



# The Provider Connection

**ywca**  
greater toledo  
child care resource  
and referral

PUBLISHED BY:  
YWCA CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL OF LIMA & TOLEDO, OH

## TAMI TALKS...

A Word from Tami Matthews, Director of Child Care Resource and Referral

To My Fellow Child Care Professionals:

This edition of our *Provider Connection Newsletter* finds us at the start of a new fiscal year. I also find myself reflecting back to our accomplishments over the past year. One thing that really jumps out is the fact that our specialists provided an amazing 345 trainings throughout our 16-county service delivery area!

Kudos to our dedicated coordinators and specialists for not only planning and delivering a variety of training opportunities, but for also simultaneously developing our new Learning Link sessions; providing extensive hours of technical assistance to child care programs; diligently handling parent consultations and referrals; conducting family child care provider recruitment and orientation activities; and focusing, in part, on engaging new or expectant parents related to literacy and child development.

Additionally, we devoted some time to departmental strategic planning. As a result of our teamwork, we created a new mission and vision statement, which are shared in this edition.

However, we also acknowledge your triumphs over the past year. Not only did most of you stay the course during what is a challenging economy, but many of you forged ahead in your quest for quality! Congratulations to all that obtained a quality rating, especially the 5 programs that also received our 2-star technical assistance. You have not only embraced quality, but you are applying practices that truly make a difference to young children. Even programs that do not officially qualify to take part in Step Up to Quality have taken advantage of training opportunities and made changes.

Continue to "be the change you wish to see in the world"---Gandhi

Yours in Service,  
Tami



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**TAMI MATTHEWS**  
YWCA CCRR DIRECTOR

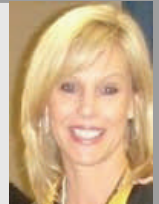
Tami Matthews has served in the early care and education field since 1993. This includes having been the founder, owner, and administrator of two, state-licensed child care centers in Wood and Ottawa Counties.

Most recently, she worked for Toddler's School/Young Services, Inc., serving as a Center Support Manager for the ELI program, as well as an Organization Development Specialist for their 7 child care locations. She joined the YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral as the Director in 2008.

Currently, she is working toward a Master of Arts in Family Studies, and has also completed some graduate coursework in Organizational Leadership. She has a strong interest in and passion for supporting administrators and program managers in the area of organizational development and leadership.

## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

**JULIE HUELSKAMP**  
LIMA REGIONAL COORDINATOR



Julie Huelskamp has been working in the early care and education field for 25 years. Her lifetime passion has always been teaching young children. She began her career as a Preschool teacher in Wapakoneta and loved the opportunity to engage children in learning.

In 1985 she opened Small World Dayschool in Wapakoneta. For 13 years she was the owner, administrator and preschool teacher at Small World. She enjoyed all the relationships she built with the families and children in the program.

Julie has worked at the YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral for 9 years as the Afterschool Specialist. During this time she has truly enjoyed providing technical assistance and trainings for many of the afterschool teachers in the area. She recently was promoted to the Lima Regional Coordinator. She is looking forward to working with all the childcare programs in the area to improve the quality of childcare for children and families.

# Family Child Care



## Field Trips

SUBMITTED BY PEG LOEHRKE,  
PROVIDER SPECIALIST

Now that the warm weather is here, our thoughts often turn to spending more time out and about with the children in our care. First and foremost, safety should be a priority. It is important to complete a prior walk through of the area you are planning to visit. By doing this, you will know the layout of the area you are visiting and you will be prepared for any obstacles or situations that may hamper your trip, or leave you scrambling in the case of an emergency. Remember to carry parents' emergency information with you at all times and keep a first-aid kit available if you will not have access to medical attention.

Field trips are wonderful ways for children to learn about their world. When going on a picnic to your local park for example, you can direct their attention to the various types of flowers, trees, animals or even people. Asking open ended questions, like "What color was that flower? How many of those did we see?" allows children to develop their vocabulary or language skills, along with math and science skills. A little preparation can go a long way to insure not only that the children will enjoy themselves, but they will be safe and learn more about the world around them.

# Parent Connections



## How to encourage parents to get involved in your program!

SUBMITTED BY TRACEY HAYGOOD,  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Communication is the key to having parental involvement in your program. Here are some effective ways to open the door to communication with parents:

- Make a bulletin board at the entrance so that parents can check on things that may be up-coming for the month
- Showcase a child of the month; have them bring in family pictures and other ideas of what they like to do for fun
- Have an ice cream social or a holiday potluck; that way parents can meet and greet you as well as other parents
- Create a daily communication sheet for each child write what the child accomplished that day
- Create a monthly newsletter to make parents aware of what their child is doing while in your care
- You may also want to have a grab and go breakfast for the parents or serve muffins and coffee
- Set up a time to hold conferences with parents
- Remember to return calls and answer emails to parents promptly

Remember that communicating with your parents is an essential component to having a successful partnership.

## WAY TO GO!!!

We would like to give a round of applause to those who have gone above and beyond licensing requirements to participate in Step Up To Quality! The following providers have recently received a star rating:

### 3 STAR RATING

#### WOOD COUNTY

WSOS CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
ROSSFORD

### 2 STAR RATING

#### LUCAS COUNTY

LOVE 'N LEARN CHILD CARE

#### WOOD COUNTY

WSOS PERRYSBURG HEIGHTS COMMUNITY  
CENTER

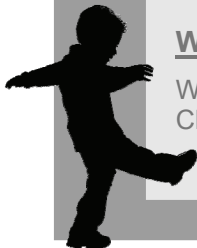
### 1 STAR RATING

#### LUCAS COUNTY

FOUNDATIONS EARLY ED. CENTER  
MISS SARAH'S PITTER PATTER CHILD CARE II  
OLIVET CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL  
WOODROW CHILD CARE CENTER

#### HENRY COUNTY

KID'S CASTLE LLC



## Importance of Reading Aloud

SUBMITTED BY LISA WILKER, DPIL PARENT SPECIALIST



Reading aloud to young children is the single most effective thing parents can do to help prepare their children to succeed in school. Unfortunately, fewer than half of U.S. children ages 5 and under are read to everyday, placing them at risk for reading delays and school failure.

### Why is reading aloud to young children so important?

- Children who live in print-rich environments and who are read to during the first years of life are much more likely to learn to read on schedule.
- Reading aloud to young children is not only one of the best activities to stimulate language and cognitive skills; it also builds motivation, curiosity, and memory.
- Early language skills, the foundation for reading ability and school readiness, are based primarily on language exposure - resulting from parents and other adults talking to young children.
- Research shows that the more words parents use when speaking to an 8-month-old infant, the greater the size of their child's vocabulary at age 3. The landmark Hart-Risley study on language development documented that children from low-income families hear as many as 30 million fewer words than their more affluent peers before the age of 4.
- Books contain many words that children are unlikely to encounter frequently in spoken language. Children's books actually contain 50% more rare words than primetime television or even college students conversations.
- The nurturing and one-on-one attention from parents during reading aloud encourages children to form a positive association with books and reading later in life.
- Reading aloud is a proven technique to help children cope during times of stress or tragedy.
- Reading difficulty contributes to school failure, which increases the risk of absenteeism, leaving school, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, and teenage pregnancy, all of which perpetuate the cycles of poverty and dependency.

# Preschool



## Learning Through Water Play

SUBMITTED BY SARAH TARRY, SUTQ SPECIALIST

Nice weather brings many opportunities for fun and learning through water play. Puddles, spray bottles, garden sprinklers, water tables, and wading pools naturally fascinate young children, and water is one of the basic raw materials for learning mathematics and science, developing language, and fostering social skills.

Ideas for safe, fun and educational water play:

- Mathematics concepts can be learned using a variety of inexpensive materials. Assorted containers and funnels can help children develop concepts such as empty/full, before/after, shallow/deep, and heavy/light.
- Individual water tubs at a table are great for enhancing fine motor skills. For younger children, eye-hand coordination can be practiced by retrieving objects with tongs, aquarium nets, scoops, and fingers. Small muscles get a workout as plastic tubes are fitted to funnels and sponges are wrung dry. Very young children may also enjoy spending many happy moments repetitively filling and emptying containers.
- Children can learn about measurement by using measuring cups or discovering the best way to squirt long and short distances using squeeze bottles or plant misters filled with water.
- A child's vocabulary is enriched as they use words such as funnel, surface, float, and strain.
- Create a dramatic play area for children to wash doll clothes in a tub of water and hang them up with clothespins to dry in the sun.
- Even on cool days, children can "paint" outdoors with water. Set up a paint shop by providing a large paintbrush and partially fill a large can or small pail with water. They can pretend to "paint" the sidewalk, fence, slide, and other outdoor equipment, and notice what happens to the water as it dries.

Hill, D.M. "Learning Through Water Play". NAEYC. June 14, 2010 <<http://www.kidsource.com/kidsource/content4/water.play.learn.html#credits>>.



# School Age

## NEW AFTERSCHOOL SCIENCE TRAININGS! SUBMITTED BY RUGENA MODISETT, AFTERSCHOOL SPECIALIST



A provider working on a wiring activity at the STEM: Wiring A House Workshop

Exciting new trainings are being offered by our Afterschool Specialist. STEM is short for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math and offers participants hands on science projects for children that align with school-based learning standards.

The training series enhances the quality and quantity of science programming in Afterschool settings. Participants will be able to implement what they have learned in these training sessions in their afterschool programs.

The sessions for STEM include Balls and Tracks, Gliders, Wiring A House, Rubber-band Powered Cars and Trebuchet. Check at [www.opdn.org](http://www.opdn.org) for complete training descriptions, prerequisites and to register.

# Administrators

## UPDATE YOUR STAFFS' OPDN REGISTRY PROFILES! SUBMITTED BY DIANE GRAY, SUTQ ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

### Why update your staffs' profiles?

Keeping Professional Development Profiles up to date is important in case we need to change or cancel a training date or location. Keeping your staffs' profile up to date is also important for our training records. The information in your staffs' profiles, such as the county where they work, enables us to continue to provide your staff with informative, fun, and exciting trainings free of charge!

So please remember to update your staffs' profiles at [www.opdn.org](http://www.opdn.org):

- If your staff changes their name
- If your staff changes employers or positions
- If your staff changes their phone number
- If your staff changes their email address
- And make sure that the county they work in is updated to keep our trainings coming your way!

## OUR NEW MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS!

*"The mission of the YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral is to help early care and education programs achieve higher quality; and to educate parents and the community on the importance of high quality care that serves the diverse needs of each family."*

*Vision Statement: "The YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral embraces the importance of a child's growth and development in an environment where children's individual needs come first. We empower child care providers and families to enjoy and nurture children giving them the freedom to explore and play."*

## Providers Connecting

## SHARE THE NEWS!

This space is reserved for all child care providers to share professional announcements, accomplishments and resources.

We invite you to send your professional announcements via email to [ccc@ywcatoledo.org](mailto:ccc@ywcatoledo.org) or by mail to YWCA Child Care Resource & Referral Attn: Provider Connection 1018 Jefferson Ave. Toledo, OH 43604

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The YWCA CCR&R reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, content, and space limitations.



# Activities & Recipes

## Cool Off with Homemade Ice Cream!

SUBMITTED BY HEATHER DUNZWEILER, SUTQ SPECIALIST

Discover what it was like to make ice cream a hundred years ago with this homemade ice cream maker. Two empty cans or containers are the basis for this kids' craft that makes a tasty treat when complete.

### What you'll need:

For the *freezer* you need:

- o 1 lb. empty can with plastic lid
- o 3 lb. Empty can with plastic lid
- o 1 1/2 cups of rock or kosher salt
- o 20 cups (about 7 1/2 lbs.) of crushed ice



For the ice cream you need:

- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/3 cup of chocolate chips

### How to make it:

- In the small can mix cream, milk, sugar, vanilla, and chocolate chips.
- Cover the small can and set in the center of the larger can.
- Layer half the crushed ice alternately with half the salt in the empty space between the cans.
- Cover the larger can.
- **Now the fun begins:** Choose a hard level surface like a cement walk way and roll the can back and forth for about 10 minutes.
- Open outer can; empty old ice and water, lift out small can; wipe lid dry and remove. With a rubber spatula scrape ice cream from can sides. Stir and cover.
- Return small can. Repack with remaining ice and salt. Cover and roll for 5 more minutes.

Reprinted from [www.kaboose.com](http://www.kaboose.com)

## SUMMER SAFETY! SUBMITTED BY LEXI ARNEMAN, PROVIDER SPECIALIST

A swimming pool can be very dangerous for children. If possible, do not put a swimming pool in your yard until your children are older than 5 years. Help protect your children from drowning by doing the following:

- Never leave your children alone in or near the pool, even for a moment. An adult who knows CPR should actively supervise children at all times.
- Practice touch supervision with children younger than 5 years. This means that the adult is within an arm's length of the child at all times.
- You must put up a fence to separate your house from the pool. Most young children who drown in pools wander out of the house and fall into the pool. Install a fence at least 4 feet high around all 4 sides of the pool. This fence will completely separate the pool from the house and play area of the yard. Use gates that self-close and self-latch, with latches higher than your children's reach.
- Keep rescue equipment (such as a shepherd's hook or life preserver) and a telephone by the pool.
- Do not use air-filled "swimming aids" as a substitute for approved life vests.
- Remove all toys from the pool after use so children aren't tempted to reach for them.
- After the children are done swimming, secure the pool so they can't get back into it.

A power safety cover that meets the standards of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) may add to the protection of your children but should not be used in place of the fence between your house and the pool. Even fencing around your pool and using a power safety cover will not prevent all drownings.



Remember, teaching your child how to swim DOES NOT mean your child is safe in water.

Article is from the American Academy of Pediatrics website and is part of TIPP (The Injury Prevention Program)



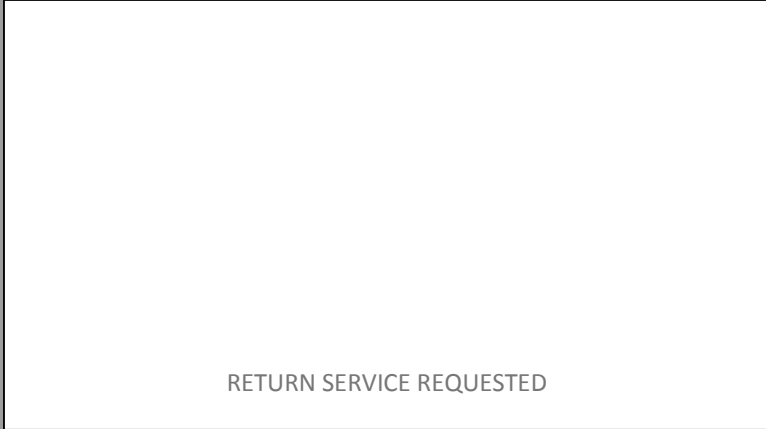
**YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral  
LIMA LOCATION**  
616 S. Collett St., Suite 102  
Lima, OH 45805  
(419)225-5465 | (800)992-2916

**YWCA Child Care Resource and Referral  
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## THE PROVIDER HIGH SPEED CONNECTION

Quick Reference to Online Resources

**Ohio Professional  
Development Network**

[www.opdn.org](http://www.opdn.org)

**YWCA Child Care  
Resource and Referral**

[www.ywchildcareconnections.org](http://www.ywchildcareconnections.org)

**United Way**

[www.unitedwaytoledo.org](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org)  
[www.unitedwaylima.org](http://www.unitedwaylima.org)

**OCCRRA**

[www.occrra.org](http://www.occrra.org)

**Child Care Aware**

[www.childcareaware.org](http://www.childcareaware.org)

**Step Up To Quality**

[www.stepuptoquality.org](http://www.stepuptoquality.org)

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**Next**

**Fall!**

