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December 16, 2011

## Lake County Child Care Connection

"A great deal of what we see still depends on what we're looking for." Anonymous

Hi Cheryl,

I hope you are enjoying a blessed and joyous holiday season!

Since we traditionally do not meet during December, I compiled information, resources and updates here to keep us all on the same page and moving forward.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about any information in this newsletter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing all of you at our first meeting of 2012 -- January 19 at Yuba Community College, Clearlake Campus! Currently it's scheduled to be in Room 800A, but that could change due to their construction. Watch for your agenda email in January with the confirmed room.

Our year will get exciting now as we move into our ECE Award Nominations and Award Dinner planning, Advocacy Events planning, Needs Assessment, and much more! Please make meeting attendance a priority when possible!

Thank you,  
Shelly Mascari

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### California is Awarded the Early Learning Challenge Grant!

News came last week that California is one of 11 states awarded the Race to the Top, Early Learning Challenge Grant.

The CDE press release states:

*"The California grant will primarily fund local Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) being developed by Regional Leadership Consortia — voluntary groups of local First 5 commissions, county offices of education, and county governments. These Consortia will work with licensed child care programs, school districts, and child care partners.*

*"The local QRIS are meant to make information about the quality of child-care programs readily available to parents and policymakers through simple,*

*independent, and publicly available ratings. Using the QRIS, each participating child development agency would receive a rating score based on common standards regarding the learning environment, teacher effectiveness, and parent engagement.*

*"Over time, the QRIS are expected to help improve the availability of high-quality, linguistically and culturally appropriate service to children with high needs. These include infants and toddlers, dual-language learners, and children with disabilities and other special needs."*

We don't know yet what this might mean for Lake County, but we will keep you apprised of any new information that comes our way. As always, our goal at the LPC will be to stay on top of any potential concerns and opportunities this new award might bring our way, to better support our county's providers and families.

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## LPC Holiday Office Hours

Our office will be closed from December 23-January 2.

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## Needs Assessment

A draft of the minimal requirements for the Lake County Needs Assessment is complete. Thanks to the support from Karen MacDougall on completing this project. I will be forwarding a copy of the draft to all LPC members. Please take a moment to review the assessment, and notify me of any red flags or concerns you might have. I will be submitting it as soon as possible, after allowing for comments. Future LPC meetings will discuss whether expanding this document beyond the minimal requirements is an important service for Lake County, and how we might want to allocate resources for that project.

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## REAEYC Winter Workshop

Registration is underway for this popular annual workshop. This year's theme is "Supporting Men and Boys in Early Childhood Education," and features dynamic speakers, including: Rick Crowley, Ronald Mah, and Greg Uba.

Early registration ends December 23, so get your forms in right away!

[Click here to access the registration form.](#)

### **Steps to Quality Participants:**

If you included this workshop on your plan, you do still need to register through their normal process. Don't delay to ensure you get a spot!

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## New Workshop Added - Transitional Kindergarten

As most of us are aware, The Kindergarten Readiness Act now requires each district to provide a transitional kindergarten classroom beginning with the 2012/2013 school year. This workshop will cover the basic requirements of the Act, how it impacts preschools, as well as elementary schools, ideas for implementation, and review available resources. If you are a little unclear on

what transitional kindergarten is about, join us at this informative workshop.

January 31, LCOE Kesey Room 6:30 pm

[Click here to register](#)

Or contact us for more information.

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## New Workshops Added - CPIN

Thanks to great support from Cindi Kaup from the California Preschool Instructional Network, we are able to add three additional CPIN workshops for Spring 2012!

**Steps to Quality Participants:** These workshops all qualify for Component A - 21 hours of CDE sponsored training. If you have signed up for this component, this is a great way to earn an additional 6 hours toward that requirement.

These are also great for Transitional Kindergarten teachers providing a good understanding of the Preschool Foundations.

All workshops are free, and are held at Lake County Office of Education, and will be conducted using videoconferencing technology, along with local hosts and materials. To register for any or all of these workshops, email [cherylg@lakecoe.org](mailto:cherylg@lakecoe.org)

January 24 6:00-8:00 pm

Overview of the Preschool Learning Foundations and the Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 1

February 9 6:00-8:00 pm

Teaching Preschool/Measurement

March 7 6:00-8:00 pm

Overview of the Preschool Learning Foundations and the Preschool Curriculum Framework, Volume 2

April 16 2:00-5:00 pm

Visual and Performing Arts

\*Bring copies of the Foundations and Curriculum Frameworks if you have them.

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## Steps to Leadership Participants:

### Teachstone Technical Assistance Holiday Hours

Teachstone will be closed on the following dates throughout the Holiday season:

December 23<sup>rd</sup>

December 24<sup>th</sup>

December 25<sup>th</sup>

December 26<sup>th</sup>

December 31<sup>st</sup>

January 1<sup>st</sup>

January 2<sup>nd</sup>

If you anticipate needing support, please plan ahead!

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## LPC Master Plan

At our November meeting, we discussed reviewing our existing Master Plan in preparation for updating it Spring 2012. All LPC members are asked to review the master plan in preparation for discussion at the January Council Meeting.

[Click here to download](#) the current Master Plan.

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## Information and Resources

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### Career Ladder Project

The Early Childhood Professional Development and Education Collaborative (EPEC) is proud to announce the release of the Career Ladder Project (CLP) Final Report. The purpose of the CLP was threefold: **1)** Gather input as broadly and transparently as possible from California's early childhood education (ECE) field on the appropriate content and structure for an ECE Career Ladder; **2)** Identify the most relevant career ladder exemplars from other states; and **3)** Compile this input for the official entities responsible for development of a career ladder and revising ECE certification in California.

[Click here to view the report.](#)

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### California Inclusion and Behavioral Consulting Now Available in Lake County!

Lake County has a new free service for CDD funded centers: California Inclusion and Behavioral Consulting (CIBC). Any CDD funded child care provider can contact CIBC to request technical assistance from a consultant to work with children who have disabilities or behavioral issues. More information, including links to other web resources are available at

<http://www.cibc-ca.org/index.html>

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The Center for Inclusive Child Care has a new series of podcasts available for free download.

The forty second episode, titled "**Meal Time: Magic or Mayhem? (Part 3)**" is available now.

**Description:** In the conclusion of our series on daily activities in child care programs, we will talk about the benefits to children with and without disabilities that come from meal time. This is another area of the day when challenging behaviors can take our focus from what we are trying to accomplish like community-building, sharing, emotional regulation and other

skills. What can you do when a child eats more slowly? What about a child who takes someone else's food? Listen to this lively discussion of this important part of the day.

A variety of subscription options are available including **itunes**: [subscribe, listen, and download here.](#)

Lots of interesting topics are available, including:

Free Play or Free for All

Group Time: Do you love it or dread it?

Temperament Series

And much more!

These look very interesting -- check them out!

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## Using Foods in Growing Your Relationships

Do you know that food has an effect on behaviors and how you feel? The same goes for our children. Come gain an understanding of different nutrients found in different foods, some of which you may not know even existed! We all have a need for good nutrition and like yummy, fun food! Our families are strengthened when we gather around the table and share a meal together, conversations are different when we prepare food together, and topics that may not come up otherwise are brought up during these times.

Ever wondered about how to get your child interested in trying new foods? In this workshop you will have hands on experience that you can duplicate at home with your families. You will also walk away with kid friendly recipes, techniques and ideas on involving children in the cooking process. AND, you will get to enjoy the fruits of your labor, yummy food!

Cathy will also teach some basic gardening methods to do with children and how to use them to bring new foods into the kitchen.

*Cathy Welling has been working with children for 30 years starting with her daughter and 4 sons. She ran a small family child care in Santa Rosa for 6 years, was a teacher at Head Start, a cook at Head Start, and now a cook at Mendocino College Child Development Center and at Juvenile Hall, Cathy also volunteers many hours each week at Willits High School*

*Ag Department working, on the farm and with students. She has done many cooking projects and gardening with her own children, who as adults now love to cook for themselves; and has incorporated cooking and gardening as a preschool teacher. She teaches "Kids in the Kitchen" class at Mendocino College. Cathy has a Bachelors Degree in Animal Science from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; an AA Degree in Child Development; and is now working on obtaining a Culinary Certificate from Santa Rosa Junior College.*

**Place:** Mendocino College 1000 Hensley Creek Rd.  
Ukiah  
Child Development Center

**Date:** March 17, 2011 Time: 5:30pm ~ 8:30pm  
**Or Date:** April 20, 2011 Time: 9:30am ~ 12:30pm

**To Pre-Register please call 707-468-3168 or  
Email Karen at:  
[kjason@mendocino.edu](mailto:kjason@mendocino.edu)**

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### Going to a Meeting? Take Data with You.

#### Now Available: One-Page Fact Sheets

Kidsdata.org now offers a feature that makes it easier than ever for you to share data: [one-page fact sheets](#). Available in an easy-to-print PDF format, these fact sheets provide a concise summary of data for each of our 60+ topics, 1,800 regions (every county, city, school district, and legislative district in California), and 10 demographic groups. The data summaries, designed to be one page (front and back), are populated with continually updated data, and are valuable for a variety of uses:

- **Quick, up-to-date handouts** about the status of children for meetings or advocacy work
- **Inexpensive brochures** for events and presentations
- **Offline reference material** about children's health in your community

Tel: (707)-262-4161  
Fax: (707) 263-0197  
Email: [smascari@lakecoe.org](mailto:smascari@lakecoe.org)  
[www.lakecountychildcareplanning.com](http://www.lakecountychildcareplanning.com)

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