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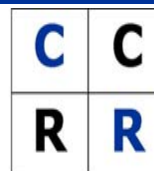
1-866-582-2229  
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WE'RE ON  
FACEBOOK!

**WDS / CCRR has a new Facebook Fan Page!  
The page has pictures from our events, video  
& lots of interesting information -  
CHECK IT OUT!**

**Become a fan of our page by going to  
www.facebook.com and do a search for  
Workforce Development Services/  
Child Care Resource and Referral**



# WORK ONEders

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### **SUPPORTING CREATIVITY IN CHILDREN**

All children are creative. All the elements used in the creative process are natural and inborn for children. All children need self-expression, are curious, like to explore, are imaginative and don't know what is the expected outcome or answers unless they are told. All of these natural qualities can be supported by providing opportunities for children to use them.

The outcome of most creative efforts is usually something you can touch, see, hear or taste (such as a quilt, a building, a song or a delicious meal). When a child uses crayons, a finished drawing may be the result of the child being engaged and creative. However, it's not the drawing you want to encourage, but the process of creating it. Try not to focus on what the child creates or be concerned with the way it turns out.

Being creative is also not the same as having "talent". Not all children will have great skills in music, art, dance, writing, or problem-solving. But they all deserve the opportunity to participate for the sake of fun and expression. The child doesn't have to be "good" at it, she has to do it and feel free to do it. So, what can you do? Let go of expectations and let the child think, imagine, explore, be curious and express herself!

Parents and child care providers can encourage creativity in children. The best way for your child to be creative is through play. Play is the foundation of creativity and is the way that young children learn. To encourage your child's creative development:

- let the child play - free and spontaneous play
- give enough time for play
- provide materials that are interesting and varied, and encourage her to explore
- allow your child to take the lead in creativity without having an expected outcome
- support your child's efforts and help him feel good about his attempts engage your child in activities that provide a wide variety of experiences (art, music, building, storytelling, dramatic play, reading, puzzles)

www.childcareaware.org



*to the 24 new providers that signed on to Paths to QUALITY since June 1, 2009*

These providers have moved up to a new level on Paths to QUALITY, they are...

Provider	County	Achieved
Kinder Care Learning Center #1339	Lake	Level 4
Northwest Family Services, Inc.	Lake	Level 4
Wise Learning Home Child Care	Lake	Level 2
The Construction Zone	Lake	Level 2
Caring Heart, Open Arms, Childcare Ministry	Lake	Level 2
Wee Care Child Development Center	Porter	Level 4
Wee Care	LaPorte	Level 4
Wee Care II	LaPorte	Level 2



**A BIG THANK YOU**

to the Gary Literacy Coalition, Inc. for donating 588 children's books to our lending library

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® INDIANA is celebrating its ten-year anniversary this year. IAEYC compiled stories from sponsors, higher ed. institutions and early T.E.A.C.H. recipients.

Congratulations to Joni Jefferson - Paths to QUALITY Mentor She was chosen to share her story as part of the 10 year celebration



**IDEM honors Valparaiso's Little U Academy for environmental stewardship**

Little U Academy joined the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM's) Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities.



The Five Star program recognizes child care facilities that go above and beyond mandatory licensing requirements and demonstrate environmental stewardship. Facilities earn one, three or five stars based on the extent of their voluntary measures; IDEM assists facilities in implementing the plans and conducts site visits before granting facilities membership.

In the past two years, stars have been awarded to 58 child care providers to make their facilities safer for almost 4,000 Hoosier children.

Additional information about the Five Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities can be obtained by visiting <http://www.in.gov/idem/4413.htm>.

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards.  
~Anatole France



**Coming in January 2010**



What is a Book Club?

A book club, is a collection of readers who participate in the regular discussion of books.

What is a benefit of a Book Club?

Book Clubs are great social forums and provide many opportunities to meet and befriend new people, as well as promote ideas, resources and concerns with people just like you.

First Meeting is January 30, 2010

For more information, call Kimberly at 219-882-0033

**Other Conferences & Workshops**

- The Lakeport Chapter of IAEYC meets the second Monday *every other month*. For the training schedule, to join email list, or other information Email: [shariwheeler@iccc.com](mailto:shariwheeler@iccc.com)
- Northwest Indiana Early Childhood Conference October 2 & 3, 2009 Purdue University Calumet- Hammond Call: 219-989-7345 ext. 3570 or Email: [ggustin@hammond.k12.in.us](mailto:ggustin@hammond.k12.in.us)
- Child Care Professional Network (CCPN) Special Needs - October 13, 2009 Living Hope Church- Merrillville Call: 219-365-6788 for more information