



RIGHTS, RAISES, RESPECT
News and Issues for the Early Care and Education Workforce
A monthly electronic newsletter
From the Center for the Child Care Workforce,
A Project of the AFT Educational Foundation (CCW/AFTEF)

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MAKING THE CONNECTION – ADVOCACY & OUTREACH

New York City Providers, UFT Launch Web site

Home-based child care providers, working with AFT local, the United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) have developed a Web site which offers a one-stop resource center for providers.

Launched Aug. 31st, www.uftproviders.org is rich in resources to help providers work efficiently and effectively with the government. Tools include professional development opportunities and suggestions on working with parents. It also supports UFT's communication with providers and offers them a chance to write in with questions or concerns about issues such as payment and licensing.

The Website is a great opportunity for providers to learn about each other, as well as upcoming meetings and rallies in the fight for collective bargaining rights. Moreover, the site helps spread the word about professional development seminars the UFT is offering free of charge to providers.

Visit the site at www.uftproviders.org.



IN THE STATES

New Money for Preschool in California

Fifty million dollars was allocated in California's state budget to provide preschool to children who attend "low-performing" schools. The money will target preschools operated by school districts and nonprofit organizations in neighborhoods where students score in the lowest three deciles of the Academic Performance Index. An additional \$50 million in one-time funds for preschool facilities was also included in the final budget for fiscal year 2006-07.

The effort was spearheaded by Assemblywoman Wilma Chan (D-Alameda) who introduced the legislation, AB 172. The money will allow preschools to hire and train more teachers.

The California Federation of Teachers and other ECE advocates worked hard after Proposition 82 failed to make sure that preschool was not overlooked in the budget. They commend Assemblywoman Wilma Chan for her leadership in drafting and moving this important legislation. This is a good first step towards expanding preschool to all of California's young children as was proposed in Proposition 82.

For more information on preschool initiatives in California visit <http://www.cft.org/councils/ec/index.html>

RESEARCH & RESOURCES

New Information about California's Early Care and Education Workforce

A groundbreaking study, *California Early Care and Education Workforce Study*, shows important progress in California's ECE field, an ethnically diverse workforce that more closely reflects the diversity of young children than do public school teachers in grades K-12, and that often exceeds education levels required by law.

Although California does not require college degrees of its ECE workforce, 25 percent of center-based teachers currently hold a bachelor's degree or higher, and 28 percent hold an associate's degree. But it also found an ongoing pattern of low salaries and high turnover, as well as an aging workforce:

- Center-based ECE teachers with a bachelor's degree earn \$16,000 less per year, on average, than California K-12 public school teachers.
- At 22 percent per year, ECE teacher turnover is twice the rate found among California K-12 public school teachers.
- As California's population of children from birth to age 5 is projected to increase by 15 percent this decade, one-quarter of center teachers with bachelor's degrees or higher are age 50 or older and approaching retirement.

The study was a collaboration between the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, at U.C. Berkeley, and the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. Results are now available online.



The statewide report on Licensed Child Care Centers can be found at:

http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/cscce/pdf/statewide_centers.pdf

The statewide report on Licensed Family Child Care Providers is at:

http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/cscce/pdf/statewide_providers.pdf

For Study highlights, go to:

http://www.iir.berkeley.edu/cscce/pdf/statewide_highlights.pdf.

Child Care Workers Need Paid Sick Days

"Get the Prescription: Child Care Workers Need Paid Sick Days," a fact sheet by Jodie Levin-Epstein of the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), lays out the importance of paid sick days to child care workers. Child care is one of the lowest paid professions, making unpaid time off for child care workers especially difficult financially. Moreover, child care workers are more likely to be exposed to illnesses because of the nature of their work. The report suggests legislation and other avenues to support paid sick days for child care workers.

To read the fact sheet visit http://www.clasp.org/publications/get_prescription.pdf.

Reading Tips for Young Children Available in 10 Languages

Colorín Colorado, a joint project of the AFT and WETA, has developed reading tip sheets for parents of young readers from preschool to third grade. The reading tip sheets include fun ideas and activities parents can engage their children in to help build their reading skills. Some of the highlights of the materials include ideas on teaching children about sounds, practicing sounding out words and encouraging children to write.

The tip sheets are free and are offered in many languages, including Arabic, English, Haitian Creole, Hmong, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Traditional Chinese, and Vietnamese. at <http://www.colorincolorado.org/tips/step7.php>.

For other free information, activities, and advice for educators and Spanish-speaking families of English language learners visit www.colorincolorado.org.

New Transportation Web Site for Head Start

The Office of Head Start recently launched a new Website, "Transportation PathFinder" which offers an online guide to legislation, regulations and policies that apply to transportation of Head Start children.

Visit the Website at <http://pathfinder.cleverex.com>

SOURCES & CONTRIBUTORS

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Center for the
Child Care Workforce

The Center for the Child Care Workforce (CCW) was founded in 1978 as the Child Care Employee Project, and in 2002 merged with the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation (AFTEF). CCW/AFTEF is a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization committed to improving early care and education quality by upgrading the compensation, working conditions and training of early childhood professionals.