

# Early Education and Child Care Initiatives

## Chapter Child Care Contact E-News

March 2009

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Early Education and Child Care Initiatives is pleased to bring you the March 2009 issue of the Chapter Child Care Contact (CCCC) E-News. Each E-News issue contains a spotlight article, what's new, back to the basics, peer to peer learning, and an acronym list. We hope this electronic publication will help you find valuable resources and information on early education and child care initiatives. If you have any questions, comments, or ideas, please contact Stephanie Nelson at [snelson@aap.org](mailto:snelson@aap.org).

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#### *The National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care & Early Education*

The [National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education \(NRC\)](#) works in partnership with the AAP to promote the health and safety of children in out-of-home child care settings through the production and dissemination of publications such as 1) *Caring for our Children, Second Edition*, 2) *Stepping Stones*, and 3) *Healthy Kids, Health Care* (a Web site booklet for parents of children in child care).

*Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs, 2nd Ed.* guidelines were developed through the collaborative efforts of the NRC, the AAP, American Public Health Association, and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau. This publication lists over 700 health and safety practices in the areas of:

- Staffing
- Program Activities (Child Development)
- Health Promotion and Protection
- Nutrition
- Facilities, Supplies, Equipment, and Transportation
- Infectious Disease
- Children Eligible for Services Under IDEA
- Administration



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The entire text of *Caring for our Children* and the other publications listed above are available on the NRC Web site. To view these publications, click [here](#).

The NRC Web site also includes standards-based resources on health consultation, caregiver health, children with special needs, emergency/disaster preparedness, medication administration, SIDS risk reduction, transporting children, the medical home, and inclusion/exclusion. The Web site features all state child care regulations, contacts for regulatory (licensing) agencies, and online tools to compare state regulations with national health and safety guidelines recommended by the AAP. NRC is located at the [University of Colorado](#) in Denver, Colorado, and is funded by the [Maternal and Child Health Bureau, US Department of Health and Human Services, HRSA](#).

As CCCCs, we strongly encourage you to visit the NRC Web site for resources for health consultants. For more information, please click [here](#).

## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

Early identification of developmental delays is an important part of the Medical Home that cares for infants and young children. Of course, appropriate referral and directed professional intervention should follow for all children found to have developmental issues. Pediatricians and others who provide a Medical Home are assumed to be doing validated developmental surveillance and screens at the recommended intervals. (Click [here](#) to view the AAP policy statement). However, many children do not have a Medical Home and many children do not even have a primary care provider.

Approximately 60% of children under the age of 5 years are in out-of-home care in various child care settings such as Head Start, center-based care and family home care. The professionals who care for these children are in a unique position to make observations about their children in a setting of continuity. Because of this, many states are working on ways that some developmental screening or surveillance may occur in these settings.

There are many advantages to a system like this, but also potential pitfalls. As the Chapter Child Care Contact, you can work with your state's policy makers to ensure that all issues are covered to make a program of developmental screening in child care/preschool that is of high quality and fully integrates with the child's Medical Home.

The AAP is working on a comprehensive document to direct work like this. In the meantime, many states are already pushing forward with these plans. Below are a few important points for your state to consider and resources that may help.

- Always coordinate with your Chapter President
- Consider that “quality” dollars from the Child Care and Developmental Block Grant may fund some of these projects
- As a program is developed, make sure your state considers these important features:
  - Ensure appropriate use of valid tools
  - Involve the parents with the developmental screening
  - Communicate the results to parents (normal and concerning results)
  - Communicate the screening results to the primary care physician in the Medical Home
  - Prevent duplication of effort and multiple screenings
  - Provide guidance for the referral for further testing/intervention
  - Define words like assessment, evaluation, surveillance, screening, testing, intervention, communication, and compensation. There are potential pitfalls as the educational professionals and medical professionals define these words and concepts differently. “Intervention” may mean a change in educational curriculum to an educator and referral to a developmental specialist to a pediatrician.
  - Decide if the scope of screening is limited to developmental delay or inclusive of screening for social-emotional difficulties and autism
  - Ensure appropriate compensation for developmental screening in a pediatrician's office by the state insurance and Medicaid or for reviewing the results of a screening that is performed in a different setting

### Resources:

Council on Children With Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee, Medical Home Initiatives for Children With Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. Identifying Infants and Young Children With Developmental Disorders in the Medical Home: An Algorithm for Developmental Surveillance and Screening. *Pediatrics* 2006 118: 405-420

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## DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING

### Resources Continued:

AAP Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics Web site. Available at <http://www.dbpeds.org>

The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center. Developmental Screening and Assessment Instruments with an Emphasis on Social and Emotional Development for Young Children Ages Birth to Five. Available at <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/pubs/screening.pdf>

The Commonwealth Fund. Developmental Screening in Primary Care: The Effectiveness of Current Practice and Recommendations for Improvement. Available at: [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr\\_doc/1082\\_Sices\\_developmental\\_screening\\_primary\\_care.pdf?section=4039](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/1082_Sices_developmental_screening_primary_care.pdf?section=4039). December 2007.

The Commonwealth Fund. Pediatric Developmental Screening: Understanding and Selecting Screening Instruments. Available at: <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/Content/Publications/Fund-Manuals/2008/Feb/Pediatric-Developmental-Screening--Understanding-and-Selecting-Screening-Instruments.aspx>. February 2008.

Sonsa T, Mastergeorge A. Compendium of Screening Tools for Early Childhood Social-Emotional Development. Available at: <http://www.cimh.org/downloads/The%20Infant,%20Preschool,%20Family,%20Mental%20Health%20Initiative%20Compendium%20of%20Screening%20Tools%20for%20Early%20Childhood%20Social-Emotional%20Deve.pdf>. December 2005

California Childcare Health Program. Consent for Exchange of Information Form. Available at: [http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/CForm\\_ExchangeofInfo.pdf](http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/CForm_ExchangeofInfo.pdf).

California Childcare Health Program. Consent for Release of Information Form. Available at: [http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/CF\\_ReferralRel.pdf](http://ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/forms/CF_ReferralRel.pdf).

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**Section on Early Education and Child Care**

## 2009 STATE OF THE STATES

Although most of the news coverage these days seems to focus on the federal budget and the national economic crisis, there's an equally compelling story taking place in the states. States are facing the most serious fiscal crises they've ever seen. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), at least 46 states faced or are facing shortfalls in their budgets for this and/or next year, and severe fiscal problems are highly likely to continue into the coming year as well. Combined budget gaps for the remainder of this fiscal year and state fiscal years 2010 and 2011 are estimated to total more than \$350 billion.

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## 2009 STATE OF THE STATES

Unlike the federal government, most states cannot run deficits or borrow to cover their operating shortfalls. Traditionally, states take one or more of the following steps during such downturns: draw on reserves, cut expenditures, or raise taxes and fees.

Many states already have begun to tap their reserves but they are simply not enough to fill the gaps. Spending cuts and tax increases, in addition to being politically unpopular can further slow a state's economy and contribute to the worsening of the US economy.

Early findings from the CBPP and other state-based policy groups indicate that more than half of the states intend to implement cuts that will affect health insurance programs for low-income families and children. At least half have also noted the possibility of cutting early education and K-12 programs. Several have noted the likelihood of reducing access to child care programs as well.

There is good news though – over the past three fiscal years, states have steadily increased child care and early education funding, recognizing the value of this investment. Two valuable reports, one from the **National Conference of State Legislatures** (NCSL) for FY 2007 and FY 2008, and one from the **Pew Center on the States** for FY 2009 offer related overviews and state information profiles on state child care and early education funding:

### **Early Care and Education State Budget Actions: FY 2007 and FY 2008**

[http://www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/budget\\_report.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/print/cyf/budget_report.pdf)

### **Votes Count: Legislative Action on Pre-K Fiscal Year 2009**

[http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/LegislativeReport\\_Sept2008.pdf](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/uploadedFiles/LegislativeReport_Sept2008.pdf)

In addition to important state funding, the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – commonly known as the stimulus package – includes \$2 billion in additional Child Care and Development Block Grant allocations for states to provide quality child care services for low-income families. These federal dollars do not require state matching funds. A portion of the \$2 billion set aside for CCDBG (\$255 million) is to be used by states for quality improvement, and \$93.6 million of the \$255 million is aimed at improving the quality of care for infants and toddlers. The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) has estimated the state CCDBG allocations and a summary is available online at: [http://www.clasp.org/publications/aara\\_childcarestatealloc.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/publications/aara_childcarestatealloc.pdf)

A few governors have indicated that they may not accept all of the stimulus money for a variety of reasons. CCDBG funds that support young children and families and do not require a state match should not be rejected.

Chapter Child Care Contacts should work closely with their respective AAP chapter presidents, executive directors, and government affairs committees to ensure that the gains made over the past few years are sustained and that new opportunities are maximized.

Although states are facing fiscal uncertainty, public officials who support ongoing resources in early education and child care will continue to realize economic competitiveness and long-term savings by investing in young children - the future of their states.

For assistance with this or other state government affairs issues, please visit the State Government Affairs pages of the AAP Web Site on the Member Center [www.aap.org/moc/stgovaffairs](http://www.aap.org/moc/stgovaffairs) (login required) or contact us at [stgov@aap.org](mailto:stgov@aap.org).

**Submitted by: Jim Pawelski, Director, Division of State Government Affairs  
American Academy of Pediatrics**

## WHAT'S NEW

### **NCE 2008 ~ CCCC Networking Dinner**

Thanks to all who attended the 2008 NCE CCCC networking dinner! It was a huge success with 22 total participants that included 14 CCCCs/mentors, 2 partners, and 6 guests. The group discussed a new AAP project that includes medication administration, infectious disease, and healthy behaviors.

### **NCE 2009 ~**

Mark your calendars to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE) October 17-20, 2009 in Washington, DC. If you would like to see more information about the NCE, click [here](#).

### **New Release ~**

#### ***Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide, 2nd Edition***

**Editors: Susan Aronson, MD, FAAP & Timothy Shope, MD, MPH, FAAP**

Managing Infectious Diseases in Child Care and Schools: A Quick Reference Guide is a tool to encourage common understanding among caregivers/teachers, families, and health professionals about infectious diseases in group care settings for children. As a CCCC, you should have received a complimentary copy. To order additional copies, please click [here](#).

### **Redesigned Healthy Child Care America Web site ~**

Health professionals can play a vital role in promoting children's health and well-being in early education and child care settings. As a CCCC, there are resources available on the Web site to help guide you in your efforts to improve health and safety in child care. To visit the CCCC section of the site, click [here](#).

## BACK TO THE BASICS

CCCCs have been identified in each Chapter to provide a network of pediatric child care experts who can improve the health and safety of children in child care and engage parents in discussions about quality care and their options. Each AAP Chapter Contact is a member of the AAP Section on Early Education and Child Care and serves as a liaison between the chapter and the AAP regarding early education and child care topics and initiatives. CCCCs may work informally, in partnership with others, or may serve as chairperson for a formal Chapter Committee. Each CCCC is assigned to a mentor.

**Creative Idea or Suggestion:** Each issue, we will ask you to do "just one thing" in your role as a CCCC and we will include an example or two that you may find useful. This quarter we are asking you do one of the following:

- **Suggestion 1:** Access resources and professional development opportunities at [www.healthychildcare.org](http://www.healthychildcare.org).
- **Suggestion 2:** Compare the state's child care licensing regulations with AAP recommended guidelines, and determine how these can work to enhance or improve existing regulations.

## GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS & TERMS

### *Common in Early Education and Child Care*

**NRC — National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education** promotes health and safety in out-of-home child care settings throughout the nation (spotlight article).

**NCCIC — National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center**, a service of the Child Care Bureau, is a national clearinghouse and technical assistance center that provides comprehensive child care information resources and TA services to Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Administrators and other key stakeholders.

## PEER TO PEER LEARNING

**Danette Glassy, MD, FAAP — CCCC for Washington**

### **Activities:**

- Coordinated communication among pediatricians working on child care issues and policies
- Active member of a coalition of statewide health professionals working on child care issues
- Shaped the Washington Chapter AAP (WCAAP) legislative effort to preserve child care health consultation
- Wrote a parent newsletter article on quality early education
- Wrote a Chapter newsletter article on child care

### **Goals for 2009:**

- Expand coordination of pediatricians working on early education and child care issues
- Continue to keep early education and child care issues communicated to the Chapter membership
- Advocate to preserve the state system of child care health consultation

### **Additional Comments:**

There is much excitement and support for access for quality early education and child care in Washington State within state government and among community groups. There are several pediatricians involved in the active involvement of the WCAAP in these efforts. We are very fortunate to have such a productive group of pediatricians and the tremendous support of our Chapter.

**We want to hear from you! In each newsletter we would like to highlight your work so that your CCCC colleagues can learn from and benefit from your ideas and efforts. Send us a description of something that you have accomplished this year. Please contact Stephanie Nelson at [snelson@aap.org](mailto:snelson@aap.org). To see more CCCC updates, click [here](#).**

**Thank you again for all that you do for children!  
Danette Glassy, MD, FAAP  
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**Permission is given to forward the CCCC E-News to individual colleagues. The editors welcome your submissions, suggestions, and questions. Please contact us at the address below.**

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