

SMART START Child Care Association Newsletter

Volume No. 1

Issue No. 1

December 15, 2003

Our Incoming President

In January, Kathy Talbert will begin her term as Board President. Here she is in her own words . . .

About three years ago, I became involved with Smart Start. The Association has gone through a metamorphosis during this time and now seems to be ready to take flight! I am very excited about the future of Smart Start! With a new Executive Director who understands early childhood and the needs of Directors, we will be able to come together as a team and make a difference.

If you are not a member, be sure to fill out your membership form and send it in. We want to kick off 2004 with increased membership and increased involvement. I believe that meeting with my peers in the child care industry keeps me better informed about the day to day issues that we are all dealing with to keep our centers up and running. I have learned so much from many of you who give so much of yourselves for the sake of children.

I urge you to make time for our monthly membership meetings. Your input is so valuable, and the time you are away from your center will revitalize you. We generally begin with lunch, a brief meeting, and then a training or discussion topic.

I am eager to share my goals for the Association with you and I will be open to your suggestions and comments as we plan our 2004 calendar. I look forward to serving you as President of the Association next year and wish you a Happy and Blessed Holiday Season.

--Kathy Talbert, Little Cougar, Inc.

Membership Update

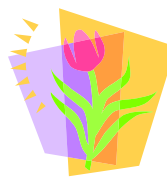
In 2003, Smart Start had 36 comprehensive and basic members. Our goal for 2004 is to increase that number to 50. Please help us meet that goal by encouraging non-members to join and by renewing your membership. Membership is open to all licensed child care center directors in McLennan, Bosque, Falls, Hill, Limestone, and Freestone counties.

Membership fees are due by January 15, 2004. If you are a current member, your benefits end December 31, 2003. Contact the Smart Start office if you have questions about membership.

Goals for the New Year!

It is so important to have a vision for what you want. Directing requires you to have goals for your program, the staff members you supervise, and yourself. Our first membership meeting of 2004 is scheduled for January 21 from 11:30-1:30 p.m. Our discussion topic is effective goal setting for the year.

We will organize small groups who share similar goals, provide access to mentors, and schedule accountability meetings throughout the year so that we may share our successes, our challenges, and the lessons we learn along the way.



Goodbye from the Board The Board of Directors would like to express our sincere thanks to JoEllen Roach, Past President and Rita Denney, Secretary for their dedication and service to the Smart Start Board of Directors over the last three years.



Resource Room

Please call to make an appointment to use and/or check out materials from our resource room.

Smart Start maintains a resource room with paints, paper, a laminating machine, a lending library of curriculum and resource books, training videos, and infant, toddler, and preschool tubs filled with exceptional toys and materials to support you and your classroom staff. Comprehensive members may check out materials for a one-month period.

The older I grow the more earnestly I feel that the joys of childhood are the best that life has to give. -Ellen Glasgow-

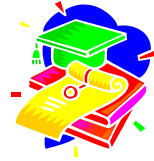
CPR & First Aid Training

In 2003, Smart Start provided CPR/FA training to over 300 child care staff. This continues to be a very successful and much needed training program. We believe we have the most talented and dynamic CPR/FA trainer in the Heart of Texas. We want to thank James Carpenter for his tremendous contribution to Smart Start and the children in our care.

As of January 1, 2004, Smart Start will be raising the price of the training to \$20 per person. We plan to offer 20 trainings over the coming year. We have received great feedback from our new limited enrollment beginner classes which we will continue to offer.

Please call to register and remember that payment must be received by the day before the class. There are no refunds or credits.

Minimum standards require that you maintain original certificates documenting CPR/first-aid and annual training in each employee's personnel record.



Scholarship Recipients

CDA Assessment Fee Recipients

Brandi Smith, Candy Cane Corner

Lula Moore, Laura Edwards

Lena Elbert, Candy Cane Corner

Eunice Dancer, Noah's Ark Too

Mary Williams, Candy Cane Corner

Judy Harris, Noah's Ark Too

Doris Pick, LaVega Family Resource

Courtney Lindsey, Candy Cane Corner

Educational Assistance Recipients

Linda Langlotz

Jessica Martinez, First Baptist

Griselda Mata, First Baptist

Claudia Monroy, Little People's

Roseanne Quinterro, Robin's Nest

Jessica Garvin, Kids & Co.

Lupe Dempsey, Kids & Co.

Tafara Joiner, Laura Edwards

Judy Harris, Noah's Ark Too

Lanita Lucky, Doris Miller Lrn Ctr

Lea Mckinney, Kids & Co.

Victor Simmons, Doris Miller

Terrie Tucker, Lakeshore Children's Ctr

LaShea Catlin, Lakeshore Children's Ctr

Smart Start would like to congratulate the recipients and their directors for the commitment to pursue higher educational standards. We know that our children do better when child care staff receive formal education and training.

Smart Start awarded over \$6000 in scholarships in 2003. Comprehensive member centers are eligible for scholarship awards. Please contact the Smart Start office for more details.



Smart Start would like to thank the following members for their contribution to the success of our recent Lunchtime Training Series:

- Loretta Rudd of Baylor University
- Janie Hilliard of MCC
- Hilda Courtney, Oaklawn Baptist Day Care
- Lori Jones of Lake Shore Children's Center
- Janet Corum, Lakwood Child Development Center.

About this issue . . .

The idea for a newsletter came out of our October membership meeting. I believe it can serve to keep us better connected and informed about child care issues in our area and nationally. My goal for the coming year is to publish six newsletters. I also plan to post them on our website. Future newsletters will: highlight member centers, provide best practice tips, and include updates from the Board President. Contributions and suggestions are welcome. Please call 254.752.1003.

--Julie Talbert, Executive Director--

Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 9-10	Smart Start Board Retreat	TBA	The Light House, McGregor
January 15	Membership Fees due		
January 20,	CPR/First Aid Training	6:00-9:30 p.m.	Smart Start Office
January 21	Smart Start Membership Meeting	11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m	Smart Start Office
January 24	CPR/First Aid Training	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Smart Start Office
January 27	Better Baby Care Advocacy Trng. Contact: MCYC 254.753.600	9:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Texas Life Insurance Annex 1000 Washington Ave., Waco
January 31	Child Care Health Conference (preregistration required)	7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	MCC Contact: CCS 254.753-0331
March 2	Read-a-Loud with Jim Trelease Sponsored by Waco Montessori School	7:00 -8:30 p.m.	Reicher High School 2102 N 23 rd Street, Waco

If you have an event you would like mentioned in our newsletter, please call the Smart Start office. Contact information:

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