

Smalltalk

Serving Providers & Families in Yolo County

Volume XXV, Number 4

Dear Friends:

Everywhere you go these days, you continue to hear remarks that reflect an astonishment at the recent events in Littleton, Colorado. The "fascination" focuses on whether or not this could happen in our community. What do we as a society do to prevent this? Should we know these potential crises exist in our community? The Board of Directors of the statewide R & R Network (Child Care Services is a member agency of the R & R Network) developed a statement that they hope will serve as a catalyst for constructive responses in communities:

When incidents such as the Colorado tragedy command our attention, it is natural to look at the needs of troubled adolescents and youth and to question what we, as adults, could have done to prevent this horror. As early childhood professionals, we know all too well that prevention works best.

Those of us who care for the youngest children know from experience and research that quality child care is one of the most effective tools in violence prevention. Quality child care teaches growing children to play and work with others, to resolve conflicts peacefully, and to rely on caring adults. All children, no matter their age, need to feel safe and cared for.

At Child Care Services we have resources and provide assistance to individuals and groups on issues relating to parenting and enhancing the quality of child care options available in the community. As child care advocates, we want to help parents and providers to offer the best experiences for young children to help them learn and grow to be positive, successful adults.

Sincerely,

Donita Stromgren
Community Services Supervisor

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"A child participating in quality early childhood development is 40 to 50 percent less likely to be a teen parent, live on welfare or go to jail. Research reveals every dollar invested in children's programs saves society \$6 in remedial education, welfare payments and court and prison expenses."

Kids Count Data Book, 1993

Meetings/Support Groups

DAVIS CHILD CARE COMMISSION

Quarterly; next meeting July 22, 7:30 p.m.
Public welcome. Call 757-5691 for location.

FAMILY CHILD CARE LICENSING ORIENTATIONS

July 20, Aug. 17, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
VMC Game Room
For information Call 757-5691

WESTERN YOLO COLLABORATIVE FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Will resume meeting in Fall 1999
Head Start, 310 Main St. Winters
Call Shirley at 795-2377 for more information.

WOODLAND PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

4th Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall, Woodland
Public welcome. Youth and children's issues discussed.

YOLO CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

July 6, Aug. 11, 7:30-9:30 p.m., call 757-5691
or (800)378-5044 for location

YOLO COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE TASK FORCE

To confirm meeting dates and location call Jan at
668-3701.

BRIDGES

Support for parents of children in K-12 special ed.
Will resume meeting in September.
Meets through May, no meeting in December.
3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Learning Center, Davis High School
Call Inger at 756-8791 for information

CH.A.D.D.

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders
Thursdays, July 15 and August 19, 7:15 p.m.
Small group discussions and support.
Leake Room, Woodland Public Library
Call 750-3929 information

VMC = Veterans' Memorial Center

203 E. 14th Street, (14th & B), Davis

YCSS = Yolo County Social Services

120 West Main Street, Woodland

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

2nd Tuesday of month, 7:30 p.m.
Genealogy Library, Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street
Call 757-5696 for information

LA LECHE LEAGUE

2nd Thursday of month, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
345 L Street, Davis;
3rd Wed. of month, 10:00 a.m., Woodland
For location, phone support/meeting topics call:
Karen 753-6986; Lonna 756-3551; Eve 756-6464; Angela 757-7105;
Pamela 750-0229; Jennifer 753-9824, Nathaline 759-1106

MOMS TOGETHER

For moms and babies under 1 year
Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m.; VMC Game Room
For information call Jody at 758-5494

PARENT-TO-PARENT

For parents of children 6th grade and up
Thurs., 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., English,
417 Buena Tierra Dr., Woodland
Call Kenton Keithly 661-1485 or 666-7621
Class will be given in Spanish, call Kenton for dates.

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS

SUPPORT GROUP
3rd Monday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Davis Community Church Fireside Rm, 412 C St
Call Mental Health Assoc. of Yolo County at 756-8181

THE PARENTS PLACE

A free support group for moms and dads
Mondays, 9:00-10:30 a.m.
231 G Street, (A Mother's Place)
For information, call 756-MAMA or Anna 758-8602

TWINS PLACE

Parents of Twins Support Group
2nd Sunday of the month, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
231 G Street, (A Mother's Place)
Call 756-MAMA or Anna at 758-8602

WOODLAND SPECIAL EDUCATION LINKS

Support for parents of children in K-12 special ed.
Will resume meeting in September
WJUSD Office, 630 Cottonwood St.
For information call Sue at 666-0246

Community News

Calendar

July	4	Fourth of July
	5	City offices closed; Davis
Aug.18-22		Yolo County Fair, Woodland Fairgrounds; Call 662-5393 for information
	25	Back to School! Esparto
20-9/6		California State Fair, Cal Expo, Sacramento, call (916)263-3000 for information
	26	Back to School! Woodland*
	30	Back to School! Winters, West Sacramento*
Sept.	1	Back to School! Davis

* Excludes year round schools

vaccine. Many people are unaware that, since 1996, physicians have been using a different vaccine to immunize infants against pertussis. This newer vaccine, the "acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP)," has been proven to be both more effective than the older "whole-cell pertussis vaccine (DTP)," and to cause fewer adverse reactions in infants.

A child who has been vaccinated fully (DTaP at 2,4,6,15-18 months and a booster at 4-6 years) will lose their immunity 3 to 5 years after the last booster. No booster is available to children after their seventh birthday. In the case of an outbreak, it is important to keep infants and other under-immunized young children away from anyone showing upper respiratory virus symptoms. The earliest stage of pertussis has symptoms resembling those of the common cold. Anyone, child or adult, with a persistent cough should go to their physician.

Remember, if your child is not immunized, he or she may be sent home from school or child care in the case of an outbreak.

If you have questions about pertussis or other immunization issues, you may call the Yolo County Department of Public Health or Carrie at Child Care Services.

A New Transportation Service

Looking for transportation for your child to and from child care, school/classes, after-school activities or camps? Davis Area Rapid Transit, Inc. (DART) serves the city of Davis and Yolo County. They provide transportation on a one-time or as-needed basis, as well as for regularly scheduled trips. Their drivers provide door-to-door service that includes escorting children safely inside their destinations upon request. For more information call (530)613-DART (3278), e-mail at D.A.R.T.@commutebydart.com or visit at <http://www.commutebydart.com>.

One Solution to Caring for a Sick Child

Though not feasible for everyone, telecommuting can be used successfully for sick child care. Local author, Lis Fleming, has written *The One-Minute Commuter: How to Keep Your Job and Stay at Home Telecommuting*. If you would like a free copy of this book, stop by the City of Davis Child Care Services office at 604 Second Street in Davis or call 757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044.

Compiled by Chris Weber-Johnson & Carrie Shepard

Outbreak of Pertussis in Yolo County

In late May, an outbreak of pertussis (whooping cough) in Yolo County, was reported in the newspapers. An article in the May/June 1999 issue of Small Talk discussed some facts about the disease. The Yolo County Immunization Collaborative has requested that we include some additional information in this issue in response to the recent outbreak.

Some parents have chosen not to have their children immunized against pertussis because they are afraid of a serious reaction to the

Community News

Community Resources

FEDERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Eligibility is based on income.

Last Wednesday of the month, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Senior Center, 646 A Street, Davis, 757-5696

Last Friday of month:

Winters Community Center, 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.

Yolo Housing Community Cntr, 10:45-11:30 a.m.

Call (530)758-6821 for information

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Immunizations conducted by Yolo County Health Dept.

Woodland, 10 Cottonwood

Monday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. & Friday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.;

West Sacramento, 500 B Jefferson Blvd., Ste 170

Tuesday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Call (530)666-8645 (Woodland, Winters) or (916)375-6380 (West Sacramento) for information

WELL AND SICK CARE CLINICS

for Women's Health Care & general medical information

Davis Community Clinic, 2040 Sutter Place,

Call (530)758-2060

Peterson Clinic, 8 N. Cottonwood, Woodland,

Call (530)666-8960

Salud Clinic, 500B Jefferson Blvd. #180, West Sacramento, call (916)375-6400

YOLO COUNTY CHILDREN'S

MEDICAL SERVICES

Child Health &

Disability Prevention Program

Free health check-ups for children through 20 years of age on MediCal and for low-to-medium income children through 18 years of age.

California Children's Services

Case management and financial assistance for children through 20 years of age with serious or chronic medical conditions.

For information and appointments call (530)666-8640

YOLO COUNTY WIC PROGRAM

Nutrition program for women, infants & children. Clinics in Davis, West Sacramento, Winters & Woodland. Phone hours 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

MWF: (530)666-8445 (Woodland), (916)375-6390 (West Sacramento)

Safety Alert: Bike Helmets and Playgrounds Don't Mix

After a 3-year old Pennsylvania boy died by strangulation, the U.S.

Consumer Product Safety

Commission (CPSC) warned that

children should not wear bike

helmets when playing on

playground equipment. In this case,

the child died when his bicycle

helmet became wedged as he tried

to slide through a small opening on

playground equipment. Two years

ago, a 7-year old girl in Canada also

died when she became entrapped in an opening on a playground

structure. Both children were wearing bike helmets and were

strangled by the helmet strap. Four other similar incidents have

occurred, but fortunately the children weren't injured.

The CPSC urges that children always wear a helmet when riding a bike, because they can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85% if there is a crash. But when a child gets off the bike, take off the helmet. There is a hidden hazard of strangulation if a child wears a helmet while playing on playground equipment.

Copies of the CPSC's Bike Helmet Safety Alert can be obtained through the CPSC hotline at (800)638-2772, or it can be viewed on the CPSC web site at www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/helmet.html.

Reprinted from Child Health Alert, P. O. Box 610228, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

Summer - A Great Time to Read!

This summer, call or visit your local branch library to find out about their summer reading programs. Many library schedules include a variety of entertaining programs and story times.

Davis Branch	(530)757-5573
Turner Library (West Sac.)	(916)375-6465
Woodland Library	(530)661-5983
Esparto Branch	(530)787-3426
Winters Branch	(530)795-4955
Knight's Landing	(530)735-6593
Yolo	(530)662-2363
Clarksburg	(916)744-1755

Community News

Help Save a Child's Life

Playskook, Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc. and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are urging consumers to search for and stop using previously recalled "Playskool TravelLite" portable cribs. The Playskool Travel-Lite is manufactured by Kolcraft.

Six children have reportedly died in incidents involving the Playskool Travel-Lite portable crib. If you own one or have seen one it is URGENT TO STOP USING THIS PORTABLE CRIB IMMEDIATELY. CALL KOLCRAFT at 800-453-7673 for instructions on how to return the Playskool Travel-Lite Portable Crib and receive a

\$120.00 Child Saver Reward from Playskool and Kolcraft.

The Playskool Travel-Lite portable cribs have two nylon mesh sides and two blue solid plastic ends. The Playskool logo featuring white letters on red background appears on each end. The portable crib has two side rails which fold in the center for storage and handling. These side rails can collapse, forming a "V" that can entrap and strangle a child.

Fall Programs Available

The Center for Child and Family Studies is accepting names of children for the waiting list. Enrollment for fall 1999 will draw from the current list; new additions to the waiting list may be called at a later date to complete the fall enrollment or to fill openings later in the academic year. Parents who would like to put their child's name on the waiting list may contact:

Yuri Rodriquez at 752-4358,
e-mail yarodriquez@ucdavis.edu
Department of Human and Community Development

The Davis Joint Unified School District has openings in both their state preschool program and their full day Children's Center program. The preschool program is a part day program for income eligible families designed to prepare children for kindergarten. Priority enrollment is for five year olds (children born before 12/1/95). Younger children are enrolled on a space available basis. The Children's Center program is also income-based and provides full day, year round care from 7:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. This program serves children 3 - 5 years old. For more information call 757-5340 or drop by the programs at 530 B Street between 8:30 and 5:00 M - F.

Summer Food Safety Tips

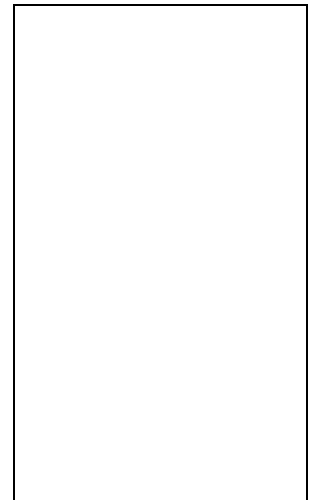
Summer's here and the time is right for cooking outdoors. Common sense food safety preparation guidelines apply year-round, but warmer weather and outdoor dining bring bacteria in food. Those who are most at risk for food-borne illnesses are young children and older adults. But, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up to 97 percent of food contamination that causes illness is avoidable through proper food handling procedures.

Follow these steps in order to prevent food-borne illness when cooking outdoors this summer:

- Always have hand washing soap available, then dry hands with paper towels and dispose.
- Wash hands thoroughly before and after each step in food preparation and before eating.
- Thaw frozen foods in the refrigerator (in a dish to catch drips).
- Never leave perishable food out of the refrigerator for more than two hours. Eggs, cream, and mayonnaise dishes should not be left unrefrigerated for more than one hour.
- Cook all meats well done Use a meat thermometer - red meats should be at least 160 degrees, and poultry should be 180 degrees.
- Ground meat products should have no pink or running juices when cooked.
- Hot foods should be served immediately after cooking, or kept over a heated grill at 140 degrees or higher.
- Make sure all picnic foods remain thoroughly chilled until just before serving. Do not allow foods to remain unchilled for more

than one hour. Use an insulated cooker or frozen gel-packs to keep the temperature inside under 40 degrees.

- Marinades can harbor bacteria. Never baste meat, fish or chicken with an uncooked marinade that has come into contact with raw meat.
- For more information on summer safety concerns, call theHealthLine at 1-800-908-8883.



Community News

Looking for a Change of Career: Family Child Care

~~Family child care is a growing industry, and many people are looking for a change of career in this field. There are many opportunities available, and the industry is expected to continue to grow in the future.~~

~~As a family child care provider, you will be responsible for the care and supervision of children in your home. This is a rewarding and challenging career choice, and it offers many opportunities for growth and advancement.~~

Especially for Parents

Science Can Be Child's Play

By Laura J. Mezirka

~~It's not just a matter of memorizing facts to memorize, but a method for learning about the world.~~

~~Step 1: Make a hypothesis (guess) and test it. If it's wrong, make another hypothesis (guess), or, making another hypothesis, testing the new hypothesis. See if the results can be duplicated. Does it turn out the same way if someone else does the experiment?~~

~~It's not just a matter of memorizing facts to memorize, but a method for learning about the world.~~



Especially for Parents

Recommended Books

Hazen, Robert M. and Trefill, James. Science Matters: Achieving Scientific Literacy, New York, Doubleday 1991

O'Connell, Susan M. et al. Best Science Books for Children, American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science, available in the Library's reference section.

Hold, John Caldwell. How Children Learn, New York, Pitman Publishing, 1967

DeBono, Edward. Teach Your Child to Think, New York, Viking 1993

Do get some books that suggest science projects suitable for children that can be done with materials at hand. *Mudpies to Magnets* is a currently popular and available book in this category. *Mr. Wizard's Supermarket Science*, *Science Experiments You Can Eat* and books in the Brown Paper School series (Little, Brown and Company) are all good. Good books can be found at yard sales or used book sales. A friend or relative may be willing to pass on the book they used when their children were younger. Pop-ups, transparencies, and other gimmicks add more to the price than to the value.

Beth Post, former exhibit director at the Explorit Science Center in Davis, says that the one thing she would most like parents to do is refrain from saying, "Science was too hard for me." Now that you understand what science is, you may realize that you have been doing science experiments every time you try different substances to treat stubborn stains in your laundry.

Using Science Museums Effectively

~~At the Explorit Science Center in Davis, create exhibits where the results of the participatory experiments are not predetermined.~~
Davis, create exhibits where the results of the participatory experiments are not predetermined.

Especially for Parents

making the rules clear ahead of time is much more pleasant than trying to explain indoor behavior and indoor voices to children who are in the middle of running around and being loud.

Many museums offer birthday party packages that include a fun science lesson geared to the ages of the children. Classes are often offered during school breaks. These are not hard classes with homework, but are fun for the children. The staff are skilled not only in science matters, but in methods that children of each age level use to learn.

Volunteer docents help to explain the exhibit to visitors. Your children may be more willing to listen to a docent than to a parent. Phone ahead and ask when docents will be available.

I established early on that whining for purchases at the gift shop would put a quick end to our visits. I go back later by myself if I see something that would make a good birthday present or a fun trinket. This avoids building an association with getting stuff that makes the visit something to be impatiently endured while waiting to get stuff.

Consider a membership in your local science museum. Benefits include free admission, newsletters, class announcements, and also discounts on classes and at the gift shop. My favorite benefit is free admission. If your museum is a member of the Association of Science Technology Centers, you can get reciprocal free admission at other member museums; 180 in the U.S. alone, and others in Canada and throughout world. This free admission meant I could drop by with my child for a ten or fifteen minute visit without feeling that I was wasting money. In Sacramento, we could make a mini-visit to the Discovery Museum.

Formerly a homeschooling mom in Woodland, Ms. Mezirka found herself unable to endure the summer heat and returned to her hometown of San Francisco. A single mom with a day job, she writes in her leisure time (5:45-5:59 a.m.).

Explorit Science Center
3141 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616
(530)756-0197

Lawrence Hall of Science
Centennial Drive
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720
(510)642-5133

Exploratorium
Palace of Fine Arts
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94123
(415)563-7337

Discovery Museum
101 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95822
(916)449-2057

California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118-4599
(415)221-5100

Tech. Museum of Innovation
Park & Market Streets
San Jose, CA
(408)279-7151

Parenting Handouts

No new Parenting Handouts will be sent out during July and August. Parenting Handouts are available at no cost to individuals and at those family child care homes and children's programs that request them for parents. An index of past handouts is also available. To request copies of past handouts or to be put on the mailing list to begin receiving handouts in September, call Child Care Services at 757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044 or stop by the office at 604 Second Street, Davis.

Selected Science Museums in Northern CA

Legislative Update

Compiled by Donita Stromgren

Pending State Legislation

AB109 (Knox) Sick leave to care for dependents

Requires all employers to allow employees to use at least 1/2 of their annual sick leave to care for a sick child, parent or spouse without penalty. Senate Appropriations.*

AB212 (Aroner) Child Care Training & Compensation

Establishes a pilot project (California CARES) in five geographic areas of the state. Gives priority to areas in which local government make commitments also to fund the program. The project provides annual stipends to child care workers to encourage retention in the child care field. Senate Health & Human Services.*

AB566 (Havice) After School Programs in Parks

Expands the After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Programs into park sites adjacent to school sites in addition to school sites. Senate Education.*

AB840 (Kuehl) Child Custody: Domestic Violence

Establishes a presumption in the determination of child custody that it is detrimental to a child to award custody to a parent who has perpetrated domestic violence with the last 10 years.

AB1594 (Florez) Hepatitis A Vaccinations

Requires that children be vaccinated against Hepatitis A before being admitted to a public or private school, child care center or family child care home. Senate Health & Human Services.*

AB1659 (Assembly Human Services) Fingerprinting Exemptions

This bill is intended to clean up legislation from last year that expanded fingerprinting requirements for child care programs. It would exempt volunteers and students at a child care facility from a criminal record clearance if they are directly supervised by someone with a clearance, work less than 16 hours per week and are not left alone with children in care. It would also exempt relatives, legal guardians and foster parents from the clearance requirement. Introduced in Senate.*

*Bill is being reviewed by this committee.

SB618 (Chesbro) Fingerprinting Fee Exemptions

This bill maintains the new fingerprinting requirements, but exempts the exempted categories from paying the fees associated with submitting fingerprints and processing the clearances when funds are appropriated in the Budget Act for that purpose. Introduced in Assembly.*

SB624 (Schiff) Preschool Reading Guidelines

Requires the California Department of Education to include updating the prekindergarten reading and development guidelines in future spending plans for quality improvement funds. It would require that programs funded by CDE use the guidelines in their programs. Provides \$1 million to publish and distribute the guidelines. Introduced in Assembly.*

SB643 (Alpert) Proposition 10

Matching Grant Program

Establishes a matching fund program of \$1 of state funds for every \$3 of Prop 10 funds used for home visit programs serving low-income or at-risk children and families. The matched programs must be shown to be cost-effective and evaluated.

SB967 (Perata) Child Care

Expansion Grant Program

Establishes a fund to provide matching tax credits or vouchers to businesses that provide child care assistance to low-income employees.

Proposition 10 Committee Update

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors recently appointed members to the County Proposition 10 committee. Supervisor LoisWolk will serve as Chairperson of the committee. The county has already received \$50,000 and must begin the planning process for use of the funds. Look for information on the meeting schedule in future newsletters.

The following are appointed members:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Bette Hinton | County Staff |
| Meg Sheldon | County Staff |
| Irma Rodriguez | County Staff |
| Wesley Beers | District 1 |
| Sara Bradley Rock | District 2 |
| Susan Ullrich | District 3 |
| Sheila Allen | District 4 |
| Sue Heitman | District 5 |

Creative Corner

Compiled by Chris Weber-Johnson

Automatic Balloon Blower Upper

Things you will need:

Vinegar, baking soda, balloon, clear plastic bottle with a small opening, funnel

1. Place the end of a balloon around the neck of the funnel. Put about a tablespoon of baking soda in the funnel and shake it gently into the balloon. Remove funnel and place it in the bottle.
2. Pour about 1/4 cup vinegar into the bottle. Remove the funnel. (The amount of soda and vinegar varies with the size of the bottle and the balloon.)
3. Place the end of the balloon around the neck of the bottle, being careful not to spill the baking soda. When attached, gently raise the balloon upright and let the baking soda fall into the bottle. Mixing the baking soda and vinegar causes a chemical reaction--foaming and bubbling---which produces carbon dioxide gas (CO₂). That gas is released when the bubbles pop, and it gets trapped in the balloon and fills it up.

Source: *More Mudpies to Magnets* by Elizabeth A. Sherwood, Robert A. Williams, and Robert E. Rockwell.

Build a Volcano

In warm weather, playing with sand and water is a natural activity for children and one which they love. Add a volcano, a few plastic dinosaurs and some twig "trees" and your children will be headed toward hours of "pre-historic delight!"

You'll Need:

Sand, one cup water, 3/4 cup vinegar, 1/2 cup dishwashing liquid, a few drops of red food coloring, 1/4 cup baking soda, can for mountain opening

What to do:

1. Make "magic solution" by mixing water, vinegar, dishwashing liquid, and food coloring. (For a faster eruption, increase the amount of vinegar, and decrease the amount of water and soap.)
2. Build a mound of sand and bury the can to make an opening for the volcano.
3. Pour baking soda into the can.
4. When you want your volcano to "erupt," pour some of the "magic solution" into the can and watch the "lava" flow! There should be enough mixture for many eruptions---just add more baking soda as needed.

Reason:

The eruption is caused by the formation of carbon dioxide gas when the colored mixture and the baking soda mix.

Family Child Care News

Parents Who Don't Pay: What's a Provider To Do?

By Carrie Shepard

Every now and then, we hear of a parent who has developed a pattern of using care for their children, but not paying the provider. Such a person leaves a trail of providers who have been cheated of their income.

Sometimes, providers will ask us whether there is a way to "blacklist" that parent so that other providers know to avoid taking the children into care. For a variety of reasons, such a list is not feasible. However, there are some safeguards that you, as a provider, can take to lower the chances of falling prey to a chronic non-paying parent.

- 1) Ask the parent for the names and numbers of previous child care providers, and call them to find out whether there were any problems with payment.
- 2) Have a good contract *requiring payment in advance*. A well-written contract will be more likely to stand up in Small Claims Court in the event that you have a problem with someone not paying.
- 3) Enforce the terms of your contract. If you want to be nice and let someone pay a day late, then at least insist on having them write you check on the day the payment is due. You can agree not to cash the check until the next day, but you at least have acknowledgment from the parent that payment was due.
- 4) You may want to ask for a deposit or retainer for a week or two of care before the child starts in your family child care. This is then used to pay for the last week(s) that the child is with you.
- 5) Check into the Credit Bureau Associates by calling Kathy Parsons at 1(800)564-6440 ext. 712. Find out how you can use their services to check on the credit standing of parents before you take their children into your care. They have other useful services as well.

Free Tax Preparation Training In August

This is a workshop that you will not want to miss! The instructor, Meredith Coghlan, was herself a family child care provider for many years. Now she is a tax preparer with a special interest in, knowledge of, and concern for family child care providers. This August, Meredith will be coming to Yolo County for the third time to offer a free training in record-keeping and tax preparation. You will find her informative and, believe it or not, entertaining!

So we hope to see some new faces at the upcoming training on August 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the County Fair Mall Community Room in Woodland. If you have any questions about the training, or if you would like to sign up, please call Carrie at 757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044.

Internet Education: Family Child Care Management Online

No time to get out? Now you can earn 3 units in child development over the internet through Long Beach City College. You will learn about developmentally appropriate activities, business management, contracts, health and safety, working with families, and much more. All you need is access to a computer with connection to the internet and an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

The class (CDFDC 212, Sec. #3584) will run from August 16 to December 10. To register or for more information, call April Mansfield at (562)938-4740 or send her email at amansfield@lbcc.cc.ca.us.

Additional Record-Keeping Software Available

In the March/April *Small Talk*, we let you know about three software programs available through the Internet and Red Leaf Press which can help you in many areas of your business-related record keeping. Since that issue, we have learned of two other programs: ProCare Management System (www.procaresoft.com or 1(800)338-3884) and ProviderWare (www.providerware.com or 1(888)209-8482).

Family Child Care News

Davis Licensed Family Child Care Providers

All Davis licensed family child care providers are invited to the association's meeting/summer celebration at David and Dorothea Gee's home in Woodland. This will be a potluck, so please bring a dish to share. Call Dave Bakay at 758-3097 for the date and time of the event, as well as for directions to the Gees' home.

Woodland Provider Association: Meetings and Parks Day Schedule

The Woodland Family Child Care Providers Network will start meeting again this summer both at the parks on Thursday mornings, and on a bi-monthly basis in the evening. All licensed providers are invited to come. This is a great opportunity for networking with other providers for ideas, support, and camaraderie.

The first regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 3 at 7:00 p.m. at Steve's Pizza in Woodland. Check the September/October issue of *Small Talk* for an announcement of the next meeting date.

Park Days is a time to bring the children in your care to a park in Woodland, with a snack to share with all of the children. The kids will enjoy playing with other children, and you will have a chance to interact with other providers. Come at 9:30 a.m. or later if that's too early for you to get the children out the door. The parks schedule is as follows:

July	1	City Park
	8	Beamer Park
	15	Crawford Park
	22	Fern Park
	29	Harris Park
August	5	Beamer Park
	12	Crawford Park
	19	Harris Park
	26	Fern Park - End of Summer Party and Picnic Lunch

FAMILY CHILD CARE CONNECTION

It's Fun...Join Us!

The Family Child Care Connection is a FREE program for all licensed family child care providers in Davis. With only a handful of similar programs offered throughout the nation, it is a unique program consisting of two parts:

HOME VISITS. A Child Care Services staff member will contact you to schedule a convenient visit to your home about once a month. She will bring age appropriate activities planned for your children including circle time with songs, stories, and creative movement; art or science projects; and toys from the Toy Closet. During the visit you may share ideas or concerns with our staff person, and she can provide you with information regarding all aspects of your business. This is a fun visit, not a licensing inspection. We do have openings in this program, so if you are interested in signing up, call Linda at 757-5691. If the program fills up, your name will be kept on a waiting list, and you will be called as soon as there is an opening.

MORNING OUT. Providers who can arrange transportation for their child care children are encouraged to sign up for Morning Out, offered Fridays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Chestnut Park Round House. You and the children can enjoy a variety of interest centers including art, science and cooking projects, dramatic play, table activities, texture play, and circle time with songs, stories, and creative movement. This is a good opportunity for providers to connect with each other and for the children to interact in a larger group setting. Providers who sign up for Morning Out attend the program three Fridays a month every other month from September through May.

Morning Out will be held on September 11, 17, and 24, and on October 8, 15 and 22.

If you are interested in either Home Visits or Morning Out, please call Carrie or Linda at 757-5691.

Summer Morning Out

There are still a few spaces available for some Summer Mornings Out. See the attached flyer and sign up today!

Smalltalk

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CITY OF DAVIS
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