



# COLE-HARRINGTON FAMILY CHILD CARE and CHILD CARE NETWORK NEWS

Spring 2012

Dear Parents, Guardians and Educators:

Spring is flying by, schools will begin their summer break in a few weeks and we are getting close to the end of another busy fiscal year here at Cole-Harrington. It is time to get out and enjoy the warm weather and lots of outdoor activities with your child care children and your own families. We have some great ideas for field trips and other important program reminders and updates for you below.

We are very much looking forward to our Annual FCC Educator Appreciation Dinner on Tuesday evening, June 12<sup>th</sup> at Lantana's in Randolph with Jeanine Fitzgerald as our Keynote speaker. This is an event where we thank our educators for their hard work and dedication to the children served through our agency. These men and women are an impressive group of folks, who have demonstrated a commitment to young children and families by not only meeting stringent state regulations but also by participating in the state's initiatives to enhance their skills and program quality.

We have over 20 educators pursuing their bachelor's degree through collaboration with Eastern Nazarene College and several other educators enrolled in college classes with other local colleges. All of our educators will be working on advancing on the state's Quality Improvement Rating Scale (QRIS) and planning for their training needs on Individualized Professional Development Plans. FCC System staff is also taking advantage of trainings offered in the community through state-sponsored initiatives that will enhance their work with your child and his/her educator.

Enjoy this edition of our newsletter, and have a safe and wonderful summer season!

Michelle Bradford  
FCC Program Coordinator

This is a sign of future prosperity for everyone in Massachusetts



Whenever you see children interacting and learning in enriching environments, what you're really seeing is brain building in progress. The latest science shows that these early experiences actually build the architecture of the developing brain, and provide the foundation for a lifetime of learning, success and productive, responsible citizenship. Brain building is an investment in the economic prosperity of everyone in Massachusetts. EEC and the [United Way](http://www.brainbuildinginprogress.org) have launched a joint initiative to provide more information on the science of brain building and why our future depends on it. Visit [www.brainbuildinginprogress.org](http://www.brainbuildinginprogress.org) to learn more.

*Above excerpt taken from the MA Department of Early Education and Care website.*

## Family Picnic & Raffle

Join us for our Annual Cole-Harrington Family Picnic on **Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup>** at **6:00 p.m.** to be held on the grounds of the MA Hospital School in Canton. Please be on the lookout for a mailing with details and raffle tickets! Additional information can be provided by calling our program secretary, Linda Schell at (781) 821-4422 x 314.



## Welcome Aboard!

We would like to welcome the following new FCC Educators to our system who have joined us this winter/spring:

Debbie Beaudoin, Dedham  
Deb Johnson, Plymouth  
Henrietta Oliveira, Middleboro  
Sandra Piasecki, Plymouth



## Holiday Updates/Program Closures Spring/Summer 2012

Cole-Harrington and FCC Educators will be closed on the following days. There is no substitute care available during CH program closures or transportation. Center holidays may be slightly different. Please check with your individual programs.

Wednesday, July 4      Independence Day  
Friday, August 31      CH Program Development Day

## Payroll Dates for Educators & Centers

Please remember to call in/e-mail your CH children's attendance on the attendance call-in dates to Sarah Worton, our Financial Coordinator. **We must have accurate records of children's attendance in order to process your reimbursement on time.** Due to the large number of educators and programs on our payroll system, Sarah will not be able to call you for attendance. If you need another copy of the payroll schedule, please ask your ECS or e-mail Sarah at [Sworton@enableinc.org](mailto:Sworton@enableinc.org). We thank you for your cooperation!



We are excited to announce the birth of a new addition to the Cooper family! Leah, Plymouth Early Childhood Specialist, and her family welcomed baby Nolan Daniel into the world on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to the happy family! *Leah will be on maternity leave through the end of the summer and her cases will be covered by Plymouth and Canton staff.*

## Contact Information for Transportation Companies



Cole-Harrington Transportation	
Paul Matinzi	781-948-8500 (Nextel)
DKN Transportation	
Heather Walkes	508-577-0426
Freitas Transportation	
John Freitas	784-344-1740
Moreno Transportation	
Antonio Moreno	508-250-6263
One Love Transportation	
Ebony Abel	508-208-7920
3 M Transportation	
Dayanta Box-Bull	508-441-8711
Warren Transportation	
Michelle Warren	781-252-9506

If you are requesting a change to your child's transportation schedule, please contact your Early Childhood Specialist who will coordinate with your caregiver and the transportation company. As always, if your child is going to be absent for the day, please leave a message for the transportation coordinator along with contacting your child care program. *Unexcused absences may result in suspension of services.*

## FCC Educator Agreements for Fiscal Year 2013

Administrative staff is in the process of reviewing our current FCC Educator Agreement for distribution at the end of June. Your ECS will review any changes with you and ask that you read, sign and return it promptly to the system. All FCC Educators who join the system, must participate in QRIS.

Enable, Inc./Cole-Harrington Family Child Care &  
Child Care Network  
605 Neponset St. Canton, MA 02021  
781-821-4422

## QRIS

All FCC Educators who receive reimbursement from the state for subsidized or voucher childcare placements are required to participate in the QRIS system by this summer. The deadline for FCC Educators affiliated with *our system* is June 1, 2012. Thanks to all of our FCC Educators and FCC System staff for working hard to meet this deadline...we are close to and expect to be at 100% compliance by June 1<sup>st</sup>!

The MA QRIS is a method to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early education and care settings. It is a rating system that will assist parents and guardians in choosing quality child care and guide educators and programs on a path towards increased quality. Educators and programs must meet a set of standards in order to advance a level on the QRIS.

We have a group of 10 educators currently participating in QRIS, who received grant funding this spring through EEC to help them advance to Level 3 on the rating system. Congratulations to Susanna Agbese of Randolph, Mary Carr of Norwood, Ninette Cummings of Norwood, Andrea Enos of Brockton, Madalena Fernandes of Brockton, Linda Freitas of Stoughton, Donna Frueh of Norwood, Celestina Moreno of Brockton, Julie Smith of Bridgewater and Heather Tripp of Middleboro.

We anticipate future QRIS grant funding to become available in the fall for those educators in the system at Level 2 or above. We are in the process of working with educators to prepare for this opportunity.

Be on the lookout for more information and training on the QRIS through the Regional Professional Development Partnerships. Please visit <http://www.ccrinc.org/R4PDP.shtml> for spring/summer training opportunities as well as related initiatives through Wheelock's Aspire Institute: <http://www.wheelock.edu/academics/centers-and-institutes/aspire-institute>

Please visit the MA Department of Early Education and Care's website for more information on QRIS: <http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care/>

## Community Connections



The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) program is funded through the MA Department of Early Education and Care with support from public schools and community agencies. CFCE is designed to provide families with access to comprehensive services and supports that help strengthen families and provide optimal child development. Check it out!

Visit the Brockton CFCE on the web at: <http://www.brocktonpublicschools.com/page.cfm?p=30>

Visit the Self-Help CFCE (covers multiple towns) at: <http://www.selfhelpcpc.org/>

Visit <http://www.eec.state.ma.us/ChildCareSearch/CFCE.aspx> to find your town's CFCE if not included above.

## A HUGE congratulations to the following ladies on Their professional accomplishments!



Kim Lai-Fook, Brockton	BA Education
Julie Smith, Bridgewater	BA Early Childhood Education
Judy Salazar, Randolph	BA Human Development/Early Childhood Education
Doreen McDuffy, Brockton	BA Human Services/Early Childhood Development

## Extended FAMILY Vacations

We have been asked by families with special circumstances how long their children can be out of care per EEC policy. The situations have involved families needing to go out of the country or for extended visits with family out of state. Unfortunately, EEC will allow for up to 10 days excused for these types of situations. Any absences exceeding 10 days may result in loss of subsidized childcare slot and placement back on the state subsidized waitlist. If your child will have a planned absence of more than 3 days, please notify your Early Childhood Specialist right away.

## Substitute Care

Parents, please remember to contact your Early Childhood Specialist to arrange substitute care during your program's vacation or closure. Back up care is a great benefit of belonging to a FCC System! If you have not established one or two potential substitute options for your child, and you are interested in meeting some potential sub care educators for back up child care, please call your ECS to arrange a meeting.

Educators please remember to let parents and your ECS know as soon as you have vacation/closure plans. We are required to offer subcare to support children's EEC attendance requirements and maintain funding for system services. Thanks!

## Children's Attendance Reminders

### Parents/Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians are REQUIRED to initial transportation logs upon placing their child on or taking their child off of a transportation vehicle.
- Parents/Guardians are required to notify their FCC Educator and their Transportation Company (if applicable) when their child is going to be absent.
- Parents/Guardians must keep their emergency contact list updated and inform designated contacts that CH may contact them regarding their child if parent cannot be reached.

### FCC Educators:

- All FCC Educators are required to keep track of children's attendance (including documenting when children depart for school or special services and return) and document excused and non-excused absences.
- It is best practice to have parent/guardians sign their child in/out each day on an attendance sheet at childcare.
- Educators must initial transportation logs upon receiving a child from a transportation vehicle or when placing a child on a transportation vehicle.
- FCC Educators should promptly follow up with parent/guardians when children do not show up to childcare and document reason for absence.

## Licensing Reminder for Educators

With the summer approaching, time to prepare for the enrollment of school age children and make plans for those non-napping kiddos! **Please read the attached EEC Technical Assistance Sheet.** <http://www.mass.gov/edu/docs/eec/prof-development/curr-res/quietact-0109.pdf>

It is not developmentally appropriate to expect school age children (and even some preschool aged children) to nap, nor should these children be expected to rest on a mat for 45 minutes without thoughtfully planned quiet activities to keep them engaged. Planning for meeting these older children's needs while the younger children rest allows you to have some down time, and prevent behavioral problems from occurring. Remember to ask your ECS for some naptime tips for SA children if you need ideas!



## Warm Weather Reminders

### Clothing:

Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the changing weather. Mornings can be cool, so make sure to send children to childcare with a light jacket or sweatshirt. Please update your child's extra change of clothing to be stored at childcare for toileting accidents/spills or messy play. Please also send in a hat/ baseball cap to provide extra sun protection.

### Sunscreen:

Please make sure to apply sunscreen to your child in the morning **BEFORE** he/she arrives at childcare and make sure your program has a bottle of sunscreen at childcare so your educator can reapply during the day. Remember, the sun's burning rays are harmful to everyone's skin no matter what your ethnicity is!

Please make sure to label all clothing/sunscreen with your child's name

### Water:

Children can quickly dehydrate from the heat. Water should be available to children at all times throughout the day.

Let's work together to keep our children safe, comfortable and happy!

## Berry Picking Fun!

As the summer months and warm sultry days are upon us, there is plenty of time to be outdoors with the children. Take advantage of the fresh air and pick your own fruits and vegetables as well as enjoying that fresh grown flavor. A few farms close by not requiring a full day trip are listed below as well as a website for you to explore.



[C.N.Smith Farms ~ 325 South Street ~ E. Bridgewater](#)

508-378-2270 hours vary depending on day

[The Big Apple ~ 207 Arnold Street ~ Wrentham](#)

508 384-3055 hours 9-5

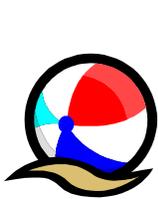
[Tangerini's Spring Street Farm ~ 139 Spring Street ~ Millis](#)

508-376-5024 hours 10 - 4

[Ward's Berry Farm ~ 614 South Main Street ~ Sharon](#)

781-784-3600

The above farms are just a small sampling of some of our favorites! Don't forget to call ahead to check for times and pickings that are available. Another website that can lead you to other farms for your picking pleasures is [www.pickyourown.org](http://www.pickyourown.org). This website has many resources for you to browse. Remember there is something for everyone!



*Enjoy the summer!*