



Early Childhood News

September – November 2009

Early Childhood Connections

New Training Option for After-School Staff and Directors

The Division of Child Care Services announces a new training option for afterschool and child care programs to help make training more accessible, especially in rural areas.

The workshop series '*School-Age Growth and Development*' will be offered over the Dakota Digital Network (DDN) beginning October 19. The training series is appropriate for anyone working with school-age children in K-6th grades, and is an approved SD Pathways training. CEU and college credit will be available.

A total of six classes in this series will be held at various DDN locations statewide on Monday evenings from 6:00pm - 8:30pm Mountain Time (7:00pm - 9:30pm Central) on the following dates: October 19, October 26, November 2, November 9, November 16, and November 23. DDN sites will be made available based on location of registrants for this event.

The deadline to register for the training series is September 30, 2009. Cost is \$20 for the series (a \$10 discount), and fees must be paid when you pre-register.

Persons interested should register for the entire series. However, those who have already taken some of the classes in this series may request a waiver from the regional OST specialist when they register.

Each program site with at least 2 staff attend all classes will receive a pack of after-school resource books for its staff to use at its program.

For more information or to register:

Region 1 & 2 (South Central & Western SD): Contact Candy Kalil – (888) 999-7759 Ext. 22

Region 3 (North Central SD): Contact Lori Schocker – (800) 982-6404

Region 4 (North East SD): Contact April Flemming – (800) 354-8238

Region 5 (South East SD): Contact Jodi Rysavy – (800) 235-5923 Ext. 3

For descriptions of all 6 classes, visit: <http://www.earlychildhoodconnections.com/CertificateSeries1.htm>

NEW www.earlychildhoodconnections.com NEW

Visit our website and become a fan of Early Childhood Connections on Facebook

☺ Share your thoughts, dreams, suggestions, photos, videos, weblinks, etc. ☺

Our Mission:

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

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

Parenting Today: Preparing Kids for School

School preparedness, ready for school, or back to school may all be phrases parents are hearing this time of year. But what does it mean? What do we, as parents, need to do to ensure our children a good start in school? Basic needs may be a bigger part than we realize.

When we talk about school readiness we are talking about specific information and skills children need to have to help them go through school. For those entering the first years of school, social skills, as well as some basic knowledge like numbers and letters will be important. They should be able to communicate their needs and be able to take care of the basics like getting their coats on or getting a drink. Social skills like playing cooperatively with others, following two to three part commands, concentrating, sitting for periods of time, or accepting “no” for an answer, will be key to a good start for these little people. Social skills are not skills we are born with. Instead, they are skills that we need to practice. Using the skills at home, reading books about social skills and modeling the behaviors for your child will help.

No matter what year your child is in school, they may have some hesitation. A new school, a new bus driver or even just a new classroom, can mean anxiety for a child. Taking your child to visit the new school and teacher, driving the bus route with them or even making sure they know how to contact you in an emergency will help a child feel more prepared for the situation.

Start the back-to-school routine a few weeks before the child will be headed to the classroom. Making sure your child has enough sleep before they get to school will be a key component to ensuring a good day. Children 3-6 years old need 10-12 hours of sleep on average. This means if you are getting your child up at 7 AM they may need to be asleep by 7 PM to be fully rested. Children 7-12 years old need 10-11 hours of sleep. At these ages, with school and family activities, bedtimes gradually become later and later, with most 12-years-olds going to bed at about 9 p.m. Unfortunately most children this age are only getting 9 ½ hours of sleep each night. Even teenagers 12- 18 need more sleep than the average adult, 8.25 to 9.5 hours on average. To ensure your child gets enough sleep, figure out how much your child needs and come up with a bedtime that ensures that for them. Then start preparing a few weeks before school starts. No TV or video games before bedtime, and bedtime routines like reading or a warm bath will help the child be ready to sleep. Wake them up about the same time they will be getting up for school to get them in the routine.

Be sure if your child has a special need, allergies or other medical issues that you are in contact with the school in advance. They will need you to sign consents for special treatments your child may need and you want your child to receive the attention they need from day 1. Also, with allergies it is nice for the teacher to be able to prepare their rooms in advance with this knowledge. They can be sure that all of the communication is clear with all parents in the room from the beginning.

Keep your child active through the summer with their school skills. Trips to the library or computer games that incorporate math skills will help maintain their level of knowledge. Board games that use colors or counting would be another fun way to keep those elementary aged children using those skills.

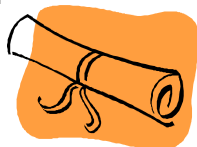
Each year of school will provide us with a new set of changes and challenges we will need to prepare for. With a little advance planning we can ensure our children a better start.

Submitted by Jennifer Nelson, Outreach Coordinator, Early Childhood Connections



Congratulations!!

Bonnie Hallsted has recently earned 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 at 342-6464.



Holiday Office Closings

The ECC office will be closed on the following holidays:

September 7, 2009	Labor Day
October 12, 2009	Native American Day
November 26 & 27, 2009	Thanksgiving Holiday

Our normal business hours are: Monday through Thursday 8 am to 5 pm. Friday 8 am to 4 pm.
We are also closed from 12 pm to 1 pm for the lunch hour.



10th Annual SoDakSACA Conference: Helping Kids Shine in 2009

October 9 and 10, 2009
Cedar Shore Resort
Chamberlain, SD

For more information: [www.sodaksaca.org/
conference/2009WebsiteConferenceIntroPage.pdf](http://www.sodaksaca.org/conference/2009WebsiteConferenceIntroPage.pdf)

ECC Newsletter Going Digital

Please note we are moving toward a paperless ECC newsletter. Hard copies of the newsletter will still be available for those without E-mail. Please call the office at 342-6464 or provide Bill your E-mail address via E-mail at bschuler@rushmore.com.

**= Please remember to
register early for classes:
they fill up fast =**

Please note

In case of inclement weather resulting in cancellation of training, we will post such notice on local TV stations or their corresponding websites.

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 meet 6 participants on the day before or of the class

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.					
Sept. 14	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Janet Smith	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Oct. 5	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Oct. 21	Wed.	Spearfish	Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Nov. 2	Mon.	ECC	Instructor: Deb Kuehn	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Bright Start Responsive Parenting Classes					
Sept. 16 Sept. 23 Sept. 30 Oct. 7 Oct. 14 Oct. 21	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
Oct. 15 Oct. 22 Oct. 29 Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19	Thurs.	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
Oct. 28 Nov. 4 Nov. 11 Nov. 18 Nov. 25 Dec. 2	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

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

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Infant and Child CPR Training ~ 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.)					
Sept. 2	Wed.	Spearfish	Infant & Child Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Sept. 28	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Oct. 5	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Oct. 26	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Nov. 2	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Nov. 18	Wed.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Greg Hilt	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Nov. 18	Wed.	Spearfish	Infant & Child Instructor: Jennifer Nelson	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25
Nov. 30	Mon.	ECC	Infant & Child Instructor: Kevin Murray	6:30 – 9:30 pm	\$25

Child Care Orientation Training This session is designed for persons or staff members who are new to the childcare field.					
Level I					
Sept. 14	Mon.	ECC	<u>How Children Learn</u> Instructor: Kim Booth 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
Sept. 21	Mon.	ECC	<u>Health and Safety</u> Instructor: Autumn Gregory 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, Identification of Communicable Diseases</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	
Sept. 28	Mon.	ECC	<u>Guidance</u> Instructor: Kim Booth 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	
Oct. 5	Mon.	ECC	<u>Learning Environments</u> Instructor: Kim Booth 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	
Level II Instructor: Jan Tysdal					
Oct. 22	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Program Management/Regulations</u> Participants will receive a brief overview of SD's regulations and licensing standards as well as a quick overview of creating a lesson plan. <i>Pathways: Program Management and Regulation</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Oct. 29	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Professionalism/Communications</u> Participants explore ways to build relationships and communicate effectively with parents and co-workers. <i>Pathways: Professionalism</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Nov. 5	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Cultural Diversity</u> Participants will gain an awareness of the value in providing an inclusive education that addresses not only cultural diversity but also gender and differences in abilities. <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Nov. 12	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Inclusion</u> Participants will receive a brief overview of the federal legislation that addresses the needs of children with disabilities along with basic information about welcoming all children into early childhood programs. <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Enrichment Training					
Sept. 17 Sept. 24 Oct. 1 Oct. 8	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Reactive Attachment Disorder (Series Only)</u> The foundation of a child's healthy social and emotional development is secure attachment to primary caregivers. This class will encompass the critical elements of the first years of life, the developing brain and how trauma challenges attachment progress. Students will learn to identify behaviors that may indicate the presence of disrupted attachments. There will be a focus on the care giving, community supports and therapeutic intervention necessary to heal the unattached child. Instructor: Susan Lorenzen <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$20 for series \$15 for CEU
Sept. 21	Mon.	ECC	<u>Director's Network</u> Facilitator: Jan Tysdal Topic "Motivating Staff" (motivate) Webster's defines it as: give desire or incentive. Come share an evening of fellowship and stimulating conversation with your fellow child care directors and supervisors as we explore this sometimes challenging topic.	6:30 – 8:00 pm	F R E E
Sept. 22 Sept. 29 Oct. 6 Oct. 13 Oct. 20 Oct. 27	Tues.	Spearfish	<u>Love and Logic (Series Only)</u> Instructor: Candy Kalil Sept. 22: Raising Responsible Kids Sept. 29: The Love and Logic Formula Oct. 6: "C" Stands for Control That's Shared Oct. 13: "O" is for Ownership of the Problem Oct. 20: "O is Also for Opportunity for Thinking Oct. 27: "L" Stands for Let Empathy & Consequences Do the Teaching and 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
Sept. 30	Wed.	ECC	<u>Child Abuse and Neglect</u> This training will explain how to recognize child abuse, how to report it, and understand the role of the child care provider. Instructor: Deb Kuehn <i>Pathways: Child Abuse and Neglect</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Oct. 8 Oct. 15 Oct. 22 Oct. 29 Nov. 5 Nov. 12 Nov. 19	Thurs.	ECC	<u>Love and Logic (Series Only)</u> Instructor: Kevin Murray Oct. 8: Raising Responsible Kids Oct. 15: The Love and Logic Formula Oct. 22: "C" Stands for Control That's Shared Oct. 29: "O" is for Ownership of the Problem Nov. 5: "O is Also for Opportunity for Thinking Nov. 12: "L" Stands for Let Empathy & Consequences Do the Teaching Nov. 19: 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
Oct. 19	Mon.	ECC	<u>Celebrate!</u> Instructor: Kim Booth Participants will explore how programs can celebrate holidays respectfully. The instructor will be sharing strategies for holiday activities that are unbiased and developmentally appropriate. <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Nov. 5, Thurs., ECC		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 Diseases</i>	6:30 – 8:30 pm	\$5
Dec. 3, Thurs.,					
Nov. 16	Mon.	ECC	<u>Director's Network</u> Topic/Facilitator: To Be Determined	6:30 – 8:00 pm	F R E E

Social/Emotional Series ~ Instructor: Tammy Arens-Beauchamp					
Oct. 7	Wed.	ECC	<u>Building Relationships: Building positive relationships with children, families and colleagues</u> <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	No Charge CEUs available
Oct. 14	Wed.	ECC	<u>Creating Supportive Environments</u> <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
Oct. 21	Wed.	ECC	<u>Strategies for Transitions and Circle Time (Transition Magician and Round and Round in the Circle Game)</u> <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
Oct. 28	Wed.	ECC	<u>Social and Emotional Teaching Strategies</u> <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
Nov. 4	Wed.	ECC	<u>Enhancing Emotional Literacy</u> <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	

Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
<i>Fit From The Start (Series Only) ~ Instructor: Jennifer Nelson</i>					
Sept. 12	Sat.	Spearfish	<u>Preventing Childhood Obesity, Healthy Eating and Physical Activity</u>	8:30 am – 12:30 pm	No Charge CEU available
Oct. 7	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Healthy Kids = Healthy Adults and Learning and Movement Go Together</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
Nov. 4	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Turn Off The Screen and Healthy Food Choices Matter</u>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	
Dec. 2	Wed.	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*

Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series I					
Sept. 8	Tues.	ECC	<u>Social Emotional Milestones/Temperaments</u> Child growth/development and guidance Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Sept. 15	Tues.	ECC	<u>Understanding Behavior/Guidance and Discipline</u> Guidance and behavior management Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Sept. 22	Tues.	ECC	<u>Respectful Care ~ Making It Happen/Primary Caregiving</u> Interpersonal communication, relationships and learning environments Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Interpersonal Communication and Relationships</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Sept. 29	Tues.	ECC	<u>Environments for Group Care/More Than Just a Routine</u> Child growth, development and guidance Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5

Infant/Toddler Certificate Training Series II					
Oct. 6	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
Oct. 13	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
Oct. 20	Tues.	ECC	<u>Harmonizing Cultural Diversity/Acknowledge, Ask & Adapt</u> Cultural diversity and communication Instructor: Kathryn Kettering <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30 – 9:00 pm	\$5
Oct. 27	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

Check our website often for new class announcements and availability, program updates, news, views, event announcements, etc.

www.earlychildhoodconnections.com

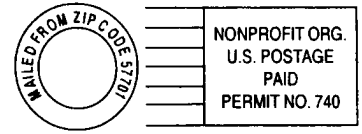
Date	Day	Location	Class Description	Time	Cost
Out of School Time (OST) Enrichment Training Instructor: Candy Kalil					
Sept. 16	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Who's in Control?</u> Mixed ages in your child care setting? Explore how to make adjustments to your schedule, your environments, your activities AND your attitude so the school-age children don't drive you insane! <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	FREE <i>If both September 16th and October 14th classes are taken, participants may apply for .5 CEU. Classes may be taken alone.</i>
Oct. 14	Wed.	Spearfish	<u>Now, Who's in Control?</u> Follow up to "Who's in Control?" Utilizing strengths, minimizing weaknesses, understanding group dynamics, recognizing differences, making choices work for you. <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i>	6:30-9:00 pm	

Out of School Time (OST) – Certificate Training Instructors: Candy Kalil and Lori Schocker					
OST Certificate Series I – School-Age Growth and Development: Linking Developmental Needs to Programming					
Oct. 19	Mon.	Local D D N Site	Module 1-Exploring the Continuum of Developmental Tasks of School-Age Children from 5 to 12 <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	\$20 for series 1.5 CEUs for \$15
Oct. 26	Mon.		Module 2-Exploring Four Areas of Development-Implications for Programming <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	
Nov. 2	Mon.		Module 3-Exploring Developmental Needs and Characteristics of Different Age Groups <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	
Nov. 9	Mon.		Module 4-Exploring Individual Differences Among School-Age Children-Implications for Programming <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	
Nov. 16	Mon.		Module 5-Managing School-Age Children in Groups <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	
Nov. 23	Mon.		Module 6-Guiding the Behavior of Individual Children <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i>	6:00-8:30 pm	

Out of School Time (OST) – Core Curriculum Instructor: Shari O'Keefe					
Sept. 17	Thurs.	ECC	OST Module 1 – Child Growth & Development <i>Pathways: Child Growth and Development</i> OST Module 2 – Activity Planning <i>Pathways: Age-Appropriate Planning</i>	6:30-9:30 pm	\$5 per evening \$2.50 per class
Sept. 24	Thurs.	ECC	OST Module 3 – Learning Environments <i>Pathways: Learning Environments</i> OST Module 4 – Communication & Relationships <i>Pathways: Interpersonal Communication and Relationships</i>	6:30-9:30 pm	
Oct. 1	Thurs.	ECC	OST Module 5 – Behavior Management & Guidance <i>Pathways: Guidance and Behavior Management</i> OST Module 6 – Social & Cultural Awareness <i>Pathways: Cultural Diversity</i>	6:30-9:30 pm	
Oct. 8	Thurs.	ECC	OST Module 7 - Health & Safety <i>Pathways: Nutrition for Children</i> OST Module 8 - Children with Special Needs <i>Pathways: Inclusion of All Children</i>	6:30-9:30 pm	
Oct. 15	Thurs.	ECC	OST Module 9 – Program Management and Professionalism <i>Pathways: Professionalism</i> OST Module 10 – Families, Communities and Schools <i>Pathways: Partnerships with Parents</i>	6:30-9:30 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.

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



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Early Childhood Connections Urges Parents and Caregivers to Get Their Child Safety Seats Inspected

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children. In 2007, 6,532 passenger vehicle occupants 14 and younger were involved in fatal crashes. That's why Early Childhood Connections is urging all parents and caregivers to attend the car seat inspection on September 18. As part of **Child Passenger Safety Week (September 12-18)**, we will have certified technicians available to provide on-site child safety seat inspections and education from 3:00 – 6:00 at McKie Ford, 21 East Omaha Street in Rapid City.

In 2007, among children under 5, an estimated 358 lives were saved from the use of child safety seats and booster seats. If all children under the age of 5 were restrained, an additional 71 children would have been saved.

For maximum child passenger safety, parents and caregivers should refer to the following *4 Steps for Kids* guidelines for determining which restraint system is best suited to protect children based on age and size:

1. For the best possible protection keep infants in the back seat, in rear-facing child safety seats, as long as possible up to the height or weight limit of the particular seat. At a minimum, keep infants rear facing until at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds.
2. When children outgrow their rear-facing seats (at least age 1 and at least 20 pounds) they should ride in forward-facing child safety seats, in the back seat, until they reach the upper weight or height limit of the particular seat (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds).
3. Once children outgrow their forward-facing seats (usually around age 4 and 40 pounds), they should ride in booster seats, in the back seat, until the vehicle seat belts fit properly. Seat belts fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest (usually at age 8 or when they are 4'9" tall).
4. When children outgrow their booster seats, (usually at age 8 or are 4'9" tall) they can use the adult seat belts in the back seat, if they fit properly (lap belt lays across the upper thighs and the shoulder belt fits across the chest).

Remember: All children younger than 13 should ride in the back seat. For more information on Child Passenger Safety Week, a national effort to remind parents and caregivers of the lifesaving effect child safety seats have in protecting young children, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/cps