



Early Childhood News

December 2008 – February 2009

Early Childhood Connections

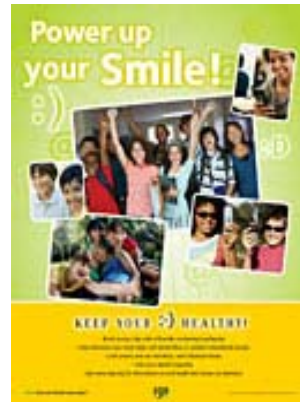
February is National Children's Dental Health Month

National Children's Dental Health Month began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio, on February 3, 1941. During that year, February 3-7 was designated as Children's Dental Health Week in Akron, Ohio.

The American Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day on February 8, 1949. The single-day observance became a week-long event in 1955. And in 1981, the program was extended to a month-long celebration known today as National Children's Dental Health Month.

Since 1941, the observance has grown from a two-city event into a nation-wide program. NCDHM messages reach millions of people in communities across the country and at numerous armed service bases. Local observances often include poster, coloring, and essay contests, health fairs, free dental screenings, museum exhibits, classroom presentations, and dental office tours.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Turn Up Your Smile Power!" Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life. By participating in the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, members of the dental team, parents, teachers, and other can help keep children's smiles beautiful now and for years to come.



The ADA distributes press kits and public services announcements for television and radio to educate the public and enhance promotional efforts. Additional information appears on the ADA's website at www.ada.org.

Early Childhood Connections is pleased to join in with this year's campaign by offering the "Teeth-on-the-go" program sponsored by Delta Dental. This innovative program is designed to teach young children the importance of taking good care of their teeth.

E-mail Jan at jtyrdal@rushmore.com to schedule a time in February for her to come to your child care home or program. Children will participate in demonstrations of proper tooth brushing, along with brushing the "big" teeth and story time. Providers in the Spearfish area can schedule an appointment with Jenn for this same opportunity by emailing her at jennelson@rushmore.com.

Congratulations

Dawn Wahl, a Family Child Care Provider in Rapid City, received her NAFCC Accreditation in October 2008. Dawn is the first South Dakota family child care provider to receive accreditation from NAFCC (National Association for Family Child Care). We applaud Dawn's commitment to her profession and the families and children participating in her program. Accreditation is a **HUGE** accomplishment, as well as an on-going professional commitment. Congratulations, Dawn !!

Early Childhood Connections is proud to be Western South Dakota's Early Childhood Enrichment Provider.

ECC Office Closings

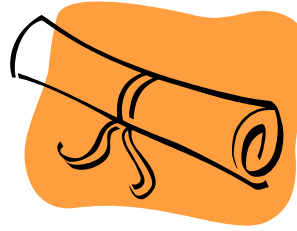
The ECC office will be closed on the following days:

November 27 and 28, 2008	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24-26, 2008	Christmas Holiday
January 1 and 2, 2009	New Year's Holiday
January 19, 2009	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 16, 2009	President's Day Holiday

Our normal business hours are: Mon. through Thurs 8 am to 5 pm
Friday 8 am to 4 pm

We are also closed from 12 pm - 1 pm for the lunch hour.

Congratulations!!



Robin Heinrich recently received her CDA credential. Congratulations on this achievement and all of your hard work! If you are interested in

receiving information on the Child Development Associate Credential, you can contact Kim Booth at kimbooth@rushmore.com or 342-6464.

New Training Opportunity through Networking

We are always listening and always trying to find new ways to provide training opportunities that are relevant and helpful to providers in our region. To that end we are offering a new opportunity for peer networking to solve problems that arise when you supervise staff in the Early Childhood field. Problem-Solving through Networking/ Supervisors will focus on topics of interest for those who supervise staff. Our plan is to set the first topic then ask participants who attend that first evening to help us come up with topics that they would be interested in exploring further.

Each session will be free, 1½ hours long and you will receive certificates for training hours. The idea will be to share and learn from each other. The ECC staff will be there to get things rolling and guide the conversation but participants should come prepared to share ideas or questions and concerns. The first evening topic will be **“When Friction Flares – Dealing with Staff Conflicts” on January 22, 2009**. You will need to call and sign up for each session at Early Childhood Connections, 342-6464.

Thick Coats and Snowsuits Reduce Car Seat Safety

As the coldest part of winter approaches, parents everywhere bring out their babies' winter coats or snowsuits to keep baby warm during travel. However, thick winter coats or snowsuits can compromise your child's car seat safety. In order for a baby car seat or toddler booster seat to function properly, the straps need to remain tight against the child's chest. Winter coats and snowsuits make car seat safety difficult because they change the way a child fits into the car seat. When the car seat straps don't fit the child properly, there is a chance the child could be ejected.

The car seat harness needs to stay close to the child's body at all times. All coats and clothing will compress in a crash, but thicker winter coats and snowsuits could compress enough to allow the child to be ejected from the car seat.

Keep Your Child Warm and Safe

Even if you can't safely use your child's winter coat in the car seat, there are ways to keep baby warm when temperatures drop. Here are some ideas for ensuring your baby is warm and safe in a car seat.

- For babies in an infant seat, dress them warmly in normal clothes, like a shirt, sweatshirt, long pants and a hat. Buckle the child into the infant seat, then cover the baby with a light blanket tucked around the sides. Make sure nothing is behind baby's back! Finally, add another heavier blanket over the top of the infant seat.
- Also for infant seats, there are car seat covers available that fit over the whole infant seat once the baby is buckled in. These covers have a peep-hole so that baby's face remains uncovered.
- For older babies and toddlers, take the child's coat off before buckling them into the car seat. Once the harnesses are secure, put the child's coat on backwards over their arms to keep them warm without compromising safety.
- Whenever possible, warm up your car before putting the baby in the vehicle.
- When buying winter coats, keep thickness and car seat safety in mind. Polar fleece jackets and snowsuits are warm but thin, making them a smart choice for winter baby wear.

ADDING NATURE TO YOUR PROGRAM

Adding more natural elements to a program's outdoor space does not have to be a complicated project. Everyone can add a bit more nature to children's lives in one way or another. Here are a few practical ideas from NAEYC Young Children Magazine: (January, 2008)

Grow flowers or vegetables in wooden planter boxes. Even if your playground is completely covered with concrete or rubberized surfacing, a planter box gives children a chance to dig in dirt, watch flowering plants grow and bloom, or share a taste of the green pepper they grew themselves. (Families report they are often amazed at what children will eat if they've grown it themselves.)

Think differently about weather. A rainy or snowy day doesn't have to mean staying indoors. Consider keeping some inexpensive slickers and rubber boots on hand so that children can splash in puddles and play in the rain. (A word of caution, however: Never take children outside when lightning is part of a rainstorm.) A snowy day can provide myriad wonders if children are encouraged to create snow sculptures or hunt for tracks left by animals walking through the drifts. Try placing a few nuts in the shell outside, then come back the next day to see what happened. It's exciting for children to find nut shells scattered around, evidence that a squirrel or other animal discovered the winter treat.

Rediscover your own sense of wonder. More than 40 years ago, environmentalist Rachel Carson told us, "If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in" ([1965] 1998, 54–55). Why not decide today that you'll be that adult?

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you." Frank Lloyd Wright

Check out our website for links to more ideas at www.earlychildhoodconnections.com.

Observation and Documentation as the Foundation of Relationship-Based Care

The South Dakota Infant/toddler Project
A Collaborative Project Funded by the Bush Foundation

The Five Modules

The notion of responsiveness and that children learn through relationships in a variety of contexts is not limited to relations with people. Both the environment of the infant/toddler center or family child care home and the natural world in which children find unceasing wonder are places for relation, places for learning. Furthermore, the environment should be responsive to children's needs and interests through the design of the space, the offering of materials, the creation of a supportive climate, and the provision of occasions for children to create, explore, investigate, and construct meaning. Therefore, we have created modules that focus on the power of open-ended materials and the natural world to offer children possibilities for wonder, exploration, discovery, and learning and relating to others. The five professional development modules focus on:

1. The Image of the Child, Teacher, and Family
2. Rethinking the Curriculum: The Role of Observation
3. Responsive Environments: Using Open-Ended Materials
4. Looking to the Natural World for Inspiration
5. Children's Rights as Members of Their Community



Taken from the *Introduction* by Andrew Stremmel, South Dakota State University, Copyright 2008

Early Childhood Connections is pleased to announce the five module (15 hour) series beginning January 15, 2009. CEU credit will also be available. See the training calendar for registration information.

For program updates, current announcements, and other important information, please visit our website at: www.earlychildhoodconnections.com

PERTUSSIS

There have been several cases of pertussis reported in South Dakota. Pertussis is also known as whooping cough and is the "P" portion of the DtaP vaccine that infants and young children receive with the childhood immunizations. The immunity against the disease provided by the vaccine wanes after time making adults susceptible to contracting the disease. Adults are frequently not suspected as having pertussis until a young child becomes ill with the disease. Since the majority of children in daycare have received their complete series of vaccinations, they are protected from whooping cough. The infants who have not received the first three doses of DtaP will be at greater risk for becoming ill. It is now recommended that child care providers receive the TDaP immunization to decrease the risk of exposure to children from adults contracting the disease.

Pertussis acts like a common cold for a week or two. As the cough gets worse, the child may start to have the characteristic "whoop". The "whoop" occurs when a child takes a breath in after a bout of coughing. Since the airways are narrowed due to the swelling there is more resistance to air entry and it causes this distinct sound. The child may also be short of breath, be bluish colored around the lips and, in the young infants, they may stop breathing.

If a child in your daycare has a persistent cough or an unusual sounding cough, he/she should be examined by a medical provider. There are tests that can be performed if the provider feels the child may have pertussis. As with many other infectious diseases, the person with pertussis is contagious for a few days before the symptoms even begin. The length of time the person is contagious is dependent upon the age of the patient, immunization status, previous exposure to pertussis and the length of time on antibiotics. The incubation time from exposure to being ill is usually 9 to 10 days but may range from 6 to 20 days. A person can transmit pertussis from 7 days following exposure to three weeks after the onset of coughing episodes.

Some helpful resources if you have questions about pertussis are: www.cdc.gov/health/pertussis.htm, www.state.sd.us/doh/Pubs/pertuss.htm, www.aap.org/family/whoopingcough.htm.

The SD State Dept of Health 1-605-394-2370, 866-474-8221, 800-592-1861, 1-605-773-3737 or www.state.sd.us/doh.

Early Childhood Connections Training Calendar

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
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Please note: Classes will be canceled or rescheduled if enrollment does not include 6 participants on the day before or of the class.

Infant and Child CPR Training Note: Charge is \$25 for CPR training after Jan. 1, 2009 *Pathways: CPR*

This introductory course includes First Responder information and hands-on experience with CPR mannequins required for Red Cross Certification. (Adult training available by request.)

Dec. 1	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$20
Dec. 9	Tues.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Janet Smith	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$20
Jan. 5	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Jan. 14	Wed.	Spearfish	Infant & Child Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Jan. 22	Thurs.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Feb. 2	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Feb. 23	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25

First Aid in Early Childhood Settings *Pathways: First Aid*

Participants will gain knowledge related to common childhood accidents and injuries in addition to receiving hands-on instruction that will enable caregivers to perform First Aid.

Dec. 10	Wed.	Spearfish	Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Jan. 5	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Jan. 21	Wed.	Spearfish	Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Feb. 2	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

**To Register, Contact: Early Childhood Connections (ECC)
605-342-6464 - Toll Free 888-999-7759 - FAX 605-394-0153
Email: dhilt@rushmore.com**

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Bright Start Responsive Parenting Classes					
Jan. 7 Jan. 14 Jan. 21 Jan. 28 Feb. 4 Feb. 11	Wed.	ECC	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Bridget Stone	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge Pre-Registration Required
Feb. 4 Feb. 11 Feb. 18 Feb. 25 Mar. 4 Mar. 11	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge Pre-Registration Required
Feb. 18 Feb. 25 Mar. 4 Mar. 11 Mar. 18 Mar. 25	Wed.	ECC	<u>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Class</u> Responsive Parenting classes can increase the enjoyment and satisfaction of parenting young children. Parents will learn about topics such as social-emotional growth, early brain development, temperament and guidance. Instructor: Bridget Stone	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge Pre-Registration Required

Infant/Toddler Module Series: Observation and Documentation as the Foundation of Relationship-Based Care The South Dakota Infant/Toddler Project: A Collaborative Project Funded by the Bush Foundation Instructor: Jan Tysdal Please Note: each module runs 3 hours starting at 6:15 pm					
Jan. 13	Tues.	ECC	<u>Module 1: Image of the Child, Teacher and Family</u> Teachers are not only caregivers, but also researchers who are always observing, reflecting, interpreting, and acting. This session will look at how the image of the child and family and the multiple roles of the teacher influence care. <i>Pathways: Interpersonal Communication and Relationships</i>	6:15 – 9:15 pm	\$5 per module \$20 for series 1.5 CEUs available for \$15
Jan. 20	Tues.	ECC	<u>Module 2: Rethinking the Curriculum: The Role of Observation and Documentation</u> True observation and documentation is driven by curiosity. Indeed, observation is the foundation for quality early childhood programs. The role of observation and documentation will be discussed in the context of relationships and collaboration. <i>Pathways: Observing Children</i>	6:15 – 9:15 pm	
Jan. 27	Tues.	ECC	<u>Module 3: Responsive Environments: The Use of Open-Ended Materials</u> Infant and toddler development is best supported through responsive emotional and physical environments. This session will challenge participants to think beyond the use of more traditional toys to consider the value of open-ended materials. <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:15 – 9:15 pm	
Feb. 3	Tues.	ECC	<u>Module 4: Looking to the Natural World for Inspiration</u> The unpredictability of the natural world engages us in a constant state of adaptation and accommodation, of questioning, risk-taking, and learning. This session will explore some of the opportunities the natural world offers young children and the role natural materials play in our lives and in the lives of our children. <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:15 – 9:15 pm	
Feb. 10	Tues.	ECC	<u>Module 5: Children's Rights as Members of Their Community</u> Together we will explore the multiple communities, which exist in the lives of the children in care, and how these settings can support children's learning and growth. <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:15 – 9:15 pm	

Our Mission: To enrich the lives of children by working with the adults who affect their lives-parents, caregivers, and educators.

Thank You for Another Fantastic Year 😊

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Preschool Block					
Jan. 15	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Mathematics</u> Counting, adding, subtracting...is this what math is all about? Learn how to connect activities, early learning guidelines, environments, materials and parent communication to create a rich math curriculum. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Feb. 12	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Science</u> Dive into the world of science for preschoolers! Learn how to connect activities, early learning guidelines, environments, materials and parent communication to create a rich science curriculum. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Enrichment Training					
Jan. 7 Jan. 14 Jan. 21 Jan. 28 Feb. 4 Feb. 18 Feb. 25 Mar. 4	Wed.	ECC	<u>Early Childhood Management Training (Series Only)</u> A series for Early Childhood Program Managers Content will cover managing early childhood programs, the cost of quality, staff considerations, policies and procedures and parent partnerships. This training is the beginning phase of the new SD Leadership Credential. 20 hours of content and assignments with 2.0 CEUs available with 100% attendance and successful completion of all assignments, including the CEU assignment. Instructor: Candy Kalil <i>Pathways: Program Management & Regulation</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$40 for series \$20 for 2 CEUs
Jan. 12 Jan. 19 Jan. 26 Feb. 2 Feb. 9 Feb. 23 Mar. 2 Mar. 9 Mar. 16	Mon.	ECC	<u>9 Essentials Skills for the Love & Logic Classroom (Series Only)</u> The primary goal of the Love and Logic program is to give parents, educators, and others working with children practical strategies for reducing behavior problems, increasing motivation, and building assets which contribute to life-long responsibility and resiliency. This series includes low stress strategies that help end student arguing and back talk, guide children to own and solve their problems, prevent problems and build positive relationships with challenging students. Facilitator: Candy Kalil <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$60 for series, includes workbook \$15 for CEU Teacher Renewal Credit College credit available through Chapman University
Jan. 22	Thurs.	ECC	<u>When Friction Flares: Dealing With Staff Conflicts</u> This will be an opportunity for peer networking to solve problems that arise when your supervise staff. This session topic will deal with friction that arises when staff members have conflicts. Come prepared to share any information that you have found helpful when these conflicts come up. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Program Management</i>	6:30 – 8:00 pm	No Charge Pre-Registration Required
Jan. 26	Mon.	ECC	<u>Grief and Children</u> Learn about normal reactions of children when experiencing the death of a loved one and how to help them through this experience. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Feb. 3 Feb. 10	Tues.	ECC	<u>Tell Me a Story: Literacy in Your Preschool and School-Age Programs</u> Feb. 3: Literacy for Young Children Feb. 10: Literacy for School-Age Children In an age of computers and video games, piquing children's interest in reading and enjoyment of books and stories requires adult intervention. We must read to our children; we must tell them stories; we must model our own love of the printed and spoken word. In this two-part series, instructors will introduce strategies, stories, and stimulating ideas for fostering literacy in preschool and out-of-school time programs. Instructors: Kathryn Kettering and Sharon O'Keefe <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5 per class \$5 for CEU

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Feb. 5 Feb. 12 Feb. 19 Feb. 26 Mar. 5 Mar. 12 Mar. 19	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Love and Logic</u> (Series Only) Feb. 5: Raising Responsible Kids Feb. 12: The Love and Logic Formula Feb. 19: "C" Stands for Control That's Shared Control Feb. 26: "O" is for Ownership of the Problem March 5: "O" is Also for Opportunity for Thinking March 12: "L" Stands for Let Empathy & Consequences do the Teaching March 19: Let's Wrap It Up and Take It Home Instructor: Tammy Arens-Beauchamp	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$50 single \$60 couple
Feb. 24	Tues.	ECC	<u>Safe Sleep and Sleep Issues in Children</u> Learn the newest recommendations to decrease risk of SIDS, as well as methods to help children sleep better Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Program Safety</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Out of School Time (OST) – Certificate Training
Instructors: Candy Kalil and Shari O'Keefe

OST Certificate Series III – Developing and Implementing Quality OST Programs (Part One)

Dec. 4	Thurs.	ECC	Module 13-Creating and Maintaining Safe OST Environments <i>Pathways: Program Safety</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	\$5 per class \$15 for CEU Teacher Renewal Credit
Dec 11	Thurs.	ECC	Module 14-Creating and Maintaining Healthy OST Environments <i>Pathways: Nutrition for Children</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Dec. 18	Thurs.	ECC	Module 15-Designing Effective Indoor OST Play and Learning Environments <i>Pathways: Learning environments</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Jan. 8	Thurs.	ECC	Module 16-Developing and Implementing Effective Indoor Interest Areas <i>Pathways: Learning environments</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Jan. 15	Thurs.	ECC	Module 17-Developing and Implementing Effective OST Outdoor Environments and Interest Areas <i>Pathways: Learning environments</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Jan. 22	Thurs.	ECC	Module 18-Exploring Diverse Activity Formats, Planning, Tools and Staff Roles <i>Pathways: Program Management and Regulation</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	

OST Certificate Series IV – Developing and Implementing Quality OST Programs (Part Two)

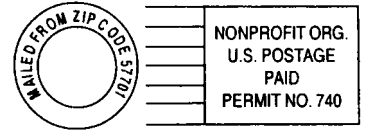
Jan. 29	Thurs.	ECC	Module 19-Involving School-Age Children in Activity Planning and Implementation <i>Pathways: Observing Children</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	\$5 per class \$15 for CEU Teacher Renewal Credit
Feb. 5	Thurs.	ECC	Module 20: Developing Activities That Encourage Creativity and Cognitive Development <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Feb. 12	Thurs.	ECC	Module 21-Creating Successful Clubs in OST <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Feb. 19	Thurs.	ECC	Module 22-Developing Activities That Support Character Development and Promote Social Interaction <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Feb. 26	Thurs.	ECC	Module 23-Providing Homework Support <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	
Mar. 5	Thurs.	ECC	Module 24-Helping Children With ADD Succeed in OST Programs <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	

Please note:

We realize at times it is difficult to find childcare in the evenings. However, it is not appropriate to bring children to classes at Early Childhood Connections. Our learning environment is not designed to ensure the safety of children. It is also important that we are respectful of fellow students and the instructor. Please make other arrangements for your children while attending classes at Early Childhood Connections. Thank you.

Early Childhood Connections
809 South Street, Suite #304
Rapid City, SD 57701-3585

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



With the New Year comes a time for new resolutions. This is a great time to plan for your Professional Development. The choice to work with young children is one of the most important career decisions that one can make. Completing SDCDA training and applying for CDA assessment is a big commitment. It is, however, a very rewarding experience. It offers you, as a caregiver of young children, an opportunity to look at your own work in relation to national standards, receive support and mentoring from people who have experience with children and knowledge about early childhood education while improving your skills in ways that are satisfying to you and the children in your care. All this while you work towards a professional Credential that is recognized by early childhood educators nationwide.

In January, we will start a new SDCDA training series here at Early Childhood Connections. The South Dakota Child Development Associate Training is designed to meet the 120 clock hours of training to meet the requirements to apply for CDA Assessment. If you are interested in attending the classes please contact Kim Booth at 342-6464 or kimbooth@rushmore.com.

ECC Certificate/Payment Policy

Please note: We will be happy to hand out certificates at the end of each class to participants for whom we have received payment.

billed after attending classes we will be happy to mail their certificates upon receipt of payment.