



Simply SACC

THE NORTHEAST SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE PROJECT
SUPPORTING SUCCESS IN SCHOOL-AGE PROGRAMS

The Northeast School-Age Child Care Project is one of six regional projects statewide. The Northeast Region SACC Project serves fifteen counties in Northeastern PA: Berks, Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Wayne, and Wyoming.

New Year, New Ideas

Now that 2007 is over, the question is how to make 2008 a brighter and better year?

We've had a wonderful response to the first issue of Simply SACC newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments for what you would like to see in upcoming issues, please contact the SACC Coordinator, Cristin Cates at ccates@cscinc.org or toll free at 1-800-528-SACC (7222), Extension 2375.

We wish all of our readers a fresh start for a successful year and thank you for your interest in continuous quality improvement for your programs and for the benefit of children.



Northeast Region School-Age Professional Credential Awardees

Congratulations to the school-age practitioners who continue their commitment and ongoing professionalism in the school-age field!

- Gaye Brown – Fountain Hill YMCA of Bethlehem, Fountain Hill
- Nancy Maury – Fountain Hill YMCA of Bethlehem, Fountain Hill
- Christine Murray – Volunteers of America Children's Center, Allentown

We hope you continue to be a role model and share your love of learning with school-age children and practitioners. Keep up the good work!

Save the Date!

January 7, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Co-Workers
Hazleton, PA

January 9, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Co-Workers
Wellsboro, PA

January 8, 2008

School-Age Professional Credential Course Begins
Allentown, PA

January 10, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Families
New Milford, PA

January 14, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Families
Hazleton, PA

January 16, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Families
Sayre, PA

January 23, 2008

The Art of Communication: with Families
Wellsboro, PA

January 28, 2008

The Art of Communication: with SA Children
Hazleton, PA

January 30, 2008

The Art of Communication: with SA Children
Sayre, PA

The Art of Communication

Communicating truly is an art. And when it is done well, it can be extremely effective. However, it takes knowledge and practice to become a good communicator. Attend one of the many professional development series being offered on communication skills!

Communicating with families is a crucial part of your program. Learn how to welcome families, respond to and understand their values, share information, respond to challenging situations, plus how to implement strategies for developing a solid partnership with the families in your program.

Communicating with school-age children may seem to be a simple, commonplace part of your job. But are you truly communicating with children in a respectful manner? Are you communicating with all children the same way or do you vary your communication based on their developmental level? Learn how to use the physical environment to promote communication and assist children in communicating their feelings and ideas.

Communicating with other staff members can be difficult if you are not aware of your communication style or the style of your co-workers. Are you aware of how to avoid barriers to communicating? Learn the types of communicators, the styles of communicating, and how to respond to conflict.

Directors – do your staff often misunderstand you? Are you aware that their ability to process information is limited by their personality types? Learn the different types of personalities you are working with and how to effectively communicate with each one.

For more information on the upcoming professional development events, please contact the SACC Coordinator, Cristin Cates, at ccates@cscinc.org or toll free at 1-800-528-SACC, ext 2375.

Or you can visit the Professional Development Calendar online at www.pakeys.org

*Communication is
55% body language,
38% tone, and 7% words.*



School-Age Websites

Each issue, a website that pertains to afterschool care will be highlighted.

PA School-Age Child Care Alliance

<http://www.pennsacca.net>

State affiliate website to the National Afterschool Association. This site has updates, events, and other happenings in the field of school-age care and after-school programming.

For a free booklet of many more school-age websites, please contact the SACC Coordinator, Cristin Cates, at ccates@cscinc.org or toll free at 1-800-528-SACC, x2375.

Parents as Partners

Research shows that when parents and families are part of their child's day at your program, it results in positive outcomes. The Massachusetts Afterschool Research Study (MARS) discovered that family relationships at pick-up time is a program quality indicator. Programs may benefit from focusing on their communication with parents. Children who showed the most improvement in their relations with adults were significantly more likely to attend programs where there was good communication with parents at pickup time.

Here is a step-by-step guide for family involvement:

1. Adopt parent engagement and support as a critical success factor of your program.
2. Through focus groups, surveys, and/or other means, hear from parents ways in which they want to be involved in your program and their needs.
3. Develop a parent engagement and support strategy with multiple levels of engagement.
4. Clearly articulate to staff and parents roles, responsibilities, and expectations of both the parents and the program.
5. Ensure that staff receive training and resources enabling them to support and effectively communicate with parents.
6. Create a mechanism for continuous information sharing and parent input.
7. Repeat steps regularly.

Where does your program stand in this process?

For more information and for ways to practice family involvement, you may want to attend one of the professional development events such as Building Relationships with Families or Links to Learning: Family Engagement. Please check the Professional Development Calendar at www.pakeys.org for more information or to register for one of the events.



Free Technical Assistance for School-Age Programs

Experience the friendly support of our free technical assistance.

Types of Technical Assistance (TA) Available

School-Age Curriculum

There are many early childhood curricula available to choose from, but they are not appropriate for school-age children. Do you know how to choose an appropriate curriculum for your school-age children? Find out what resources are available to you and choose a curriculum such as The Emergent Curriculum, The Project Approach, or create one to fit the needs of your program.

Environments and Room Arrangement

Would you like assistance creating a workable floor plan for your school-age program? Are you aware of the Universal Design for Learning? We have many resources available to help you develop a child-friendly, welcoming environment that contributes to the children's growth and learning.

Navigating the PA Keys Website

Do you know how to register for professional development online? Do you know how to view your professional development history? You can also apply online for the PA Keys professional development refund program. One-on-one assistance is available to help you become familiar with the site.

For a free step-by-step guide for how to use the Professional Development Calendar, please contact us at the information below.

Nutrition and Healthy Menus

Are you serving healthy meals and snacks in your school-age program? Do you just need some new ideas for fun recipes or cooking projects? Assistance is available to help you create USDA-acceptable menus that are budget friendly.

Child Assessment

Do you have portfolios for your school-age children in your program? Do you need help getting portfolios started or knowing what to put in the portfolios? Child assessments play an important part in creating a portfolio and conducting family conferences. Learn what to look for and how to assess the children's development and academic learning.

All of these, and much more technical assistance is available as a free resource to you. Contact Cristin Cates, SACC Coordinator, at ccates@escinc or call toll free at 1-800-528-SACC, x2375.

