

# Clark County Family Childcare

## Association Newsletter

Printed March 2010

### Meeting Times

Association meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month

Social time is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.

**STARS** classes begin at 8 p.m.

Meetings are held at Pied Piper Pizza

12300 N.E. Fourth Plain Blvd. Vancouver 98682

### Upcoming Events

March 14<sup>th</sup> Spring Forward (daylight savings)

March 23<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting (Ripplinger)

March 20<sup>th</sup> Tapestry Conference

April 6<sup>th</sup> CCFCCA meeting

STARS training: "Ages and Stages" by Karen Peterson

April 10<sup>th</sup> Spring Tour of Homes (RSVP)



### *Letter from the President*

Dear Providers & Friends:

March is always a fun month for me. The trees are starting to blossom. We have been having a few sunny days and it warms my heart to know that more are on the way. Spring officially arrives on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Every year in my daycare, we have a big St. Patrick's Day Party. The kids compete to see who can wear the most "green" items on that day. We also make shamrocks out of green poster paper. One year, I made copies of pictures of each child. The children got to decorate their shamrock with their pictures, gold stickers, and gold glitter. On each shamrock, written in metallic gold pen, it says, "More precious than Gold." We have a treasure hunt with clues. The treasure is a chest with gold covered chocolate coins. We spend some time searching for four-leaf clovers in the grass. The kids love the variety of green fruits and vegetables for snack.

This year, I am challenging my kids to go to the grocery store with their family and make a list of at least 30 green fruits and vegetables that they find

there. It's fun getting the parents involved. Each child gets rewarded with a "green" prize.

March is also a great month to talk to your daycare kids about taking care of this great Earth. You can discuss ways that each of them can help do their part. The possibilities for fun learning are only limited by your imagination.

Don't we have the BEST job in the world? Being surrounded by these precious children, helping them learn, playing games, having parties, nurturing them and helping each one grow in knowledge and skills is just the most important thing we can do for children.

I look forward to having some "green" fun in March. I hope each one of you will too. Have a great St. Patrick's Day. Melba

### **I'm a Little Leprechaun** (Tune of I'm a Little Teapot)

#### **Song:**

I'm a little leprechaun  
Dressed in green,  
The tiniest man  
That you have seen.  
If you ever catch me, so it's told,  
I'll give you my big pot of gold.

#### **Actions:**

I'm a little leprechaun  
(*hands on hips*)

Dressed in green,  
(*point to shirt*)

The tiniest man  
(*hold thumb and index finger about an inch apart*)

That you have seen.  
(*point to the other people*)

If you ever catch me, so it's told,  
(*make a motion like you're grabbing at a leprechaun*)

I'll give you my big pot of gold.  
(*make a motion like you're giving something away*)



# March Meeting Report

by Sue Pederson



In a room cheery with green and gold, 29 providers met at our March CCFCCA meeting. After the budget report by Nancy Lycklama, Melba reported on the Steering Council Meeting that she and Debra Gault attended on February 20 in Seattle. See the Union report article included in this newsletter for the latest events happening in our Union. Sue Pederson and Leasa Ripplinger announced the lineup of STARS trainings to come, with some exciting topics coming in the near future. We had four new members join our Association this month bringing our total membership to 60. Welcome to our new members, Samantha Giering, Lisa Cremeen, Cheryl Zeller and Jessica Snyder.



New Discovery Kits were delivered by FVRL, and providers had a new list of topics to choose from. Thank you to Johanna Bateman of FVRL and Wendy Patterson for making this provision available to us.



Terri Lehman reminded us that a group order of SCRIP, which are prepaid gift cards that help CCFCCA to raise funds for our association was going to be

collected at each meeting. This will be a great fundraiser for us, allowing us to help our community and our members even more this year.



Sue Pederson announced that she will be placing an ad on Craigslist on a regular basis. The purpose of the ad is to invite all Providers in the area to join us at our association meetings and our STARS trainings each month.

Judy Peters announced that August 14 will be the next CPR/First Aid training available through CCFCCA. To sign up for this class, call 693-5245



Helene Padget was our 50/50 raffle cash winner of \$36.50. Other prizes were some beautiful glass picture frames and two orchid flower arrangement. The winners were Kelly LeCount,

Wendy Patterson, Casey Tanner and Sandi Brinley. Helene Padget also took home a pretty primrose plant. Terri Lehman won the special drawing of a driveway alarm.

In the way of new business, Sue Pederson made fliers available for a photography service, where a session can be arranged to take pictures of the children in your daycare. There is no cost to providers for this service and parents can choose from a selection of proofs & some very affordable picture packages. For more information on the photo service, contact Sue @ [susanpederson@comcast.net](mailto:susanpederson@comcast.net)



A sign up sheet for the April 10 Spring Tour of Homes was passed through the group. This Tour of Home will feature the daycare homes of Terri Lehman and Wendy Patterson. If you want to sign up for this RSVP event, call 693-5245.

Judy Peters announced that our April meeting will include our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Green Trade" meeting where providers can exchange toys, supplies, etc. The trading of toys and supplies is in honor of Earth Day. This twist on recycle/reuse gives Providers the opportunity to make trades that bring a sense of newness to the play room without spending money.

Our May Provider Appreciation Day event is being planned by the 11 member planning committee. This event will be held at Pied Piper Pizza on Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00PM. The theme of this year's event will be announced soon.



Judy Peters issued a "Personal Care Challenge" to providers for the purpose of nurturing ourselves. The "Personal Care Challenge" might be done by way of; healthy eating, exercise, pampering or whatever it takes to be a happy, healthy provider. See more about this challenge on page # 8 of this newsletter.

Our meeting was adjourned at 7:30, which provided a little extra time for visiting, checking out Discovery Kits.



The 8:00 to 9:00 STARS training was "Handling Challenging Behaviors" with trainer, Leslie Celestein. In the words of our President, Melba Halgren, "*Leslie did a fabulous training. Leslie is a pillar of wisdom with much practical experience. She was funny and made everyone laugh. She is just one of those speakers that you could listen to for hours. That was one of the best training's we have had so far. And what a turnout we had! Our monthly meetings just keep getting better and better!*"

# Mock Sushi So Fun! Even Good for April Fool's Day

See the How to Video on [www.familyfun.com](http://www.familyfun.com)



1/4 cup butter  
4 cups mini marshmallows  
6 cups crisped rice cereal  
20 to 25 gummy worms  
1 to 2 boxes of fruit leather (Fruit by the Foot)  
12- by 17-inch baking sheet

2-quart saucepan

1. Grease a 12- by 17-inch baking pan.
2. Melt butter in a 2-quart saucepan over medium heat.
3. Add the marshmallows and stir until smooth.
4. Remove mixture from heat and stir in the rice cereal until it's evenly coated.
5. Turn the baking sheet so that the shorter ends are at the top and bottom. Then press the marshmallow mixture on the sheet, distributing it evenly.
6. Starting at one side and 1 inch up from the lower edge, place gummy worms atop the mixture end to end in a horizontal line.
7. Gently roll the lower edge of the marshmallow mixture over the gummy worms.
8. Then stop and cut the log away from the rest of the mixture. Use the same method for 4 more logs.
9. Slice each log in 1-inch-thick "sushi" rolls and wrap them individually with a strip of fruit leather.

We make these every year for April Fool's Day. See the how to video at <http://familyfun.go.com/how-to-videos/familyfun-mock-sushi-762352-v/> or the mock sweet sushi recipe at <http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/sweet-sushi-688733/>

Wendy

# Craft Idea of the Month

## Saint Patrick's Day Lacing Project

Lacing projects are a great craft for preschoolers and kindergarten children to complete during any holiday. The lacing gives them fine motor skill practice and practice tying knots and bows (shoelaces!)



### Materials:

- Yarn or ribbon
- Single hole punch
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Card stock, poster board or heavy construction paper.

### Directions:

**Adult:** print template of choice or make your own. Trace onto a thick piece of card stock. Cut out this template

Allow the children to trace the template onto a piece of card stock or poster board... (though I prefer the thicker card stock for lacing projects) OR have an adult do this prior to craft time.

Allow the children to cut out their card stock shapes OR have an adult do this prior to craft time.

Allow children to make holes around their shape (about an inch or two apart) OR have an adult do this prior to craft time.

Provide the children with a length of yarn or ribbon. You can wrap some scotch tape around the end of the yard to make it more like a shoe lace.

Have the child thread the yarn through the holes. Practice tying knots and /or bows to tie off in the center.

**Optional:** Let the children use glitter, paint or stickers to further decorate their completed project.

# Provider Showcase

By Sue Pederson



Scissors, clippers, dye, wave solution, pork, beef, crayons, glue, diapers, wipes. We all know the many duties that a provider performs in a day of work, and the above named supplies are just some of the things that **Denise Hertz** has utilized during her lifetime.

After graduating, Denise attended Cosmetology School and became a hairdresser, a career that lasted 25 years. The last 15 years of that career, she owned her own business, gaining professional experience that would surely help to serve her in later careers. The next four years were spent with husband, Andrew in a sausage vending business, thus the pork and beef. Denise and Andrew still barbeque for large gatherings of friends and family.

Denise's career as a hairdresser even earned her the nickname "Shrink." A loyal customer with whom she is still in contact to this day gave her this moniker. She commented that a day spent with Denise in the salon was a lot cheaper than seeing a psychologist. Those days spent listening were a large advantage to Denise's current career as a Licensed Child Care Provider. In this career, she has spent the last 6 years, currently caring for four children, all under the age of 4. Denise is licensed for up to 8 children. When asked why she does daycare, she commented that she always wanted a large family, something that she accomplished through starting her daycare. The children she cares for are like family to her, but the advantage is, at the end of the day, she can hug them, send them home, and spend time with her own daughter.

Along with her husband of 23 years, Andrew, Denise's family includes a daughter Cylena, who is 10 years old. Cylena was adopted from China. Andrew and Denise traveled to China to finalize the adoption and spent 23 days there. Never in her dreams did Denise think that she would spend time walking on the Great Wall of China. The town that Cylena came from had

a Wal-Mart, a welcome sight after two weeks in a foreign place. The difference was, at this Wal-Mart, they had vendors selling snakes, turtles, and rats for food at the front entrance!

Denise has been a member of CCFCCA for many years, and has always been a pleasant presence here. She has worked with CCFCCA as a volunteer on several events such as: The Holiday Bazaar, feeding the homeless on Thanksgiving of 2008, hosting the WSFCCA state meeting and much more. If ever there is a task to be done, Denise readily volunteers, so many of us have had the privilege of working with her. Thank you Denise, for your contributions to our association and for the hard work you do in providing quality care for our community.

---

## It's A Girl!



Congratulations to Betty Matz and her family on the birth of your new baby grand daughter. Betty's daughter gave birth to Betty's first grandchild, weighed in at 7lbs, 12oz. and 20" long. Betty reports that baby was born healthy and she and her mama are doing fine. Betty's daughter lives in Orchards so Betty will be near enough to spend plenty of time spoiling this beautiful new grand daughter.

---

## It's A Boy!



Congratulations to the Strutz family. On Saturday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Reiko Strutz became a first time grandmother by way of the birth of her new grandson, Gabriel Michael Lamb. Little Gabriel weighed in at 6lb, 6oz and is 21" long. Congratulations to Gabriel's parents, Miki and Josh and to all the family. We look forward to having members, Miki and Reiko bring little Gabriel at our CCFCCA meeting.

# SEIU 925 News



**STEERING COUNCIL MEETING:** was held in Seattle at the new SEIU office building on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This meeting was packed full of great information that will be shared with members in greater detail at our Regional Meeting in

Vancouver on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We had a full agenda including Leadership Training, Quality Committee Training, Private Pay Dues, Legislative Report, Revenue Training, Member-Communication Training, Licensing Representative Issues, Bargaining Survey Results, Child Care Check Update, Early Learning Council Report and other pertinent updates. Debra Gault and I attended this Saturday meeting. The information that follows will cover some of the information we collected to bring back and share with providers in our area.

**BARGAINING TEAM:** Some of the things that the Bargaining Team will work on getting into our next contract will be:

- The state collecting co-pays instead of providers.
- More on-line training made available.
- Subsidy training every two years.
- Infant subsidy rate extending to 24 months (currently 18 months).
- Raise subsidy rates in general
- Ten paid sick days instead of five.
- Expand health insurance to cover more providers.

**NEGOTIATED RULE-MAKING:** This process will be over by the end of March/first of April. The new rules will now be submitted to Betty Hyde. Hyde will make her recommendations. Then the new WACS go out to the public for comments.

**DEL NEWS:** Leaders delivered a draft of an Early Learning Plan to Governor Gregoire in December. This draft was created in cooperation between DEL, OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction), and Thrive by Five. More information on how to implement his plan will take place between now and June 12010, when the plan will be finalized. An on-line survey, the draft plan and the recommendations are available at

[www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx](http://www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx) This is a long-term plan for building a statewide early learning system that ensures school readiness and success for all children in Washington from birth through third grade. It includes recommendations for how to begin implementation in 2010.

**LETTERS TO THE GOVERNOR:** The goal to collect and present Governor Gregoire with 700-1,000 postcards was reached. As of Steering Council, the cards had not yet been delivered. This will be an important way to bring real-life stories to the Governor on how the cuts will hurt providers and families.

**THE MEMBER SUPPORT DEPARTMENT:** Cindy Rames is the new contact person at the Member Support Department. The number is 1-877-734-8673. Her e-mail is [cramales@seiu925.org](mailto:cramales@seiu925.org). If you leave a message, you should receive a call back within 24 hours.

**REGIONAL UNION MEETING:** will be held in Vancouver on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the SEIU Local 925 Office, 505 E. 22<sup>nd</sup> St. 98666. This is your chance to get more in-depth information about the latest legislative actions, Bargaining survey results, discussion about ways of generating new income to fund child care in Washington state, meet with other providers in your region, get 2 hours of STARS training, and enjoy a light potluck dinner. **PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE SALADS, SANDWICHES OR FINGER FOOD** and enjoy a night with fellow union members.

Melba Halgren  
26-year Provider  
SEIU 925 Member  
SW Washington Lead Activist

---

## **Water Fun for World Water Day**

On the second Saturday at the Water Resource Education Center, Saturday, March 13, 1-3pm, FREE, family activities, 4600 SE Columbia Way. For information call 360-487-7111, visit [www.cityofvancouver.us/watercenter](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/watercenter) or email [vanwrec@ci.vancouver.wa.us](mailto:vanwrec@ci.vancouver.wa.us).

# March 14-20 is National Poison Prevention Week



Each year more than 2 million possible poisonings are reported to the nation's poison control centers. While 51% of possible poisonings involve children 0-6 years of age, the reality is that almost 70% of all poison deaths occur in adults, ages 20 to 59. It is estimated that 93% of these possible poisonings happen at home. Poisonings happen more often than car accidents or house fires.

Among children the most common cause of poisonings are the following:

- Medicines
- Pest killers
- Hydrocarbons (such as lamp oil, kerosene, gasoline, and lighter fluid)
- Plants

Among adults the most common cause of poisonings are the following:

- Pain medications
- Alcohol
- Bites and stings
- Spoiled food
- Beauty products

It is very important to be aware of poisonous items in your home and to take appropriate child-proofing steps to keep them out of the reach of children. As adults, it is important to read labels and follow directions. Never mix medicines. Keep products in their original, marked containers.

There are 61 Poison Centers around the country. If you call Poison Help (1-800-222-1222), you will be connected to the Poison Center for your area. You will be able to talk to a local expert. You can call Poison Help any time of day or night. If you think that someone has been poisoned, call Poison Help right away. Don't wait for signs of poisoning. Many poisonings can be avoided with a call to Poison Help. Medical experts can answer questions and help you over the phone. The expert can give you first aid advice. If the expert thinks that you have an emergency that requires hands-on care, the expert will tell you to call 911.

Syrup of Ipecac is still required to have on hand per licensing. It should never be administered unless you have been instructed to give it by Poison Help.

## Happy Birthday to You....



### March Birthdays:

Nancy Lycklama	3/2
Diane Janini	3/2
Carol Chandler	3/15
Kelly LeCount	3/15
Sondra Singleton	3/16
Betty Matz	3/24
Hannele LaFrance	3/28

### April Birthdays:

Melba Halgren	4/10
Emily Halgren	4/18
Lari Piel	4/21
Debra Gault	4/29
Jessica Snyder	4/29

---

## March, 2010 Bizarre and Unique Holidays

March is;

- Irish American Month
- Music in Our Schools Month
- National Craft Month
- National Frozen Food Month
- National Irish American Heritage Month- designated by Congress in 1995.
- National Nutrition Month
- National Peanut Month
- National Women's History Month
- Poetry Month
- Red Cross Month
- Social Workers Month

**Did you know?** March was named for the Roman God "Mars"

---

**Need Computer repair?** Clark College will work on your computer for FREE. They are located in the AA4 building in room 110.

# Using Music to Teach Young Children



*In last Sunday's news paper, I found an article on how music helps with language skills. This article told of many situations where people of various ages and situations were aided in their communication skills through the use of music. I also remember hearing a country singer tell the story about his stuttering and how singing helped him overcome it. Below is another prospective by Jennifer Wagaman, on how valuable music is in teaching young children. I hope you enjoy it.*  
Judy

When working with young children, music can be a fun and helpful way to teach different lessons. Singing songs adds several elements of involvement as many songs include the opportunity for movement and structure to the different activities that take place during the school day.

## Transitioning Between Activities

Music can create a smoother, quicker transition between activities. Singing together not only involves the child in the transition, but creates a time-line for the transition to take place within.

Sing *The Wheels on the Bus*, and simply change the last verse to whatever you need the child to do: this is the way we get in line, get in line, get in line, this is the way we get in line so early in the morning. If you are short on time or have several steps for the child to complete, substitute every verse with a direction: this is the way we clear our desk... this is the way we get our lunch boxes... this is the way we get in line...

## Teaching Same and Different with Music

Teaching students the concept of same and different is easily accomplished through the use of music. Sing *If You're Happy and You Know It* and ask the children what changes in each verse? Discuss the parts of the song that are the same and the parts are not the same. Play Simon Says, and end with: Simon Says touch your head, Simon Says touch your shoulders, Simon Says touch your knees, Simon says touch your toes, and repeat. Then ask the children what song that reminds them of? Then, before singing *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, tell them that there is something different in the song and to listen carefully for it. Then sing the song, and see if the students can identify the part of the song that were the same (head, shoulders, knees, and toes) and which parts were different (eyes, ears, mouth, nose).

## Teaching Opposites with Music

Teach loud and soft through songs such as *John Jacob Jingleheimer Schmidt*. Each time you sing the song, get softer and softer, and shout the bridge "na na na na na na na!" and talk about what is different each time. Challenge them to sing the next verse as soft as possible or as loud as possible. Use other songs and have them sing loud or soft. This can also be a great way to get the students attention and quiet before a new activity.

Teach fast and slow through songs such as *Engine Engine Number Nine*. Have your students form a train around the room and walk fast when going downhill and slow when going uphill as they sing the song. You can also teach fast and slow through any simple children's song, such as *Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes*, getting faster and faster. It may be best to end by singing the song very slowly in order to calm the students down again before moving on

When planning your lessons, consider various children's songs that may help to emphasize and reinforce the skills that you are introducing or reviewing. Include as much opportunity for student involvement as possible. This allows you to teach these skills in a way that reaches every learning style in the classroom.



The songs below were contributed by our own, **Wendy Patterson**. Wendy uses music as a teaching tool in her home daycare and wanted to share some of her favorite teaching songs with our readers.

## Name Song

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is here today.  
(He's/she's) so special in every way.  
Now we'll play our spelling game,  
By saying the letters of (his/her) name.

(N-A-M-E), (N-A-M-E)  
Those are the letters of (his/her) name.

## Phone Number Song

Sung to: "B-I-N-G-O"  
I have a friend whose name is \_\_\_\_\_  
And this is how you call (him/her)  
1-2-3-4-5-6-7, 1-2-3-4-5-6-7, 1-2-3-4-5-6-7  
That is \_\_\_\_\_'s number.

# “OUR” Personal Care Challenge

By Judy Peters



In the planning for Provider Appreciation Day, it occurred to me that doing something for ourselves should not be limited to once a year or even once a month. Each of us has chosen a life of caring for the needs of others and for most of us that goal has caused us to put our own needs at the bottom of our to-do list.

My personal journey has been a rocky road at times and while I have many blessings to count, I must face the fact that I have used food as my comfort for far too long.

It is time for me to challenge myself to make positive changes in my life before my health is compromised beyond repair. I find change to be difficult and so I know that it will take a strong commitment for me to make lasting and effective life changes for myself.

I would like to invite you to join me in making a commitment to taking care of your own personal needs for at least ½ hour a day for at least 3 days each week.

Each of us might use that ½ hour for something very different because our personal needs are different. What we have in common is that we all need to spend more time nurturing our selves.

This will be our collective experiment to see if looking out for our personal needs will result in improvements in our own health or happiness. It is my belief that if the Care Giver is happy and healthy, she is better able to serve those she loves.

***Will you take the “Personal Care Challenge” with me today?***

## **It began at the meeting.....**

The message you just read was presented to the Providers at the March 2<sup>nd</sup> CCFCCA meeting. After sharing this message, 17 Providers said yes, and signed the “Personal Care Challenge” card.

In signing the card, each of us has agreed to commit at least ½ hour a day, for at least 3 days a week doing something to nurture ourselves.

Providers listed a wide range of personal goals such as: health, spiritual well being, weight, improving relationships and mood. They also listed a good variety of ways to nurture themselves, such as; walking, reading, prayer, exercising, eating healthy, pampering, yoga, palates, spending more one-on-one time with loved ones, dancing, guitar lessons, and more.

If you are interested in joining us in this Personal Care Challenge, just fill out the card below and mail it to me, Judy Peters, @ 7210 Tennessee Lane, Vancouver, WA. Please keep a copy for yourself.

An important part of this challenge is to log Personal care time in a journal. If you feel that this challenge made a difference in your life, you will be invited to share your experience. Providers short statements will be published in the May Newsletter and/or shared at Provider Appreciation Day. You have nothing to loose and everything to gain by taking part in on this Personal Care Challenge so please join us today. Judy

---

## **My Personal Care Challenge**

In that I have committed myself to care for my family and in that I have committed myself to care for children as a career, I now commit myself to spend ½ hour a day, at least 3 days each week, doing something that is good for me.

I will log my “personal care” time and I will log what I did for myself with that time.

My goal is to improve my \_\_\_\_\_  
(Health, figure, mind, mood, relationships, education, etc)

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Walking, exercising, reading, dancing, etc.)

I commit to this “**Personal Care Challenge**” for at least \_\_\_ months. At the end of that time, I may share my results with the group.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# From the desk of APRE

Spring is in the air and so are all the WACs addressing outdoor environments.

*(I can see them floating in front of me like tiny dust bunnies)*



It is a good time of year to review the re-licensing checklist you filled out at your last renewal. A link to the checklist can be found on the CCFCCA web site at [www.cfccaweb.org](http://www.cfccaweb.org)

Walk yourself through the checklist as if your licensor were standing with you. Pay close attention to your outdoor play structure and

the condition of the toys that may have been in storage through the winter. If you have a licensing visit coming up, there is a good chance attention will be given to outdoor equipment and activities.

Use the checklist throughout the year as a reminder of the WAC requirements.

I am hoping for a great spring for us all.

**Deborah**

## ORDER YOUR SCRIP NOW

By Terri Lehman

Order a gift card to a participating company for the denomination posted and a % will go to CCFCCA!! If you shop at a particular place or someone you know does, just order a gift card. It's just prepaying for a place you frequent.

Check out [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) and I guarantee you will find "something" that you could use. Online is the list of companies and the denominations that are available with the % for you to see that goes to CCFCCA. You will need to set up an account, find

what you want, print it out, send it and a check to me made out to CCFCCA. Once I have placed the order, and have all of the money, it should be less than a week to receive. For CCFCCA to get the %, you will need to use this code: [LFBF445424118](https://www.ccfcca.org/). If you have any questions, please feel free to call Terri @ 260-9884. Make checks out to: [CCFCCA](http://www.ccfcca.org/)

Please mail to: Terri Lehman

13203 NE 91st St.

Vancouver, WA 98682

## “Mow a Meadow Maze”?

Have you ever considered the idea of “Mow a Meadow Maze” as a way to turn what you have into a more natural play area?



All you have to do is “do nothing”. Let your lawn grow. Think about this: your lawn has a beautiful life cycle that gets chopped short every time it gets mowed. Now you have a chance to not only celebrate the life of your lawn, but also create a fun, natural play space for your children in the process. With your very own lawn mower as a creative tool, you can carve out a maze, playhouse, village, or zigzagging paths. You may even want to plant wildflowers or add native plants and grasses. Plants will grow, flowers will bloom, wildlife will appear and children will learn and learn about the natural world in an exciting new environment.

This is one of many ideas offered by the Playscapes web site that can be found at:

[http://www.earthplay.net/natural\\_playscapes\\_preview.pdf](http://www.earthplay.net/natural_playscapes_preview.pdf)

[http://www.earthplay.net/store\\_book\\_nat\\_playscapes.html](http://www.earthplay.net/store_book_nat_playscapes.html)

The information above is based on research being done by *Natural Learning Initiative* of North Carolina State University [www.naturalearning.org](http://www.naturalearning.org) and *Human-Environment Research Laboratory* of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign [www.herl.uiuc.edu](http://www.herl.uiuc.edu) and ‘*Growing up in cities*’ Program of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

[www.unesco.org/most/guic/guicmain.htm](http://www.unesco.org/most/guic/guicmain.htm)

# Spring Tour of Homes



On Saturday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, all local Child Care Providers are invited to the CCFCCA Spring Tour of Homes. This bi-annual event is a way for Providers to view the daycare homes of two Providers members. The Tour of Homes gives Providers the opportunity to glean ideas for ways to make use of space and design while also making a valuable social connection with fellow Providers.

This tour will feature the homes of Terri Lehman and Wendy Patterson.

The tour will begin at 9:00am at Terri's home @ 13203 NE 91<sup>st</sup> Street. 98682.

We will leave Terri's home at about 10:00am and drive to Wendy's home @ 10003 NE 21<sup>st</sup> Street, 98664.

After viewing Wendy's home, lunch will be served while we have a question /answer time and a discussion about ideas for ways to use daycare space.

Certificates for 3 STARS will be handed out at the end of the tour. To ensure enough space and food and certificates, this is a RSVP tour. The sign-up deadline is set for Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Tour is free to CCFCCA members and \$30.00 to non members. RSVP to 693-5245

**Vancouver Farmer's Market** opens on March 20 for the season. Hours are Saturdays 9-3 and Sundays 10-3. For more information, visit [www.vancouverfarmersmarket.com](http://www.vancouverfarmersmarket.com).

## Newsletter Staff

Editor/Writer	Judy Peters
Proofreader	Kathy Viers
President letter/Union news	Melba Halgren
Provider Showcase	Sue Pederson
Health News	Anne Johnston
Writer	Terri Lehman
Healthy Provider	Tina VanBuskirk
APRE	Deborah Rosser

## We are going "Green" in April

In celebration of Earth Day, CCFCCA will be having our "Environmental Green" meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

In the spirit of recycle/reuse, we are inviting Providers to bring any slightly used toys or equipment that you no longer use and offer them up to Providers that can make use of it. In exchange, you can take home the donated items that others brought in. This exchange of toys and equipment is a great way to bring a no cost change to your daycare and we all know how much the kids like change.

All items that are brought to the meeting and find no new home can be donated to the CCFCCA yard sale which will happen in the summer.

In addition to the toy exchange, we invite Providers to bring in all of your plastic bags. CCFCCA will see to it that the bags are recycled and kept out of the landfill.

The 50/50 raffle will feature some special Earth Day prizes.

## CCFCCA Board and Committees:

President:

Melba Halgren [melbahalgren@aol.com](mailto:melbahalgren@aol.com)

Vice President:

Wendy Patterson [Wpatterson320@hotmail.com](mailto:Wpatterson320@hotmail.com)

Secretary:

Sue Pederson [susanpederson@comcast.net](mailto:susanpederson@comcast.net)

Treasurer:

Nancy Lycklama [NTLDC97@aol.com](mailto:NTLDC97@aol.com)

STARS Training Coordinators:

Leasa Ripplinger & Sue Pederson

Welcome Committee:

Sandi Brinley & Carol Chandler

Historian/Scrapbook Committee:

Tina VanBuskirk & Peggy Corcoran

CCFCCA Consultant: Deborah Rosser

Newsletter Editor: Judy Peters

**Disclaimer:** Any views or opinions presented in articles are solely those of the author of that article and do not necessarily represent those of CCFCCA