



# COLE-HARRINGTON FAMILY CHILD CARE and CHILD CARE NETWORK NEWS

Winter 2011

Dear Parents and Child Care Providers:

It's that time of year again! Thanksgiving has come and gone and we are now full swing into the holiday season! The holidays can be a time of great joy for families, but also a time of increased stress. We begin to feel the pressure creeping up on us as we are bombarded with advertisements and images in the media of what a perfect holiday should look like. We all want to have a beautifully decorated home, the cutest holiday cards of our children, the perfect tree, the most desired toys, and the best meal any of our relatives have eaten in years!

In the quest for perfection, we need to remind ourselves of what truly is important. Years from now, will our children remember that the tree was lopsided or that the turkey was too dry or that they didn't get that DS system or that ridiculously priced American Girl Doll accessory? Chances are that when they remember the holidays, they won't be so focused on the material things, but more on the quality time that you spent with them. Whether it was playing a marathon game of Pop the Pig, attempting to make a gingerbread house (do they ever really turn out like the pictures?), or making a fort with grandma's "good pillows," this is what makes the holidays truly special for our children.

So this holiday season, let's accept all that is not perfect and try laughing at our imperfections. Our children's smiles, laughter and hugs are worth it!

Have a safe and stress-free holiday!

Michelle Bradford, Program Coordinator  
FCC and Child Care Network

## QRIS

If you are an FCC Educator who receives reimbursement through the state for children utilizing subsidized child care, you will need to learn about and participate in QRIS by August of 2012!

The MA QRIS is a method to assess, improve and communicate the level of quality in early education and care settings. It is a rating system that will assist parents and guardians in choosing quality child care and guide educators and programs on a path towards increased quality. Educators and programs must meet a set of standards in order to advance a level on the QRIS.

We have a group of educators currently participating in QRIS, who have received grant funding through EEC to help them advance on the rating system. We anticipate future QRIS grant funding to become available in the new year and are in the process of working with educators to prepare for this opportunity.

Be on the lookout for more information and training on the QRIS through the Regional Professional Development Partnerships. Please visit <http://www.ccrinc.org/R4PDP.shtml> for winter/spring training opportunities.

Please visit the MA Department of Early Education and Care's website for more information on QRIS <http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/department-of-early-education-and-care/>

*Happy Holidays*

A large, stylized yellow starburst graphic with red and orange rays, positioned below the "Happy Holidays" text.

## Let it Snow!

For some of us "older" folks, building a snowman this year before Halloween was not so delightful. Now that winter is really upon us, our snowline will help keep you updated on transportation delays, transportation cancellations and other weather related issues. Transportation companies will do their best to operate as close to a normal schedule as possible during inclement weather, but safety is a priority and delays may occur.

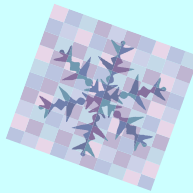
Family Child Care programs also do their best to remain open during snowstorms to provide service for working parents. If your FCC Educator cannot open due to a weather related emergency impacting her home, she will call you directly.

Messages are usually left on the snowline by 6:15 a.m. and are updated as needed throughout the day. As always, if the public school in your town or your childcare's town is closed for the day, there will be no transportation from/to that town.

### Family Child Care/Child Care Network

Snowline Number

(781) 897-5721



## Contact Information for Transportation Companies



### Cole-Harrington Transportation

Paul Matinzi 781-948-8500

### DKN Transportation

Heather Walkes 508-577-0426

### Freitas Transportation

John Freitas 781-344-1740

### Moreno Transportation

Antonio Moreno 508-250-6263

### One Love Transportation

Ebony Abel 508-441-8711

### 3 M Transportation

Dayanta Box-Bull 508-441-8711

### Warren Transportation

Michelle Warren 781-252-9506

If you are requesting a change to your child's transportation schedule, please contact your Early Childhood Specialist who will coordinate with your caregiver and the transportation company. As always, if your child is going to be absent for the day, please leave a message for the transportation coordinator along with contacting your child care program. *Unexcused absences may result in suspension of services.*

## Gifts for Kids Update



Over the years, hundreds of local families have been assisted during the holiday season through the Gifts for Kids program. As always, we are extremely thankful and grateful to the South Norfolk Council for Children for spearheading this effort.

Eligible families will be able to pick up their gifts at the Cole-Harrington offices, 605 Neponset St. in Canton beginning Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and running through Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All families should bring their assigned gift number with them. If families have any additional questions, please feel free to contact your Early Childhood Specialist. We wish you and your families a very happy holiday season!

## Welcome Aboard!

We would like to welcome the following new FCC Educators to our system who have joined us this summer and fall: Susanna Agbese, Randolph, Cindy Blake, Marshfield, Tammy Blakeslee, Bridgewater, Corrine Blankenship, Carver, Julie DeFay, Randolph, Kristal Glass, Taunton, Beverly Sjostedt, Kingston, Monica Turner, Brockton and Linda Wedge, Franklin.





## Winter Fun!

The weather outside is frightful...and being stuck inside is not so delightful...

Here are a few "so simple" ideas to keep your little ones' energy from zapping yours.

*Freeze Dance*--Put on your favorite tunes and get the group moving! Show the children how to "freeze" when you quickly turn the volume off.

*Indoor Snowball Fight*--Purchase cotton batting at your local craft store. Have children tear cotton, roll into "balls" and let the fun begin! Kids get to use those muscles that need to throw something and no one gets hurt!

*Snowball Toss Game*--Purchase Styrofoam balls at the craft store and encourage children to toss into a laundry basket or decorated box. How many snowballs can you get in? Rolled up socks work great too!

*Indoor snow*--Bring a few buckets of snow indoors and place in a Rubbermaid container/under-the-bed box. Have children sit on a towel or old blanket on the kitchen floor and explore the container of snow with spoons, kitchen utensils, spray bottles with food coloring and water. Add little people and animals for imaginative play!

## Winter Reading!

The Snowy Day - Ezra Jack Keats (Un Dia de nieve)

Polar Bear, Polar Bear What do you hear? - Eric Carle

(Oso Polar, oso polar Que es ese ruido?)

The Snowman - Raymond Briggs

Tracks in the Snow - Wong Yee

The Mitten - Jan Brett

The Hat - Jan Brett

Time to Sleep - Denise Fleming

Bear Snores On - Karma Wilson

Frederick - Leo Lionni

Snowballs - Lois Ehlert

Dream Snow - Eric Carle

The Jacket I Wear in the Snow - Shirley Neitzel



## Strengthening Families

This fall, Dorqui Gomez (FCC Educator in Randolph), celebrated Spanish Heritage Day by having a cooking class for all of her child care parents and children. Along with Dorqui and her assistant Gladys, everyone participated in the making of and eating traditional Spanish rice and beans, chicken, salad and a dessert using sweet milk. "The children all love to eat rice and beans and many of the parents did not know how to prepare this dish," Dorqui explained. Dorqui decided to have a family night, where parents could learn how to cook this meal while networking and getting to know one another. Gloria, a parent of a child in the program, also brought a Pernil pork dish from her culture to share. Everyone really enjoyed themselves and Dorqui plans to host more family events like this in the future! A big thanks to Mike, Dorqui's husband and assistant, for cleaning up after the 28 adults and children!

## Little Snowman Fingerplay

**I made a little snowman**

Hold your arms in a circle.

**He had a carrot nose**

Point your forefinger out from your nose.

**Along came a bunny**

Make a bunny with your fingers. Make it hop.

**And what do you suppose?**

Turn palms upward and shrug in disbelief.

**That hungry little bunny**

Rub your tummy.

**Looking for his lunch**

Shade your eyes, as if looking into the distance.

**Ate that snowman's carrot nose**

Make a bunny with one hand and a carrot with the other.

**Nibble, nibble, CRUNCH!**

Make the bunny eat the carrot with two small bites and a final big bite.

Enable, Inc./Cole-Harrington Family Child Care &

Child Care Network

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## Winter Reminders



Please make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the cold weather. Children need to get out in the fresh air even if it's for a short time! Layers are recommended, along with a warm coat, hat, mittens/gloves, snow pants or extra pants and boots. Please make sure to label all items with your child's name. Let's work together to keep our children safe, comfortable and happy!

## Healthy Habits



Flu season is fast approaching and we all know the number one preventative measure for staying healthy is frequent, thorough hand washing! Educators should wash children's hands upon arrival to childcare, *before* they begin to play with toys and materials. Make it part of your morning routine. Parents should do the same thing upon arrival home in the afternoon.

Teach your children to cough into their elbow, rather than cover their mouth with their hand. Encourage hand washing after wiping noses, before eating, after toiletting, playing outdoors and being in public places.

Keep your child home if he/she has a fever and is coughing. Children must be fever free without the use of medication for 24 hours before returning to child care.



## Children's Attendance Reminders

### Parents/Guardians:

- Parents/Guardians are **REQUIRED** to initial transportation logs upon placing their child on or taking their child off of a transportation vehicle.
- Parents/Guardians are required to notify their FCC Educator and their Transportation Company (if applicable) when their child is going to be absent.
- Parents/Guardians must keep their emergency contact list updated and inform designated contacts that CH may contact them regarding their child if parent cannot be reached.

### FCC Educators:

- All FCC Educators are required to keep track of children's attendance and document excused and non-excused absences.
- It is best practice to have parent/guardians sign their child in/out each day on an attendance sheet at childcare.
- Educators must initial transportation logs upon receiving a child from a transportation vehicle or when placing a child on a transportation vehicle.
- FCC Educators should promptly follow up with parent/guardians when children do not show up to childcare and document reason for absence.

## Holiday Updates/Program Closures Winter 2011

- Cole-Harrington and FCC Educators will be closed on the following days. There is no substitute care available during CH program closures or transportation. Center holidays may be slightly different. Please check with your individual programs.

December 23rd & 26th	Christmas Holiday
January 2nd	New Year's Holiday
January 16th	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 20th	President's Day

## Payroll Dates for Educators & Centers

Please remember to call in/e-mail your CH children's attendance on the attendance call-in dates to Sarah Worton, our Financial Coordinator. We must have accurate records of children's attendance in order to process your reimbursement on time. **Due to the large number of educators and programs on our payroll system, Sarah will not be able to call you for attendance.** If you need another copy of the payroll schedule, please ask your ECS or e-mail Sarah at [Sworton@enableinc.org](mailto:Sworton@enableinc.org).

We thank you for your cooperation!