

Child Care Connections



Volunteer
Richmond Information
Services

The Newsletter of the
Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre
March 2009, Volume 2, Number 1



"Bringing people and services together
through community information and volunteerism"

What We Gain from Diversity



It's been a long, harsh Winter and Spring is very welcome! As the weather improves, it's time to consider our overall health and wellness. An important part of health is creating balance between our work and family lives which includes a knowledge and understanding of what makes us unique. Much of this knowledge may come not only from our ethnic, cultural and ancestral backgrounds but from the environment we live and work in.

Value and celebrate the rich multicultural influences around us. Think of our Canadian society as a cultural quilt. As child care providers we work with collage and mosaic and I think of our community as part of the fabric of the Richmond quilt. Multiculturalism builds community and so we should be sensitive to the cultural differences and needs of the children in our care. Parents from different cultures may have varied expectations regarding the type of care their children receive and what they will look for in a child care provider. Our intent should be to accept and integrate children and families into our programs rather than expecting families to assimilate to "fit" with our personal beliefs.

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, "Canadian multiculturalism is fundamental to our belief that all citizens are equal. Multiculturalism ensures that all citizens can keep their identities, can take pride in their ancestry and have a sense of belonging."

So celebrate diversity! Be open to experiencing and celebrating cultural differences. I had a three year old girl in my program that could converse with me in English and then instantly turn around to speak to her mother in Russian. Amazing! Be proud of the fact that **you** can speak another language and model use of **your** first language with children. Incorporate multicultural celebrations into your programming and encourage children to discuss their individuality and the languages they speak at home, so that all children will be proud of who they are and value their cultural heritage.

Warmest Regards,

Marcia MacKenzie

Marcia MacKenzie,
Manager, CCRR



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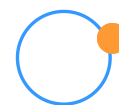
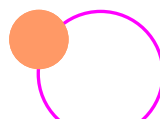
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Care Provider Profile



Welcome to Care Provider Profile, a new, ongoing feature in the Richmond CCRR newsletter. In each issue, a Richmond child care provider will have an opportunity to answer some questions about their profession. These interviews are meant to highlight the amazing work done by child care professionals throughout the city and, hopefully, offer insight into the level of dedication and passion that goes into quality child care.

We'd like to thank Michelle, the owner/operator of Tiny Tots Play House, for offering to take part in our first Care Provider Profile. Since registering with the Richmond CCRR in April 2008, she has established a thriving child care business. As you'll find out, the key to her success is simple: at Tiny Tots, the children always come first.

What made you want to become a child care provider?

My decision to become a child care provider was an easy one to make. Being a stay at home mom, this was one of the ways for me to take care of my children, while earning extra income for my family. Also, this presents an opportunity for my children to interact and connect with others. And, even when I was still single, I would take care of my younger cousins and the children of my friends.

What's your favourite part of operating a child care facility and your least favourite?

My favourite part is seeing the smiles and hearing the happy voices of the children in my daycare. More importantly, the opportunity for my children to interact, connect, and play with other children their age is priceless. My least favourite is cleaning up after.

How do you promote your business?

My main tool in promoting my business is through word of mouth and referrals. I make it a point to do my best and show my sincerity at all times. When the parents see this, that is more than enough for them to recommend me to their peers. Initially before I started, I relied heavily on the Internet to offer my services.

What makes your care program unique?

My program is unique because the essential element is my love and devotion to my work. I don't take care of the children simply because I'm



Investing in developmentally appropriate toys and equipment can go a long way to transforming a residential setting into a quality child care facility.

paid to do so, but I take care of them from a mother's point of view. I treat them as my own, showering them with love and affection.

What does professionalism mean to you?

To me, professionalism means sincerely doing your job in the most effective and efficient manner. It means to dedicate myself to fostering a caring and loving environment in the daycare.

What challenges do you face as a child care provider? How do you overcome them?

In my experience, one of my biggest challenges is calming a crying child who has just arrived in daycare. Another one is feeding a child who doesn't want to eat. In my first challenge, patience and creativity is key. You just have to keep on trying and finding ways to divert and change the child's mindset, to sooth him to calmness. As for the second one, the same principles apply, but I add on the magic of colours. Making meal time exciting by introducing various

colours in food always does the trick for me.

What do you find parents are most looking for in a child care provider?

Trustworthiness, sincerity, cleanliness of the daycare, the outline of the programs, facial expression and personality of the care provider.

Do you have any advice for people new to the child care field?

My advice is that if you choose to go into this field, make sure that you are committed and passionate about it. Don't worry so much about the money or how much you will charge. Focus on quality care and love for the children. Treat the children as if they were your own. Remember that first impressions last. So, during an initial visit, make sure that the place is clean and neat, even the outer surroundings of the house. Invest a little bit in daycare materials and toys. What all parents are looking for is quality care. They must feel that the care provider will shower their most prized treasures with love and affection, just as they would. They want a "homey" place. A place they know their children will look forward to each day. A place where most importantly, children can be children. In short, a home away from home.

If you would like to appear in an upcoming Care Provider Profile, phone 604-279-7020 or e-mail childcare@volunteerrichmond.ca. While all Richmond child care providers are eligible to participate, preference will be given to those operating licensed and registered license-not-required family child care facilities.

Resource Library News

By now, many of you have had an opportunity to browse through the catalogues in our resource library. We hope the contents lists and pictures have made the borrowing process a little easier. But we haven't stopped there. In order to provide the highest level of convenience to our members, the Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre's library catalogues are now available online. Members can access the catalogues 24 hours a day and request the small activity kits, activity boxes, and felt stories they would like to borrow, all with the click of a mouse!

To view the catalogues or request a resource, visit www.volunteerrichmond.ca and click on the Child Care Resource + Referral tab.

Volunteer Richmond Information Services

Leadership Richmond
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Resource Library

The Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre has an extensive library for use by families, ECE students, community members and child care providers. It contains children's books, activity boxes, toy bags, videos, start-up equipment, and many curriculum materials to support quality programs in child care centres.

Members of the Richmond Child Care Resource & Referral Centre may borrow up to 9 items at a time, subject to the following restrictions:

- 1 Activity Box (Available Only to Richmond Child Care Facilities)
- 2 Small Kits
- 2 Videos
- 2 Big Books
- 5 Books
- 2 Audio Tapes or Book/Tapes
- 2 Felt Board Stories
- 3 Posters
- 5 Communication Card Sets

Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre
115-7000 Steeles Blvd., Richmond, BC V6F 2E5
Ph: 604-279-7020 Fax: 604-279-7035
Email: childcare@volunteerrichmond.ca
www.volunteerrichmond.ca

A House for Hermit Crab Copy 1

Science/Nature FBS 1008

Contents:

1 laminated story sheet:
• *Is This a House for Hermit Crab?*

12 felt pieces:
• 1 Hermit Crab, 1 Tin Can, 1 Seashell with Brown Spots, 1 Piece of Brown Driftwood, 1 Pink Pail, 1 Patch of Sand with a Fiddler Crab, 1 Grey Rock, 1 Blue Wave, 1 Fishing Net, 1 Purple Sea Snail, 1 Orange Prickle Pine Fish, 1 Snail with Crab Claw

13 items total

Other CCRR News

Networking Opportunities

Networking sessions are a great way for child care providers to meet with one another and share ideas and experiences. Whether you've been to a session before or are new to the child care field, we encourage you to attend these fun and informative get-togethers.

Location:

All networking sessions are held at the Richmond Caring Place, located at 7000 Minoru Blvd.

Time:

Each session takes place from 6:30 - 8:00pm.

Dates:

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

June Networking Date TBA

Networking sessions are free, but no certificates will be issued. To register please call 604-279-7020.

Newly Registered LNRs

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to the following license-not-required child care providers who recently became registered with the Richmond CCRR.

Smart Kids Family Child Care

Apple Tree Family Child Care

Ayako's Family Child Care

Angela Yin Family Child Care

Precious Moment Family Child Care

Cheeky Monkeys Family Child Care

Puddle Ducks Child Care

New!

Group Benefits Plan

CCRR members now have access to a Group Benefits Plan through PacificCARE. For more information visit www.pacific-care.bc.ca or contact their Insurance Department via e-mail at insurance@pacific-care.bc.ca.

Spring 2009 Workshop Schedule



<p>Make and Take File Folder Games</p> <p>Facilitator: Marcia MacKenzie</p> <p>Date: Tuesday, April 14</p> <p>Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>In this workshop we will create a unique file folder game for you to incorporate into your work with children. File folder games are visually-oriented, hands-on activities that have a clear beginning and end and allow children to complete a task independently.</p> <p>Class Size: 20</p>
<p>Baby Sign Language</p> <p>Facilitator: Barbara Solvey</p> <p>Dates: Saturday, May 9</p> <p>Time: 10:30 - 12:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>This fun-filled 2 hour workshop will introduce you to the basic vocabulary for signing with babies/toddlers. You will learn everyday signs to incorporate into your daily interactions with children.</p> <p>Class Size: 20</p> <p><i>Barbara Solvey has been an Interpreter/S.E.A. with the Langley School District for the past 14 years. She has taught "Sign Vocabulary" classes for a variety of audiences and has years of experience working with children and youth.</i></p>
<p>Big Science for Little Hands</p> <p>Facilitator: Katie McMahon</p> <p>Dates: Tuesday, May 12</p> <p>Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>In this workshop you'll have an opportunity to try out a selection of hands-on science activities from Science World resource packages, with a special focus on our new packages "Size Matters" and "Sticky Stuff". We'll share our experiences doing science with young children, and discuss how the activities might work in your setting.</p> <p>Class Size: 30</p> <p><i>Katie McMahon works in the Community Engagement Division at Science World where she helps to inspire small children to love science through various shows, workshops, and events around the province. Katie has an educational background in biology and teaching and is enthusiastic about turning kids on to science!</i></p>
<p>Respecting and Responding to Family Diversity</p> <p>Facilitator: Gyda Chud</p> <p>Dates: Tuesday, May 19</p> <p>Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>Whether cultural, linguistic, religious, experiential, personal, or political, family diversity is ever present in our child care programs! Join us to explore the many facets of diversity, reflect on our common humanity and consider skills and approaches that enhance respect and harmonious interactions with the families we serve.</p> <p>Class Size: 40</p> <p><i>Gyda Chud is currently the Dean of Continuing Studies at Vancouver Community College, a position she has held for 6 years. With over 30 years experience in Early Childhood, this area remains her passion. Gyda has authored several books related to Diversity and has presented on this topic and many others both provincially and nationally.</i></p>

Workshop Schedule Continued

<p>Baby Sign Language*</p> <p>Facilitator: Barbara Solvey</p> <p>Dates: Saturday, June 13</p> <p>Time: 10:30 - 12:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p> <p>* Note that this is a repeat of the workshop on May 9. Please register for only one.</p>	<p>This fun-filled 2 hour workshop will introduce you to the basic vocabulary for signing with babies/toddlers. You will learn everyday signs to incorporate into your daily interactions with children.</p> <p>Class Size: 20</p> <p><i>Barbara Solvey has been an Interpreter/S.E.A. with the Langley School District for the past 14 years. She has taught "Sign Vocabulary" classes for a variety of audiences and has years of experience working with children and youth.</i></p>
<p>Taking Care of Business</p> <p>Facilitator: Joyce Branscombe</p> <p>Dates: Tuesday, June 16</p> <p>Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>Do you think of yourself as a business person or a child care provider? It really doesn't matter if we own and operate a centre or if we work for a not-for-profit centre or agency, we still have a vested interest in taking care of business. In this interactive workshop we will explore what that vested interest looks like and why it is important to understand the business of child care. This is not a workshop about accounting but it is about keeping your "books" in order. So what are the child care "books"? Come and find out if you have been taking care of business.</p> <p>Class Size: 20</p> <p><i>Joyce Branscombe has been an early childhood educator for over 25 years. She has worked in licensed child care as a provider, an administrator, and as a consultant to groups wishing to open child care facilities. Joyce is currently the Senior Child Care Licensing Officer for Richmond Health Services, Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.</i></p>
<p>Not Just Books: Storytelling with Puppets and Props</p> <p>Facilitator: Kate Adams</p> <p>Dates: Tuesday, June 30</p> <p>Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm</p> <p>Cost: \$15.00 for Members (\$20.00 for Non-members)</p> <p>Location: 7000 Minoru Blvd.</p>	<p>Do you find yourself just using books at circle time? Looking for new ideas to reenergize your storytelling? There are lots of great ways to extend the theme of a book into other activities, including songs, felt stories, puppets, and more. Come and get ideas about what kinds of props to use, and how to incorporate them into your circle time activities.</p> <p>Class Size: 20</p> <p><i>Kate Adams is a children's librarian at the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library.</i></p>

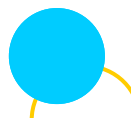
To register please contact:

Volunteer Richmond Information Services
 Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre
 190 – 7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5
 Phone: 604-279-7020 Fax: 604-279-7038
 Email: childcare@volunteerrichmond.ca
 Workshop registration forms available online at:
<http://www.volunteerrichmond.ca>

Workshop Policies

1. Each participant may only register for 3 of the above workshops.
2. Drop-ins are strictly prohibited. Individuals who show up to a workshop but are not on the registration list will be asked to leave.
3. Registrants who are unable to attend a workshop must notify the CCRR so their spot can be filled.

Community Bulletin Board



Anaphylaxis Management

In September 2007, the Minister of Education issued the *Anaphylaxis Protection Order*, a ministerial order that required school districts to develop and implement anaphylaxis policies that meet new, rigorous provincial standards. The Ministry of Education, in consultation with education and health stakeholders, developed the BC Anaphylactic and Child Safety Framework to direct boards of education as they develop school-based policies for managing anaphylaxis in schools.

Additional resources and tools for teachers, parents, students and administrators to support the implementation of the Framework and the ministerial order were also developed. These supporting materials include a sample school anaphylaxis policy, student emergency procedures plans, training information and teaching plans, awareness/avoidance strategies, and a host of additional resources.

Aside from schools, the Framework and associated resources can be utilized to develop policies and procedures for anaphylaxis management in a variety of child care settings. All of these resources can be accessed online via the British Columbia School Trustees Association's website (www.bcsta.org/anaphylaxis).

For more information, please contact:

Scott Beddall
Healthy Schools Analyst
Ministry of Education
P: 250 387-1059
F: 250 387-1008
E-Mail: Scott.Beddall@gov.bc.ca
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/health



Child Care in BC

The Ministry of Children and Family Development recently published *Child Care in British Columbia*, a document laying out the Province's long term goals and vision for the child care sector. The document is based on five core principles:

1. Accessibility
2. Quality
3. Human Resource Development
4. Integration, Co-location, Partnerships, and Communities
5. Sustainability

Each principle is discussed with reference to key objectives, desired outcomes, and accomplishments to date.

To read the entire document, visit:
www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/childcare/

ECE Renewal Information

Early childhood educators whose license to practice expires after November 7, 2009 are required to complete 40 hours of professional development in order to renew their certificate. To help ensure that this requirement is met, early childhood educators are advised to attend training, workshops, and conferences throughout the five year term of their certificate. There is no guarantee that professional development opportunities will be available for those who wait to the last minute to complete their hours.

Leadership Innovation & Inspiration

Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia | 38th Annual Conference | May 21, 22 and 23, 2009

Celebrating 40 years of ECEBC

Mark your calendars for the 38th annual ECEBC Conference, taking place May 21, 22, and 23, 2009 at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Centre in Richmond.

More info will be coming soon!

If you have any questions, please contact Alison Eagles, Conference Coordinator, at conference.ecebc@look.ca



Rental Assistance Program

Make your rent affordable

Find out if your family is eligible for the Rental Assistance Program:

1-800-257-7756 or 604-433-2218 (Lower Mainland)
www.bchousing.org

FOODSAFE Online

FOODSAFE training is online and available to the public. Open School BC, in partnership with the FOODSAFE Secretariat, has developed a comprehensive FOODSAFE Training Course that students can complete entirely online. FOODSAFE is mandatory for the food service industry in BC and FOODSAFE Online is the easiest way to become certified. Students sign-up online and can complete the course on their own time wherever an internet connection is available. Students have 3 weeks to finish the course and receive a FOODSAFE certificate upon completion.

If you have questions, please contact:

Ami Dagan
E-Mail: ami.dagan@gov.bc.ca
For more information visit:
www.openschool.bc.ca/foodsafef/



Community Bulletin Board Continued

All Day Kindergarten Not Yet a Reality

Many parents and child care providers have been eagerly awaiting an announcement from the Province regarding all day kindergarten for 5-year-olds. That announcement finally came on February 16. In the Speech from the Throne, it was confirmed that full day kindergarten will not be implemented in 2009. The economic downturn, lack of space, and a shortage of teachers contributed to the final decision.

To read the entire Throne Speech, visit <http://www.leg.bc.ca/38th5th/4-8-38-5.htm>.

If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact your local MLA:

Olga Ilich (Richmond Centre) 604-775-0754

Hon. Linda Reid (Richmond East) 604-775-0891

John Yap (Richmond-Steveston) 604-241-8452

VOLUNTEER NOW!

Help reduce wait times for important seniors' services!



Volunteer
Richmond Information
Services

Interested in learning more?

Contact Carol Dickson at
604-279-7020 or visit
www.volunteerrichmond.ca

Mark Your Calendars!



Celebrate Child Care Month by taking part in Play Fair at Lansdowne Centre on Saturday, May 30.

Richmond's child care centres will host fun and interactive activities for children of all ages. This is a great way to promote the services you provide for Richmond children and families. Why not join up with other child care providers and make it a team effort? For more information on how to participate contact Linda Shirley at linda.shirley@theartsconnection.ca.

Trampoline Safety

As we approach springtime there will be more opportunities for children to play outside. One of the more popular pieces of outdoor equipment also happens to be one of the most dangerous: trampolines. Parents and child care providers can reduce the risk of injury by following Health Canada's trampoline safety guidelines:

- Trampolines should never be used without adult supervision
- Only one person should be allowed on at a time
- Trampolines should only be used by children over six years old
- The trampoline should be at ground level and enclosed with netting

Care providers who have purchased insurance from PacificCARE are advised that injuries resulting from the use of trampolines are not covered under the policy.

**On behalf of the Richmond CCRR,
have a fun and safe Spring!**

Useful Websites

1. www.wstcoast.org/training/community.html

If you're looking for workshop and training opportunities beyond Richmond, this is the place to go. Workshop schedules of Lower Mainland CCRRs are posted, as well as information on upcoming local, provincial, and national child care conferences.

2. www.preschoolrainbow.org/multicultural.htm

This website contains a wide selection of multicultural activity ideas, from children's passports to homemade maracas. Moreover, if you have a favourite activity that isn't listed, you can submit it for others to enjoy.

3. kids.niehs.nih.gov/musicchild.htm

Have fun browsing through this extensive list of children's songs, many of which are accompanied by both lyrics and melodies.

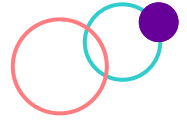
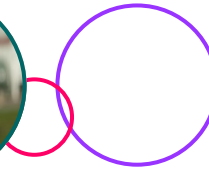


PLAY IS THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD: Poster Series Now Available

Richmond Children First has created a series of four posters with themes of GROW - LEARN - PLAY - CONNECT for display at your centre. View posters and find out how to order at www.richmondchildrenfirst.ca.

Celebrate Diversity

Marilyn Lopes
Extension Specialist, Family Life Education
Cape Cod Extension, University of Massachusetts



Children are growing up in exciting times. We live in a diverse world. Just think about the different languages people speak. Think about the many ways people fix their hair. Listen to the variety of music styles and instruments. It isn't necessary to travel to another state or country to find differences. Diversity is all around us. It is as close as the nearest TV, magazine, home, school, or store.

To live joyful, interesting lives and to be at peace with each other, people must appreciate each other's differences, as well as their similarities. Children are learning to do this today in family day care, their own homes, and everywhere they go!

Communities are more multicultural. Many family day care providers care for children with diverse backgrounds. As a result, we are getting to know more about other ethnic groups and cultures.

In some family day care programs, all of the children are from the same ethnic or racial group. If your community is not very diverse, you have an additional responsibility to the children in your care. They will soon be going to school with people from other backgrounds. Right from the start, it is important for you to make opportunities for them to celebrate diversity.

At first, children will notice differences among themselves. You should help them appreciate how wonderful it is that Rhonda has curly, black hair and that Amy has long, brown hair.

As they grow, they will begin to understand the greater diversity that exists in the world. This is the beginning of a multicultural, anti-bias curriculum.

A multicultural approach to working with young children is based on appreciating many human differences. The obvious ones include culture, race, occupation, income level, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, and physical ability and disability.

Sometimes it is easier to get a handle on an idea when you know what it isn't as well as what it is. An anti-bias multicultural approach is NOT:

- Reading a book about Chanukah each December
- Cooking tortillas for lunch during Mexican week
- Taking a field trip to the Chinese New Year parade
- A lesson once in a while on not hurting each other
- Making maracas for the musical instrument collection
- Covering the children's eyes so they can feel what it is like to have their vision impaired

Activities such as these can be valuable if they are just some of the ways your program appreciates individual differences. If anti-bias, multicultural activities are scattered about the year or are seen as a quick way to get in some multicultural, they can be harmful. Children may not understand how the ideas connect to their lives. Diversity should be celebrated every day in many different ways.

Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. (1993). Celebrate diversity! In M. Lopes (Ed.) *CareGiver News* (July, p.3). Amherst, MA: University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension.

Celebrating Holidays in Early Childhood Programs

Holiday celebrations can be wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the traditions and values that are cherished parts of people's lives. But many early childhood professionals wonder what holidays to celebrate in the program or classroom and how to respect the cultures represented by all children. Many parents, too, wonder why programs celebrate specific holidays or why they discourage any celebration at all.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children believes that decisions about what holidays to celebrate are best made together by teachers, parents, and children. Families and staff are more comfortable when both have expressed their views and understand how a decision has been reached. The important thing for

all to remember is that when planning holiday activities, the rules of good practice continue to apply: Are the activities meaningful to the children? Are their needs and interests being met? Is the activity a valuable use of children's time?

Teachers may survey families at the beginning of the year to determine what holidays to celebrate. They may even ask the children to create their own holiday to help them learn the concepts that underlie such valued traditions. In any case, holiday celebrations are just one way for programs and families to work together to create developmentally and culturally appropriate learning experiences.

Continued on the following page...

Celebrating Holidays Continued



Here are some signs of good practice in celebrating holidays:

- Parents and teachers ask themselves why children should learn about this holiday. Is it developmentally appropriate for those in the group? Why is it important to specific children and families?
- Activities are connected to specific children and families in the group. This helps children understand holiday activities in the context of people's daily lives. Children should have the chance to explore the meaning and significance of each holiday.
- Children are encouraged to share feelings and information about the holidays they celebrate. This will help them make the distinction between learning about another person's holiday rituals and celebrating one's own holidays. Children may participate as "guests" in holiday activities that are not part of their own cultures.
- Every group represented in the classroom is honoured (both children and staff). This does not mean that every holiday of every group must be celebrated; classrooms would be celebrating all the time! It does mean that once families and programs have decided on what holidays to celebrate, none should be treated as if they are "unusual." Children should recognize that everyone's holidays are culturally significant and meaningful.
- Activities demonstrate the fact that not everyone in the same ethnic group celebrates holidays in the same way. Families may provide examples of their own unique traditions.

- Curriculum demonstrates respect for everyone's customs. If children are observing different holidays at the same time, the values and traditions of each child's culture should be acknowledged.
- Parents and teachers work together to plan strategies for children whose families' beliefs do not permit participation in holiday celebrations. Families should take part in creating satisfactory alternatives for the child within the classroom.
- Focus is on meaningful ways to celebrate holidays without spending money. Families may find certain holidays stressful due to the amount of commercialization and the media pressure to buy gifts. Teachers can help by showing children that homemade costumes and gifts are very special, and celebrating can be joyful without gifts.

Additional Resources

Hunt, M. 1995. Let there be light! Lighting up the holidays for young children. *Young Children* 51(5): 79-81.

McCracken, J.B. 1993. Valuing diversity: The primary years. Washington, DC:NAEYC. #238/\$7.

"Celebrating Holidays in Early Childhood Programs," an **Early Years Are Learning Years** article, reprinted courtesy of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. For more information please visit their Web site at www.naeyc.org.

Skin-Colour Match-Ups

Barbara Biles, M.Ed.
Training and Technical Assistant Specialist
Early Childhood and Family Education
North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, Oak Brook, Illinois

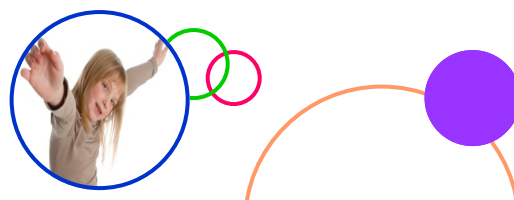
Set out a number of nylon knee-high stockings in various shades, tan, black, white, pink, yellow, and red. Encourage children to try them on their hands and arms or their legs and feet. Ask questions to help the children increase their awareness of skin color. For example, "Can you find a stocking that is the same colour as your skin?" Or "What colour is that stocking you have on your arm?" Ask the children to "Try the _____ stocking. Is it lighter or darker than your own skin?" Tell the children no one's skin color is really white, pink, yellow, or red. Emphasize that skin-colour differences are interesting and desirable.



Reprinted with permission from the National Network for Child Care - NNCC. Biles, B. (1994). Activities that promote racial and cultural awareness. In Todd, C.M. (Ed.), **Family child care connections**, 4(3), pp. 1-p;4. Urbana-Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Cooperative Extension Service.

For the entire article, visit: http://www.pbs.org/kcts/preciouschildren/diversity/read_activities.html.

Office Information

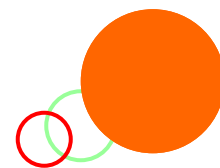
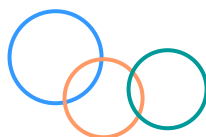



Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Hours of Operation:

Services	Day	Hours
Telephone Support and Appointments Available & Resource Lending Library	Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri. Tue.	9:00am~5:00pm 9:00am~8:00pm
Caregiver Outreach / Support	Mon. ~ Fri.	9:00am~5:00pm
Limited Telephone Support and Lending Library	2nd Sat. of Every Month	10:00am~1:00pm

Upcoming Statutory Holiday Closures:

- Friday, April 10, 2009 (Good Friday)
- Monday, April 13, 2009 (Easter Monday)
- Monday, May 18, 2008 (Victoria Day)





Mini-Planetarium

You'll Need: card table ☀ long piece of fabric ☀ black poster board ☀ sticker stars ☀ flashlight

What to Do:

1. Make a portable planetarium by setting up a card table and draping a long cloth over it.
2. As you learn about the stars and constellations, draw and attach sticker stars on a sheet of black poster board.
3. Form the most famous constellations and label them.
4. Attach this poster to the underside of the table.
5. Children will enjoy going under the table, lying down and viewing the star formations with the help of a flashlight.

"Mini-Planetarium" reprinted courtesy of Everyday TLC from the January, 2007 Issue. For more information please visit their Web site at www.everydaytlc.com or call 1-800-677-6644.



Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre Volunteer Richmond Information Services



190-7000 Minoru Blvd., Richmond, BC V6Y 3Z5 Phone: 604-279-7020 Fax: 604-279-7038
Website: www.volunteerrichmond.ca Email: childcare@volunteerrichmond.ca

Richmond Child Care Resource and Referral Centre is funded by Ministry of Children and Family Development
Regional Website: www.childcareresource.ca

Staff Members

Marcia MacKenzie, *Manager*
May Leung, *Information and Referral*

Roseanne Law, *Outreach Consultant*
Ryan Luetzen, *Administrative Assistant*

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