



### IT'S FALL, Y'ALL...

The last couple of weeks finally brought us some cooler weather, and October 1<sup>st</sup> ushered in some big changes for the CCS Program across the state of Texas! In case you were unable to attend our provider meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup>, here is a recap of information presented by CCS Supervisor Julie Vigil:

Under the new rules, once children are authorized for care, they remain eligible for a full 12 months. Child support is no longer used in determining CCS eligibility.

Providers will now be paid according to enrollment authorization. Children are allowed up to 65 absences during their 12-month eligibility period.

"Z" days will be paid, but they will count as absences if the parent does not correct non-swipes. A child cannot be terminated if he exceeds 65 absences, but having over 65 absences will affect his eligibility at redetermination.

You no longer have to collect payment for non-swipes. Continue checking CCAA, as swipes must be completed in/out every day as usual. Please contact the CCS office if a child is absent for 5 consecutive days without contact and no swipes.

Continue to collect share of cost. If you dismiss a child or a parent requests a transfer, please let the CCS office know if a balance remains.

You may be asked to provide manual billing when a child begins care and in other situations as needed when no CCAA card is available.

Most importantly, we all want to remember the reason *behind* the new rules! The primary intent of these changes is to provide improved **continuity of care** for all children who receive CCS benefits! The changes were mandated by federal law in an effort to support what research has repeatedly shown is best for young children – high-quality interactions with consistent caregivers and a predictable daily routine. Time and time again, studies have proven that these qualities are essential for developing happy, healthy children who are well-adjusted and ready to learn when they enter school.

### CAREGIVER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

CCS will be sponsoring a Saturday training on **November 19<sup>th</sup>** from **8:30 AM to 3:30 PM** at West Texas Training Center. **Janine Groth** from Spring, Texas, will be presenting two concepts on that day. **AMAZING SPACES: Setting Up an Engaging Environment** will help participants create a classroom setting that promotes efficient learning opportunities and reduces behavioral issues. Janine's focus will be on classroom management techniques and how to provide activities, materials, games and toys that keep children interested and learning across the domains. The second part of her presentation, **FULL OF FUN! Keeping Lessons Playful**, will examine why play is the most effective and most important method of teaching. Janine will share what the research says about learning through play and give instruction about how to identify (or create your own) high-quality materials that inspire and nurture young minds. This **six-hour workshop** will provide interactive, hands-on learning for caregivers and directors. The cost of the training is **\$10**, and our **registration deadline is Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**.

### MARK YOUR 2017 CALENDARS!!!

Planning is now underway for the **Third Annual Child & Youth Conference on APRIL 1, 2017!** This all-day event will feature a variety of exciting speakers and educational vendors who will appeal to anyone who works with children or teens. It will also be a great opportunity to receive up to seven clock hours of professional training! The conference is a joint effort between Concho Valley Workforce Solutions, Region XV, Howard College, Angelo State University and the San Angelo YMCA. Please **SAVE THE DATE** and be watching for more details in the near future!



## TRS HAPPENINGS

Over the summer months, Texas Rising Star providers in the Concho Valley were the recipients of some high-quality learning materials to enrich their outdoor learning environments and technology centers. Here are photos of children from two of those centers in action with their new equipment.

### GARDEN BEDS



The children at Little Folks Dude Ranch planted and tended their vegetable and flower gardens over the summer months. This class was so excited about the first yellow squash they harvested! All the children at Little Folks had the opportunity to try this raw veggie in their salad at lunch the next day.

### CASCADE EXPLORATION TABLES



These youngsters from Eden Community Child Care Center are exploring in the sand at their new multi-level sand/water table. How much fun to have this awesome sensory equipment on the playground!



And finally, here are a few photos of local caregivers, taken during our “Caring for Children with Special Needs” workshop series presented by Chevelle Kirkpatrick:

### MAKING EDIBLE PLAY-DOUGH

