

Pathways to Quality

For Early Childhood Professionals
In Miami Valley, Northern Kentucky & Southwest Ohio



4C helping providers prepare for regulation changes

New Kentucky child care regulations take effect July 1

In This Issue

- Provider spotlights
- Spring conference round-up
- SUTQ Prize Patrol Makes Surprise Visit



...for Children

Our mission: to improve the quality, effectiveness and accessibility of early childhood education and care in the region so every child has a positive experience and a foundation for success in school and life.

Kentucky is rolling out new child care regulations in July, and 4C is ready to help providers meet these new standards. The licensing changes are the direct result of a 2007 report from the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies that ranked Kentucky near the bottom nationally because of its inadequate minimum state requirements for child care programs.

Following that report, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services took immediate action and revised state child care regulations. These new licensing requirements went into effect July 1, with implementation checks beginning in October.

Changes to licensing regulations include:

- Providers must now have a high school diploma or GED.
- Required professional development hours have been increased to 15 for centers and to

nine for certified family child care.

- A planned program of activities and daily schedules must be posted.
- Staff-to-child ratios must be posted.
- Directors are required to provide annual written staff evaluations.
- Criminal background checks will include previous state of residence (if within five years).
- Infants must be laid only on their backs for sleeping.
- Cribs must meet Consumer Product Safety requirements.

For a full list of the new regulations, visit the Division of Regulated Child Care Web site at <http://chfs.ky.gov/oig/drcc.htm>.

“We are thankful 4C has a close relationship with state licensing, and we are working with them to offer our expertise to help Kentucky child care providers meet the new quality standards,” says Laura Heuser, director of 4C Northern Kentucky. She reports that 4C has been called upon to train on the new rules alongside state surveyors, and she looks forward to being a “resource to guide providers through the process.”

4C is developing training modules to assist providers with these updates.

For more information and for help implementing changes, call 4C Northern Kentucky at 859-781-3511.

N. Ky. Information Forums

For details on informational forums on new Kentucky child care regulations, visit the Division of Regulated Child Care Web site (<http://chfs.ky.gov/oig/drcc.htm>) and download a registration form.

Clinton County providers recognized



Two child care providers enjoy the festivities at the 11th annual Clinton County Child Care Provider Recognition Day. (See story page 2.)

4C News Briefs

► 4C launches on-line workshop registration

On July 1, 4C unveiled a new online catalogue and registration system. Visit www.4CforChildren.org to find a workshop in your area.

► 4C Parent Services has Quality Assurance renewed

4C Parent Services' Quality Assurance Accreditation was renewed by Child Care Aware® for another three years. This voluntary accreditation assures quality in parent support and referrals. 4C received exceptional ratings for all the "secret shopper" calls that were part of the renewal process.

► 4C selected for nationwide NACCRRRA pilot

4C is one of 10 agencies nationwide to pilot a new voluntary quality assurance accreditation program for *all* aspects of child care resource and referral. 4C will assist the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies in determining best practices in the field and will provide feedback as the new program is finalized. Quality assurance is a voluntary national certification, the only way for agencies like 4C to become accredited and to demonstrate adherence to quality standards.

► Miami Valley receives grant for work in 11 centers

4C Miami Valley has received a grant to promote school readiness in 11 selected child care centers, or focus sites, and to assist them with preparing to apply for a state quality rating. The grant from the Montgomery County Early Childhood Initiative will fund two full-time technical assistant positions at 4C and will give a \$20,000 grant to each focus site to help enhance its program and earn a star rating through Ohio's Step Up To Quality program.

Spotlight on Providers

4C applauds Clinton County providers

More than 65 providers enjoyed a night of fun, games, balloon sculptures, dinner and prizes at the 11th annual Clinton County Child Care Provider Recognition Day.

The main attraction was a workshop called, "When You've Tried It All — Call Ms. T.A.M.I.!" presented by Kathleen Bryan, 4C professional development counselor.

The workshop described what providers should consider when struggling with reoccurring behavior issues in their learning environments—



Cathie Streator, 4C Clinton County specialist (left) and Kathleen Bryan, 4C professional development counselor, with T.A.M.I. doll.

Time, Arrangement of room, Materials that are developmentally appropriate and a child's Independence.

New playground for Kentucky provider

Anna Youtsey, director of the Child Connection in Northern Kentucky, set out to improve the play area for the youngest of her center's 90 children.

With grant paperwork and guidance from 4C, she applied for a "crumb rubber" grant from Kentucky's Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet's Division of Waste Management—and was awarded \$9,500 in April.

The state has awarded 43 of these crumb rubber grants, totaling almost \$1 million, to encourage environmental stewardship by utilizing crumb rubber, made from recycled scrap tires.

The grant will add a new six-inch layer of soft crumb rubber mulch to Child Connection's playground after it is leveled. Also, a new chain link fence and protective retaining wall will be added and tree roots will be removed.

Before the renovations, the youngest children—ranging from infants to two-year-olds—had to use the big kids' play area with gravel, as their playground was often filled with water and mud.

Youtsey is already working on another grant to secure better playground equipment to complete the new, improved play area.

Banner year for Dayton's Nurturing Nest

The Nurturing Nest in Dayton had a "banner year," according to center founder **Kim Zehnder**. The program was recently named "Center of the Year" for the Dayton area by the Dayton Association for Young Children. It also has had its accreditation with NAEYC renewed for meeting the new, updated standards.

In addition, Nurturing Nest has

been chosen as one of the 11 focus sites to be included in the grant awarded to 4C by the Montgomery County Early Childhood Initiative. (See story at left.)

Co-administrators **Kim McBee** and **Jennifer Burlile** and staff are already working closely with 4C specialists to prepare to apply for a star rating as part of Ohio's Step Up To Quality.

Spring Conference Round-Up

N. Kentucky leadership conference highlights universal pre-K

More than 65 early care and education leaders attended the second annual 4C Northern Kentucky Leadership Conference in May.

The keynote speech, “Playing Together in the Sandbox: How Child Care Can Shine in a Universal Pre-K World,” was delivered by **Sandy Canon**, director of the Division of Child Care for the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

The conference centered on various topics including effective delegation, implementation of current and new state regulations, staff accountability and performance and professional development. One provider noted it was “one of the best conferences I’ve attended in over 30 years!”



Northern Kentucky child care professionals (from left) **Jennifer Wahl**, **Erin Day** and **Orena Winn** from NKCAC Head Start confer with keynote speaker **Sandy Canon** at the second annual 4C Northern Kentucky Leadership Conference held in Erlanger, Ky.

Cincinnati conference encourages family child care providers

Mary Lynne Schuster, 4C early childhood specialist, gave the keynote presentation at the fourth annual 4C Family Child Care Conference on May 3 in Cincinnati. Her talk, “Yes, We Know What We Are Talking About!,” discussed how family child care professionals can help parents understand what they do in a way that earns respect and value as community partners.

Topics at the conference included effective parent relationships, the ABC’s of nutrition, infant and toddler guidelines and how to stay professional. One provider noted, “I love coming to 4C classes and conferences. They encourage me to do more with my child care.” Another said, “I enjoyed this conference and found it very beneficial to the improvement of my program.”

Participants fill early childhood conference

More than 130 early childhood directors and teachers gathered in Cincinnati April 19 for the 21st 4C Early Childhood Conference. **Dr. David J. Schonfeld**, director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, presented the keynote address, “All Children May Be Created Equal, But They Are Not Alike.” He described factors contributing to the misbehavior of preschool children and discussed how to effectively apply theory and behavior modification strategies to increase success with each child.

Conference workshops included topics such as quality care for infants and toddlers, the six developmental domains for young children, bringing mathematics to life, eliminating bullying, working with children and families from diverse backgrounds, emotional needs of infants and toddlers and working with children who have witnessed domestic violence.

“I could have listened to the keynote presenter all day,” said **Kellie Kochensparger**, director of the Miami University Child Development Center. “The information presented was very applicable, and it was a fabulous professional development opportunity!”

Mark your calendar! 4C Ohio Leadership Conference set for Oct. 2-3, 2008

The sixth annual 4C Leadership Conference will be held Oct. 2-3 at the Savannah Center at Chappell Crossing in West Chester, Ohio--a location convenient for both Southwest Ohio and Miami Valley. The conference, “Leading on Purpose,” will feature keynote speaker, Holly Elissa Bruno, an author, teacher and speaker on early childhood education leadership. This conference is specially developed for directors, administrators and owners of child care programs.

4C prize patrol recognizes Child Focus

The 4C prize patrol made a surprise visit to Child Focus, Inc., in Clermont County in May. Four Child Focus programs recently earned three-star ratings, and three programs earned two-star ratings this spring.

Child Focus had both the first program in Clermont County to earn a star rating and the first in the county to earn a three-star rating. With the star ratings at Child Focus, all five counties in 4C's Southwest Ohio region—Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Warren—now have centers with star ratings through the Step Up To Quality program.



4C's Patty Stefanik, Clermont County specialist (far left), and Jennifer Smith, 4C early childhood specialist (far right) with the staff of Child Focus, Inc.



Pathways to Quality

is published quarterly. 4C invites comments, guest editorials and program updates.

Sallie Westheimer
Executive Director

Elaine L. Ward
Chief Operating Officer

Karen Hurley
Director of Development

Amy Gorga
Communications Coordinator

www.4CforChildren.org
513-221-0033 Southwest Ohio
859-781-3511 Northern Kentucky
937-220-9660 Miami Valley

4C provides quality training in Southwest Ohio, the Miami Valley and Northern Kentucky.

A United Way agency partner funded in part by the City of Cincinnati, Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, The Ohio Department of Education, and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services.



Spring Provider Appreciation Issue

now online! Visit www.4CforChildren.org

Pathways/Spring2008

1924 Dana Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45207
513.221.0033
www.4CforChildren.org



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5182
CINCINNATI, OHIO