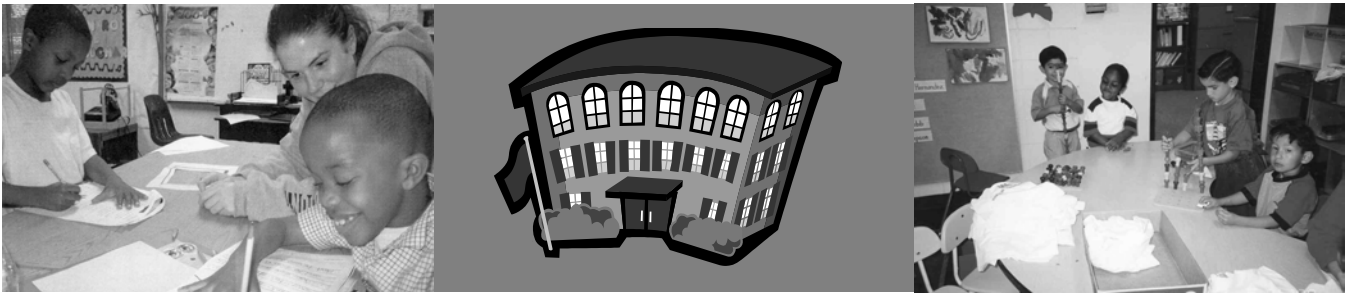
- Over 40 Workshops
- Exhibit Hall and Health Expo
- Networking Opportunities
- 25th Anniversary Celebration

For more information call
323-421-1247

About Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP)

Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) is breaking new ground in early childhood education. A public benefit organization created in 2004 and funded by First 5 LA, LAUP's goal is to make high-quality voluntary preschool available to every four-year-old in Los Angeles, regardless of their family's income.

Guided by a ten-year plan developed by hundreds of educators, parents, government officials, and business and community leaders, LAUP is building on the existing early care and education system - including Head Start and publicly subsidized preschools, private preschools, family child care homes and faith-based programs - to expand access to high-quality preschool across LA County. Ever mindful that its current funding comes from public resources, LAUP is committed to being careful, transparent, and above all, effective in the way it spends this money.



Family Child Care Hub Finalists Selected

LAUP is in the final stages of contracting with five Family Child Care Hub Agencies to implement the groundbreaking Family Child Care Hub Program. These agencies - one in each Supervisorial District - will contract with individual family child care providers who meet LAUP quality standards, beginning in April with eight providers per Hub and expanding by September to twenty providers per Hub. Hubs will also receive LAUP funding to hire a full-time Child Development Specialist who will provide intensive quality support to contracted providers.

The following agencies were chosen by lottery as finalists to become LAUP Hubs:

- Options (District 1)
- Crystal Stairs (District 2)
- Connections for Children (District 3)
- Comprehensive Child Development (District 4)
- Child Care Resource Center (District 5)

Next Phase of Site Visits Begins

LAUP is pleased to announce that we are partnering with the California Institute for Human Services (CIHS) at Sonoma State University to conduct site visits of individual family child care homes. The CIHS will also conduct site visits of applicants for LAUP's Inclusive Center Program, which will fund programs demonstrating best practices in the inclusion of children with special needs and disabilities beginning this September.

The CIHS is well-known for its work in both early childhood education and with children with special needs. Its activities with LAUP will be led by Dr. Joanne Knapp-Philo, Ph.D and will include administering the Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS) and the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale (ECERS) at the applicant family child care homes and Inclusive Centers, respectively. Site visits began in mid-April.

(About LAUP continued on page 8)

Site Selection for New Preschool Capacity Nears Conclusion

LAUP is in the final stages of selecting sites for the creation of new preschool capacity in sixteen severely underserved "Facilities Hot Zones." LAUP will fund renovation of existing spaces or the installation of modulars on these sites, provide technical assistance as they prepare to meet licensing requirements, and then fund high-quality preschool programs in the resulting new space. LAUP staff and construction management experts have now completed all 26 visits to proposed sites. The data collected during these intensive evaluations will be analyzed within the next few weeks, and LAUP plans to announce its Early Launch sites by the end of the month. Sites selected can be viewed on the LAUP website.



If you would like more information please contact LAUP at one of the following:
telephone: 310-568-9430 website: www.laup.net email: info@laup.net fax: 310-568-9442

Fun Recipes

Kool Aid Play Dough

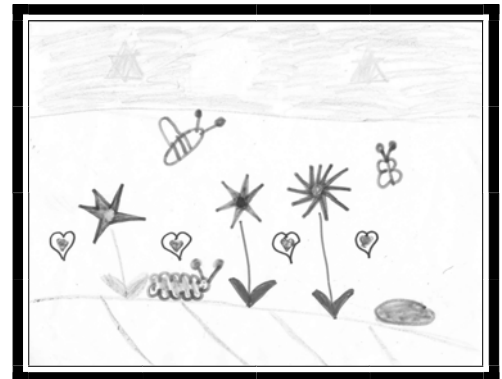
1 cup sifted flour
1/2 cup salt
3 tablespoons oil
1 small package of Kool Aid
or other unsweetened powdered drink
1 cup boiling water

Mix flour, salt, oil and Kool-Aid .
Add boiling water. Stir the ingredients
together, knead mixture until it forms a soft dough.

Bubble Soap

1 cup dishwashing liquid
10 cups water
1/4 cup glycerin (available at your local drugstore)

Mix dishwashing liquid, water and glycerin.
Make bubble blowers from a straw, a kitchen funnel,
or a thin wire shaped in creative forms.



By Bianca Henriquez

Homemade Finger Paint

2 cups flour
2 teaspoons salt
2 1/2 cups cold water
2 cups boiling water
Food coloring

Mix flour with the salt. Add cold water. Stir until smooth.
Gradually add this mixture to boiling water.
Boil until smooth and thick.
Add food coloring, then stir until smooth.

Summer Field Trip Ideas

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

Los Angeles
323-857-6000

Page Museum at the La Brea Tar Pits

Los Angeles
323-934-PAGE

Natural History Museum

Exposition Park
213-763-DINO(3466)

Craft and Folk Art Museum

Los Angeles
323-937-4230

Southwest Museum

Los Angeles
323-221-2164



Artwork by Lianne Lopez



Artwork by Monique White

Aquarium of the Pacific

Long Beach
562-590-3100

African American Firefighter Museum

Los Angeles
213-744-1730

Los Angeles Zoo

Los Angeles
323-644-4200

UCLA Ocean Discovery Center

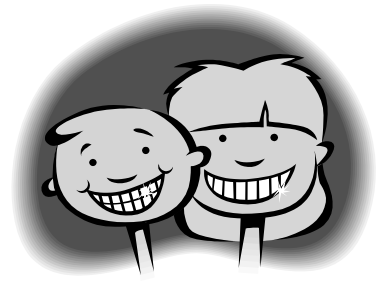
Santa Monica
310-393-6149

Korean Cultural Center

Los Angeles
323-936-7141

What Children are Learning?

Author Unknown



When I'm building in the block room,
Please don't say I'm "Just playing."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play, about balances and shapes.

Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, setting the tables,
don't get the idea I'm "Just playing."
For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a mother or father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint, or standing at an easel,
or molding and shaping clay,
please don't let me hear you say, "He's just playing."
For you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at my school,
please don't feel the time is wasted in "play."
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.

I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,
please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "just play".
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.
I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.

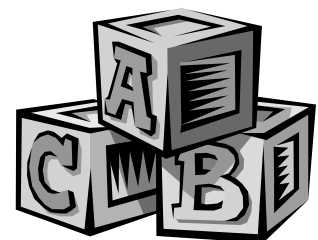
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning how to skip, hop, run, and move my body,
Please don't say I'm "Just playing". I'm learning how my body works.

I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done. . .today, and I say, "I just played"
Please don't misunderstand me.
For, you see, I'm just learning as I play.
I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work.
I'm preparing for tomorrow.

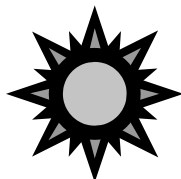
Today, I am a child and my work is play.



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Professional Development and Training Opportunities Calendar

JUNE



Crossroad Family Provider Network Trainings

June 22 *Reporting Abuse: Responsibly*
June 23 *Social Behavior & Toddlers*
June 25 *Infant & Toddler Learning*
June 29 *0-4 yrs, Growth & Development Milestones*
Carson, CA
310-353-7263

JULY



2005 Crystal Stairs Early Care and Education Conference

July 16, 2005
Los Angeles, CA
323-421-1247

AUGUST



Show Me the Money (to Build a Child Care Center)!!!

August 16, 2005
Los Angeles, CA
213-385-2977 ext. 310

SEPTEMBER



The Impossible Dream? Finding a Location for your Child Care Center

September 20, 2005
Los Angeles, CA
213-385-2977 ext 310

OCTOBER



NBCDI (National Black Child Development Institute) 35th Annual National Conference

October 16-18, 2005
Orlando, FL
202- 833-2220

PACE (Professional Association for Childhood Education) 36th Annual Fall Conference 2005

October 21-23, 2005
Los Angeles, CA
415-749-6851