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The Professional Development Initiative Project has been a huge success! The project combines all the necessary components for a successful learning environment for young children: higher education for teachers, mentoring, classroom materials, and incentives to participating teachers.

Smart Start hopes to increase the number of participants in this professional development initiative project and continue it next year adding the element of peer mentoring. Our goal is to build a community of qualified early care and education teachers to serve the children in our communities.



A special thank you to our outgoing Board Members for three years of service. Your commitment and contributions are appreciated by the entire membership.

Paula Wiggins, MCC

Tamara Carter, Child Care Services  
David Litke, Waco Public Health District,  
Janet Corum, Lakewood Christian Child  
Development Center

Susan Barnett, First United Methodist

## Introducing Your 2007 Board of Directors

President-Gail Gillum, Living Word Christian Academy, Waco

Vice President-Barbara Crosby, Piper Child Development Center, Waco

Secretary-Past President-Jan Robbins, Robin's Nest, Valley Mills

Treasurer-Mary Needler, CPA

Samantha Ramsey, First United Methodist Preschool-Clifton

Sharon Epp, Central Christian Noah's Ark Preschool

Virginia Collier, Parkview Christian Academy

### **New Director Postions:**

Casey Abel, Pirate Connections

Sherman Davis, Williams Learning & Development Center

Sonia Jones, EOAC Head Start

### **New Community Positions:**

Melba Bunch, Region 12 Service Center

Melissa McClung, DFPS, Child Care Licensing

Kelly Crain, Waco Public Health District

Emily Stottlemeyer, McLennan Community College

Patti Herbert, Group Home Representative

## **End of the Year Luncheon**

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Holiday luncheon on December 6. In a combined board and membership meeting, we recognized the amazing contributions of our Board of Directors and members, celebrated community partners, congratulated scholarship recipients, and shared a lovely meal.

**Our goal for 2007 is to build our membership to 80 child care centers. This would be a record and we need your help to reach this goal.**

**All centers who send in their dues and membership application forms by December 31, 2006 will be placed in a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate from Kaplan.**

**All member centers who sign up another center, will be given a coupon for ONE FREE CPR and First Aid Training session. The coupon can be used for any member center employee during 2007. Center Directors are asked to copy their application and write "referred by" at the top when they are responsible for signing up another center.**

**(times and dates to be announced)**

**January:** SIDS, Shaken Baby and Infant Brain Development

**February:** Business Management for Directors-Mini Conference

**March:** Summer Survival Activities

**April:** Helping Children with Challenging Behavior

**May:** Avoiding Burnout-Stress Solutions for Teachers

**June:** SIDS, Shaken Baby and Infant Brain Development

**July:** Transportation Safety

**September:** Fun with Math and Science

**October:** Seasonal Make 'n Take

**November:** Music and Movement

**December:** Holiday Luncheon

(Additional trainings may be scheduled throughout the year)

**Over 300 child care providers attended professional training sponsored by Smart Start in 2006.**

Thanks to funding by the Heart Of Texas Workforce Development Board, Smart Start will once again be offering scholarships for teachers and directors interested in pursuing child development and early education credentials and degrees at MCC, Hill, and Navarro colleges.

Recipients for Spring semester will be notified by December 20. Registration will be January 4, 2007 at MCC, room D102. A \$35 registration fee is required.

**Smart Start awarded 63 scholarships in 2006.**

### New Rates for CPR/First Aid Certification Training

Smart Start has been offering CPR and First Aid Training for many years. There are administrative costs related to coordinating this training that have not been covered in the training fee. The board voted in November to raise the rates to **\$35 for comprehensive members** and **\$40 for basic members** beginning January 2007. We will continue to offer CPR and First Aid training twice a month as long as there are ten participants. Three participants from a center may register if space permits, additional staff may be placed on a waiting list or register for an alternate date. Cancellation notice is appreciated to allow others to attend the sessions. If you have ten employees who need CPR training, James Carpenter is available to provide training at your center. Please contact Smart Start for more information.

### **Week of the Young Child Celebration**

Saturday, April 21, 2007

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

South Waco Recreation Center

Please visit our website at [www.smartstart-waco.org](http://www.smartstart-waco.org) for more information.

### CIRCLE Training Update

Forty-nine individuals participated in the two day C.I.R.C. L. E. training presented by The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. Participants learned best practices for supporting literacy and language including: phonological awareness, letter knowledge, written expression, and read aloud skills. Participants also received a workbook and a literacy kit valued at \$200.00. Evaluations of the training were extremely positive and we would like to offer the training again. This was the absolute best training available to help prepare young children to succeed in kindergarten!

The resource room is available by appointment each afternoon. Members may use the laminating machine and check out resource materials from our library. Please leave a message and someone will return your call to confirm your appointment.

To our Administrative Assistants from  
Baylor University

Karen McMeen, Kristen Fisher, and Melanie  
Voilles for all the hard work and support to  
Smart Start programs

The Heart of Texas Workforce Board, Child Care Services and Smart Start joined together in December to open the playroom in the Workforce Center. A hearty welcome goes to Franchesska Knight, playroom coordinator. Franchesska has worked hard to set up a model playroom and opens the doors Monday through Friday mornings to

parents who come to the Workforce Center for training, job search, or to use the many other available services. Smart Start will supervise the playroom during afternoon hours beginning in January of 2007. Children ages three to ten may stay for a maximum of two hours. Smart Start is excited to participate in this much needed service to our community and looks forward to using the playroom as a training site for early childhood teachers.

### SAVE THE DATE

January 6, 2007

The Board Retreat will be held January 6 from 9 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Colcord House Bed and Breakfast, 2211 Colcord St., Waco, Texas. The retreat provides an orientation for new board members and an opportunity for committees to begin their work for the year. More information will be coming your way.

Donations made to Smart Start Child Care Association are gladly accepted and appreciated. Make your tax deductible gift today before the end of 2006!

# Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 3	Executive Committee	11:30	Applebees
January 4	Scholarship Registration	4:30-6:30PM	MCC
January 6	Board Retreat	9:00-1:00PM	Colcord House
January 9	CPR & First Aid Training	6:00-9:00PM	HOT Workforce
January 17	WOYC Planning Mtg.	2:30 PM	Parkview
January 27	CPR & First Aid Training	9:00-12:00PM	HOT Workforce
January 20	SIDS/Shaken Baby Training	9:00-12:00PM	HOT Workforce

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

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