



# Early Childhood News

December 2009 – February 2010

Early Childhood Connections

## Be Red Cross Ready for the Flu

The flu, also known as influenza, is a contagious respiratory disease caused by influenza viruses. In the United States, flu season begins every fall and ends every spring. The flu people get during this season is called seasonal flu. Sometimes, a new type of flu virus may emerge to which people have no resistance. When this happens, it can spread more easily from person to person around the world in a very short time, causing serious illness and death. This is pandemic flu.

The symptoms of pandemic flu are likely to be similar to those of seasonal flu, which are:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Extreme tiredness
- Headache
- Muscle aches and pains
- Stomach problems, such as nausea, vomiting and diarrhea (more common in children)

### Flu Pandemic Preparedness

During a flu pandemic, government officials may impose activity, movement or travel restrictions to prevent the flu virus from spreading. You may be asked to stay home for an extended period of time even if you are not sick. Schools, workplaces and public gatherings, such as sporting events or worship services, may close temporarily. You and your family and friends may need to rely on each other. Think about how you handle stress and know your strengths. Take steps to plan for, get through and recover from a flu pandemic.

- Store a two-week supply of food that does not require refrigeration, preparation or cooking. Ensure that formula for infants and any child's or older person's special nutritional needs are a part of your planning. Plan for your pets as well.
- Store a two-week supply of water, 1 gallon of water per person per day, in clean plastic containers. Avoid using containers that will decompose or break, such as milk cartons or glass bottles.
- Ask your health care provider and health insurance company if you can get an extra supply of your regular prescription drugs and medical supplies, such as glucose monitoring supplies.

For more information, go to the American Red Cross website at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

## Practicing and Observing Common Courtesy in the Classroom

As we continue striving to provide an enriching and valuable training experience for our students, please observe the following in our training classrooms:

### **Do**

- Arrive on time.
- Turn off your cell phone ring. If you must answer the phone, leave the room.
- **Be attentive and respectful** to both the instructor and other participants when they are talking.
- Participate without dominating discussions.

### **Don't**

- Text-message friends, answer the phone, or surf the Web.
- Carry on side conversations during class: most instructors don't mind if you occasionally whisper to your neighbor something like "What was that resource?" Or "I have something on that topic or a book I could share with you." But remember when the group is focused on a topic, conversations between individuals, even about the topic under discussion, can be disruptive and rude.
- Leave early without clearing it in advance.

# Attention: Child Care Providers Who Care for 2 to 5 Year Olds in Western South Dakota



Have the holiday goodies created a bulging waistline and restless kids? Then, this series will dish up some solutions. It is important to teach healthy living at an early age and to be a positive role model as a child care provider. The Fit from the Start Initiative is a free training program designed to enhance the skills, training and knowledge of South Dakota child care providers. The Initiative seeks to improve nutrition and physical activity practice, policy and environment

in child care facilities and reduce childhood obesity by encouraging a healthy child care environment. This 3-part series includes:

- Fit from the Start training program
- Healthy Kids Child Care Curriculum training
- South Dakota Physical Activities and Healthy Snacks for Young children resource cards
- South Dakota Policies and Best Practices for Nutrition and Physical Activity in Early Childhood Settings resource cards
- Ongoing technical assistance
- CEU credit is available for CDA renewal
- Fit from the Start Initiative Certificate of Completion
- Access to resources and equipment to support nutrition and physical activity
- Stipend for materials will be available upon completion

See the training calendar for registration information (Series only)

## ECC Office Holiday Closings

The ECC office will be closed on the following days:

November 26 and 27, 2009	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 24 and 25, 2009	Christmas Holiday
Dec. 31, 2009 – Jan. 1, 2010	New Year's Holiday
January 18, 2010	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
February 15, 2010	Presidents' 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.

## Follow-up Training to the Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series I and II



Early Childhood Connections is pleased to offer once again "Observation and Documentation as the Foundation of Relationship-based Care" beginning January 5, 2010. This 15-hour series is designed to assist teachers to become more responsive in their interactions with infants and toddlers and to become partners of learning along with the children to whom they care for. The core principles permeating this series are: a positive image of the child; a teacher who has the disposition of curiosity; observation as a process of watching, listening, reflecting, and interpreting; documentation as a tool of inquiry; and responsive care-giving.

Come be a part of this Reggio-inspired philosophy as we think about children and our roles and relationships with them while observing and making visible children's experiences. CEU credit is available. See the training calendar for registration information (series only). This series qualifies as part of the economic stimulus package.

## New Circle Time Training Opportunity in January

Don't underestimate the power of Circle Time. Circle time is an important daily activity in the preschool classroom. When you think about it, you realize children are learning in all areas of development during this valuable routine. But we can all agree for circle time to be an effective learning experience providers need to plan!! Recently, it was brought to our attention the interest providers have in some real activity ideas to help them engage children in Circle time. In an effort to support all of you in this area Kim Booth will present a hands-on Circle Time educational opportunity on **Monday, January 25, 2010**. We plan to also schedule this training at our Northern Hills facility in the spring. Classes fill up fast so call now 343-6464.

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

## Congratulations!!

Kari Carlson from Westside Preschool recently received their CDA credentials. Congratulations on this achievement and all of your hard work! If you are interested in receiving information of the Child Development Associate Credential, you can contact Kim Booth at kim-booth@rushmore.com or at 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.

For program updates, current announcements, and other important information, please regularly visit our website at: [www.earlychildhoodconnections.com](http://www.earlychildhoodconnections.com)

**Please note**


In case of inclement weather resulting in cancellation of training, we will place an audio message on our telephone system and post notice on local TV stations or their corresponding websites.

## Early Childhood Connections Training Calendar

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Note: Classes will be canceled or rescheduled if enrollment does not include 6 participants on the day before or of the class. Payment for classes is due no later than 2 pm on the date of class, or your registration will be canceled.</b>					
<b>Infant and Child CPR Training</b> <i>Pathways: CPR</i> 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. 14	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kathy Deml	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Jan. 14	Thurs.	Spearfish	Infant & Child Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Feb. 8	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Feb. 22	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
March 8	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25

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

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Bright Start Responsive Parenting Classes</b>					
Jan. 7 Jan. 14 Jan. 21 Jan. 28 Feb. 4 Feb. 11	Thurs.	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: Kathryn Kettering	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge  Pre-Registration Required
Feb. 17 Feb. 24 March 3 Mar. 10 Mar. 17 Mar. 24	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	Thurs.	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

<b>Enrichment Training</b>						
Dec. 3	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Itchy Red Bumps and Other Childhood Diseases</u> Is it Chicken Pox or Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease? This training reviews safety standards for early childhood programs. Learn about common childhood illnesses, communicable illnesses, identification and prevention. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Identify and Prevent Communicable Disease</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5	
Jan. 5	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Normal Sexual Development</u> Learn what is normal sexual development at the different ages and developmental stages. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5	
Jan. 11	Mon.	ECC	<u>Director's Network</u> Topic/Facilitator: To Be Announced	6:30 – 8:00 pm	F R E E	
Jan. 25	Mon.	ECC	<u>Circle Time Fun</u> : Circle time is a great way to encourage young children to develop emotional and cognitive skills as well as participate in a group. Instructor will share Circle time activities ideas to help engage children in this important routine of the pre-schoolers day. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5	
Jan.6 Jan. 13 Jan. 20 Jan. 27	Wed.	ECC	<u>Beginning With Mother Goose (Series Only)</u> This training was created to help adults bring the joy of looking at books and listening to stories and nursery rhymes into the lives of very young children. Research makes it clear that the sooner children are exposed to all the wonders that books have to offer, the more likely their language and literacy skills will blossom. If books are part of infants' daily experiences, when they become toddlers, they will make time for books—to look at on their own or for an adult to read—every day. This training includes a set of books and a canvas bag for each Child Care Center or Family Child Care program, plus age-appropriate ideas! Instructor: Shari O'Keefe <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$20 for series  \$10 for CEU	
Jan. 19 Jan. 26 Feb. 2 Feb. 9 Feb. 16 Feb. 23 Mar. 2	Tues.	ECC	<u>Love and Logic (Series Only)</u> Instructor: Kevin Murray Jan. 19: Raising Responsible Kids Jan. 26: The Love and Logic Formula Feb. 2: "C" Stands for Control That's Shared Feb. 9: "O" is for Ownership of the Problem Feb. 16: "O is Also for Opportunity for Thinking Feb. 23:"L" Stands for Let Empathy and Consequences Do the Teaching March 2 :Let's Wrap It Up and Take It Home <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$50 single  \$60 couple	
T o  B e  A n n o u n c e d			The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and Early Childhood Connections present <u>Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children Ages 3-7</u> Participants will receive the "Growing Up Wild" Curriculum book at end of Workshop. Project WILD is sponsored in South Dakota by the Department of Game, Fish & Parks thanks to the support of hunters and anglers. Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	 PROJECT WILD South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks	To  Be  A n n o u n c e d	No Charge  Pre-Registration Required

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>First Aid in Early Childhood Settings</b> <b>Pathways: First Aid</b> 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.					
Jan. 4	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Feb. 1	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
March 1	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series II					
Dec. 1	Tues	ECC	<u>Discoveries of Infancy/Brain Development</u> Brain development and learning Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Dec. 8	Tues.	ECC	<u>Special Needs/Language Development</u> Inclusion of all children plus child growth and development Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Dec. 15	Tues.	ECC	<u>Harmonizing Cultural Diversity/Acknowledge, Ask &amp; Adapt</u> Cultural diversity and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Dec. 22	Tues.	ECC	<u>Responding to Families/Protective Urges</u> Working with parents and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Partnerships with Parents</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5

<b>Infant/Toddler Module Series: Observation and Documentation</b> <b>as the Foundation of Relationship-Based Care</b> The South Dakota Infant/Toddler Project: A Collaborative Project Funded by the Bush Foundation Instructor: Jan Tysdal <b>Please Note: each module runs 3 hours starting at 6:15 pm</b>					
Jan. 5	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	No Charge  1.5 CEUs available for \$15
Jan. 19	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	
Feb. 2	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. 16	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	
Mar. 9	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.**

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<b>Fit From The Start (Series Only) ~ Instructor: Jan Tysdal</b>					
Jan. 16	Sat.	ECC	<u>Preventing Childhood Overweight, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, and Nutrition and Physical Activity to Fit a Busy Lifestyle</u>	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	No Charge  CEU available
Feb. 9	Tues.	ECC	<u>Healthy Kids = Healthy Adults and Learning and Movement Go Together</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
March 16	Tues.	ECC	<u>Turn Off The Screen and Healthy Food Choices Matter</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	

<b>Fit From The Start (Series Only) ~ Instructor: Jennifer Nelson</b>					
Feb. 20	Sat.	Spearfish	<u>Preventing Childhood Obesity, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity</u>	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	No Charge  CEU available
March 18	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Healthy Kids = Healthy Adults and Learning and Movement Go Together</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
April 15	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Turn Off The Screen and Healthy Food Choices Matter</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
May 6	Thurs.	Spearfish	<u>Nutrition and Physical Activity to Fit a Busy Lifestyle</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	

**Preventing Childhood Obesity**

Come learn about childhood obesity in SD and how it compares to obesity in our nation. Also, understand the risks of obesity to child health and the risks that carry into adulthood. *Pathways: Child Growth and Development*

**Healthy Eating**

Learn how to improve healthy eating in your child care. We will also look at the importance of being a positive role model with nutrition practices and look at some techniques to help providers work with parents. *Pathways: Nutrition for Children*

**Physical Activity**

Come learn how to increase opportunities for physical activity in your child care. We will also look at ways to provide supportive play environments. Alternative activities to TV viewing will also be discussed. *Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning*

**Healthy Kids = Healthy Adults**

The class will focus on the childhood obesity epidemic, the causes of obesity, and what we can do to prevent it. We will also focus on the importance of a physically active lifestyle in children. *Pathways: Child Growth and Development*

**Learning and Movement Go Together**

The class will discuss the relationship between movement and learning from a child's perspective and how movement enhances brain development and other major developmental milestones. *Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning*

**Turn Off The Screen**

This class will focus on the relationship between increased screen time (television, DVDs, computer and video games) and unhealthy lifestyles in children. This class will also focus on how the media influences children. *Pathways: Program Safety*

**Healthy Food Choices Matter**

This class will discuss the importance of providing healthy food choices for the children in your care. We will also discuss how to encourage favorable food attitudes and good eating habits in infants and children. *Pathways: Nutrition for Children*

**Nutrition and Physical Activity to Fit a Busy Lifestyle**

Learn how to improve your overall health wellness through healthy eating and physical activity. We will also look at the importance of being a positive role model when related to nutrition. *Pathways: Program Safety*

<b>Child Care Orientation Training</b>					
<b>This training session is designed for persons or staff members who are new to the childcare field.</b>					
<b>Level I</b>					
Feb. 22	Mon.	ECC	<u>How Children Learn</u> Instructor: To Be Announced Participants will receive a blend of information and hands-on activities to help them understand how children develop and learn. <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development, Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	No Charge  for New Child  Care Staff
March 1	Mon	ECC	<u>Health and Safety</u> Instructor: Deb Kuehn Participants will receive a brief overview of SD's health and safety standards as well as a quick overview of best practices. <i>Pathways: Program Safety, ID Communicable Diseases</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
March 8	Mon.	ECC	<u>Guidance</u> Instructor: To Be Announced Participants will explore the various ways adults think about discipline and get an overview of best practices for caregivers to help children learn what the expectations are and control their own behavior. <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
March 15	Mon.	ECC	<u>Learning Environments</u> Instructor: To Be Announced Participants will gain an awareness of how the physical environment affects how children and adults feel and act. In an attractive and well-designed environment, children are more purposefully engaged in activities. <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 8:30 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.

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
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### Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series I

Jan. 21	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Social Emotional Milestones/Temperaments</u> Child growth/development and guidance Instructor: Tammy Arens-Beauchamp <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Jan. 28	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Understanding Behavior/Guidance and Discipline</u> Guidance and behavior management Instructor: Jan Tysdal <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Feb. 4	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Respectful Care ~ Making It Happen/Primary Caregiving</u> Interpersonal communication, relationships and learning environments Instructor: Kim Booth <i>Pathways: Interpersonal Communication and Relationships</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Feb. 11	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Environments for Group Care/More Than Just a Routine</u> Child growth, development and guidance Instructor: Jan Tysdal <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5

### Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series II

Feb. 18	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Discoveries of Infancy/Brain Development</u> Brain development and learning Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Feb. 25	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Special Needs/Language Development</u> Inclusion of all children plus child growth and development Instructor: Jan Tysdal <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
March 4	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Harmonizing Cultural Diversity/Acknowledge, Ask &amp; Adapt</u> Cultural diversity and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
March 11	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Responding to Families/Protective Urges</u> Working with parents and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Partnerships with Parents</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5

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



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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS



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](mailto:kimbooth@rushmore.com).