



Notes from *Jamie*

Issue 1, 2011

Happy New Year!! This new year brings many opportunities for us as early childhood professionals. Now, more than ever, people are realizing the importance of not just “quality” care but “excellent” care that our youngest children deserve. In ABC, we have been collecting data for a number of years on programs, teachers, children, etc. using COPA, WSS, ERS, and TAPP. We analyze this data to make decisions on funding, professional development opportunities, rule revisions, etc. It is critical that the data being entered into all of our systems is accurate and reliable and you play a very important role in that process. Tonya Russell, DCCECE Director, stated “In the education world today, with the focus on increased accountability and student outcomes, data is essential. The emphasis has to be on reliable and credible data as more and more decisions are made based on information. We also have to provide the tools and resources for teachers and staff working in education to understand how data can inform and improve their work.” We have entered a data-sharing agreement with Arkansas Department of Education and for the first time ever, we will be able to follow all ABC children as they enter kindergarten and even through their college careers! This is very exciting for ABC but makes reliable and accurate data even more important. We want to be able to tell the story of the importance of early childhood through the data we’ve collected but can only do that if what is input is correct.

As this new year begins, please take a look at the data you have entered in COPA, WSS, and TAPP. Is it accurate? Does it reflect what is occurring in the program/classroom? If not, please take the time to make corrections. We are asked almost on a daily basis for data on the ABC program by folks who believe in what we do and folks who sometimes need some convincing...please do your part to make sure we telling the true story.

Thank you for being a part of this exciting time with us and for all you do for the children and families that you serve!



Mid Year Expenditure reports are due January 31, 2011. Item must include:

- Cash disbursements journal (requirement for all non-school district programs)
- Completed mid-year expenditure report form (www.arkansas.gov/childcare/abc/forms)
- Signed certification page (if you have the capability, an electronic signature is acceptable)

Please email these items to your ABC Financial Specialist:
Nancy Pearlstein (Nancy.Pearlstein@arkansas.gov)
Kathy Miles (Kathy.Miles@arkansas.gov)

Written requests for an extension received prior to January 31, 2011 will be considered. All requests should be sent via email to your Financial Specialist.

2011 SAVE THE DATE

ECERS/New ABC Teachers Teachers	January 20
SQP/Progress Reports	Due January 31
Work Sampling Finalization	Due February 11

For further training opportunities visit the TAPP registry at <http://professionalregistry.astate.edu/registry.asp>

New Better Beginnings Opportunities



Beginning in January 2011 we launch a parent awareness campaign to help parents, caregivers and communities know that children are born learning. In late January and early February you will see a series of television commercials guiding listeners to the [Arkansas Better Beginnings website](#). The commercials will acknowledge the program and its focus on increasing the level of professionalism in the field. The commercials will also acknowledge your efforts to move beyond minimum licensing.

The [Family/Parent section](#) on the Better Beginnings website will be updated with new information being added on a regular basis to assist parents in being partners in helping their child's healthy development and assist in getting ready for school.

Keep coming back to www.ARBetterBeginnings.com for updates, and a very happy holiday season and best wishes for the New Year to all of our partners.



EARLY CHILDHOOD SAFETY

New Resources Available Upon Request

Informational Safety Inserts for Schools, Childcare and Religious Groups

The Injury Prevention Center has created a full year of informational inserts covering an array of safety topics for community use. Available as jpeg images on a CD, the inserts feature safety tips and resources specific to the early childhood years, and may be used in parent newsletters and e-mails, church bulletins and newsletters, or other similar materials. They can also be printed as a full page for posting on bulleting boards or in other common areas. The 13 topics include: Safe Sleep for Infants, Product and Toy Recalls, Medication Safety, Playground Safety, Water Safety, Home Safety, Home Safety, Sun Safety, Tricycle Safety, Child Passenger Safety, Seat Belt Safety Use, Safety Around Cars, Burn Prevention and Toy and Gift Safety. For a copy of the free inserts or for more information contact Alison Rose at (501) 364-3414 or RoseblissA@uams.edu



Early childhood Safety Week Tool Kit

Hosting a Safety Week is a great way for childcare and early childhood education programs to educate children, parents and professionals about injury prevention strategies that can be used at home and on the go. A Safety Week combines children's activities parent training and handouts staff development and ideas for other special events into a weeklong focus on the prevention of injuries especially those that are common during the early years of life. The Injury Prevention Center now offers a free safety week tool kit available on a CD. The tool kit includes templates for planning and advertising a Safety Week event suggested parent and staff handouts and presentations, and



The following Basic COPA trainings have been scheduled in the Little Rock area. To register visit TAPP at <http://professionalregistry.astate.edu/registry.asp>

January 27, 2011	10:00am—4:00pm
February 25, 2011	10:00am—4:00pm
March 11, 2011	10:00am—4:00pm



For more details or further information contact Lorria Eubanks at 501-683-0974. (You will receive 6 hours of technical credit for attending this class.)

2011-2012 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRESCHOOL-12TH GRADE TEACHING AMBASSADOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

Applications for the US Department of Education's Teaching Ambassador Fellowship are now available online. Teaching Ambassadors are outstanding teachers who have a record of leadership, strong communication skills, and policy insight who work for one year for the US Department of Education, either full-time in Washington, DC or part-time in their home states. The Teaching Ambassador Fellowship supports the Department's mission by enabling a cadre of outstanding teachers to contribute their classroom expertise to the national dialogue and in turn facilitate discussions with educators across the country. More information about the [program](#), [eligibility](#), [application informtion](#), [application instructions](#), and other details are available at www.ed.gov/programs/teacherfellowship **Application deadline is January 17, 2011. Please visit us at <http://www.ed.gov/early-learning>**

Let us know what you would like to see in future ABC Monthly Notes. We are striving to keep you informed and hope to make 2011 a great year. Help us to help you. Send any suggestions to Jennifer Spriggs or Jamie Morrison at:

**Jennifer.Spriggs@arkansas.gov
Jamie.Morrison@arkansas.gov**

Have a safe and prosperous year!