

# CAREER CHOICES & CHALLENGES

A News Sheet about Montana Early Care and Education Career Development

Spring 2006

## Conferences & Special Events

### Touch Points Mini-Conference

June 9<sup>th</sup> 9:00-3:00 - Pablo  
Featuring Dr. T. Berry Brazelton  
and Dr. Joshua Sparrow

Salish Kootenai College has partnered with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes Early Childhood Services Program to offer Touchpoints training and mentoring on the Flathead Reservation.

Attend this mini-conference to learn about Touchpoints and how to use them to understand children's behavior.

For more information contact:  
Cindy O'Dell (406)275-4752

### Montana Behavioral Initiative Summer Institute 2006

June 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> - Bozeman

The MBI Institute will be bringing nationally known professionals to provide training in the MBI principles. Since 1999, the institute has provided an early childhood strand to specifically focus on strengthening the capacity of child care, pre-school, and Head Start programs to improve the social and emotional outcomes of young children.

For more information or to register contact: (406)994-3333 or visit [www.montana.edu/cs/mbi](http://www.montana.edu/cs/mbi)

**\*Adult Learning II**  
Billings - July 26th  
Prerequisite is Adult Learning I

**\*Adult Learning III**  
Billings - July 27th  
No prerequisites

Adult Learning I will be offered this fall

\* Registration materials will be sent to those on the Trainer Directory.

For more information contact the ECP.

## Plan Ahead and Beat the Rush!

Many of the Best Beginnings grant programs require you to have ACTIVE status on The Practitioner Registry to be eligible to apply. Help us here at the Early Childhood Project by applying for The Registry SIX WEEKS prior to your grant application deadlines so we can get your Registry certificate to you on time!

Best Beginnings grant application deadlines are as follows:

### Regular and Infant Toddler Mini Grants -

June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>

### Certified Infant Toddler Caregiver Stipend Program -

5pm the last working day of January or July

### Child Care Provider Grants -

June 23, 2006

### Merit Pay I and Infant Toddler Merit Pay -

September 8, 2006

### Higher Education Merit Pay -

Fall 2006 - June 9, 2006

Spring 2007 - November 27, 2006

Best Beginnings grant applications should be returned to the Early Childhood Services Bureau as indicated on the request for proposal (RFP) or application. For more information about the Best Beginnings programs please call 1-866-239-0458 or visit the Early Childhood Services Bureau's website [www.childcare.mt.gov](http://www.childcare.mt.gov)

## Training Hours for Trainers

If you are a trainer you may receive approved training hours when you facilitate a new workshop for the first time. The Montana Career Development Advisory Board believes that you earn these hours through your research and preparation for the event. Reward yourself as a trainer by signing the attendance sheet the first time you facilitate a new workshop or session.

## The Cable

"One cannot learn or even remember anything new without linking it to something they already know. Each learning is like a strand of wire, the next strand we weave to the last and the process continues until we have an unbreakable cable of learning. Sometimes the strands we weave are influenced by bias, malice, even malevolence, so the responsibility is great as mentors and supervisors that the strands we weave and the strands we help others weave are grounded with the Code of Ethics and Best Practice."

-Jeff Jensen, Provider Services, Butte 4-C's

(Inspired by the Coaching and Mentoring course offered through the University of Montana – Western)

## Way to Go Above and Beyond!

As you may know, staying active at Level 1 or above on the Practitioner Registry requires 23 hours of approved training to be completed annually (8 hours for licensing and 15 for The Registry).

The ECP would like to acknowledge the following individuals who have shown a remarkable dedication to Early Care and Education Career Development by completing an outstanding number of training hours in the past year.

For those who have submitted renewal hours since January 2006:

Jody Sept Miles City 164  
Lori Kohlman Missoula 143.75  
Jean Slight Clinton 96  
Jane Duncan Missoula 105  
Autumn Leva Missoula 112.5  
JoAnn Schipman Glendive 117  
Annette Spence Alberton 78  
Lesa Schock Glendive 64  
Shirley Miller E. Helena 103  
Stefanie Fladager Havre 102.5  
Stephanie Huse Havre 136  
Cindy Sellers Darby 140  
Shauna Baldwin Bonner 110  
Sonja Klepzing-Zarn Lewistown 140  
Laura Berens Shepherd 166  
Peggy Barclay Anaconda 78  
Vickie Greenwood Bozeman 180  
Michelle Ward Billings 73  
Diane Gartner Prchal Billings 104.5  
Angela Murri Great Falls 121.5  
Stacie Olson Great Falls 233.5  
Jenni Paranteau Great Falls 235.5  
Lucy Marose Hamilton 369  
Marjorie Powers Missoula 80  
Katie Caldwell Bozeman 80  
Patricia Howe Medicine Lake 104  
Cheryl Grant Butte 52

## Contact the ECP

### Mailing Address:

Early Childhood Project  
Montana State University  
P.O. Box 173540  
Bozeman, MT 59717

### Phone:

1-800-213-6310  
(406)994-4746

### Fax:

(406)994-7555

### Email:

ecp@montana.edu

### Website:

www.montana.edu/ecp

## Confused? Read on About...

### CEUs, Renewal Units, College Credit & Approved Training

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs)** are granted by universities. Individuals with CDAs (Child Development Associate) are required to complete 4.5 CEUs or three college credits for renewal after three years and then every five years.

**One CEU equals ten hours of instruction time.**

**Renewal Units** are required for Montana elementary school teachers to keep their teaching certificates current. Teachers are required to obtain 60 renewal units every five years.

**One renewal unit is the equivalent of one hour of instruction time.**

**College Credit** is attained by completing coursework provided by a regionally accredited university, community college or tribal college. Credits earned may be used as training hours for child care licensing and the Practitioner Registry if the course content relates to a Knowledge Base content area.

**One college credit is equivalent to fifteen hours of approved training and can be documented by submitting a copy of your transcript.**

**\*\*Watch Out!** - Most regionally accredited schools and the Early Childhood Project will not accept credits or degrees awarded by Distance Education Training Council accredited schools (DETC). College credits will only be accepted from institutions that are regionally accredited by the US Department of Education's six regional accrediting entities. These are listed on our Higher Education Accreditation Info Sheet available at [www.montana.edu/ecp/pubs](http://www.montana.edu/ecp/pubs)

**Approved Training** refers to training events that have been reviewed and approved by the Early Childhood Project for early care and education practitioners. These hours can be used to satisfy child care licensing requirements as well as renewal hours for The Practitioner Registry. Not sure if a training event has been approved? Ask the training sponsor or call the ECP.

Are you a **training sponsor** who wants to offer official CEUs or renewal units for an event? To apply for:

**CEUs** - Contact any college extended studies office or the MSU Burns Telecom Center (406)994-6633 for a CEU application.

**Renewal Units** - Contact the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) at (406) 444-3150

## There's a lot going on!

Check out the new Planning and Coordination calendar on the ECP homepage [www.montana.edu/ecp](http://www.montana.edu/ecp)

In an ongoing effort to prevent scheduling conflicts between statewide meetings, conferences and special events, the Early Childhood Project has created the online Planning and Coordination Calendar for your use (this is very different from our Training Calendar).

This calendar will only be as effective as YOU make it. When planning a meeting please:

- Check the Planning and Coordination calendar for possible conflicts
- Let the ECP know the dates and location of your meeting/event so it can be posted by email [ecp@montana.edu](mailto:ecp@montana.edu) or calling 1-800-213-6310
- Remember to check back often as the calendar will be updated regularly

## The Early Childhood Services Bureau has a new website!

[www.childcare.mt.gov](http://www.childcare.mt.gov)

(Check out the section on the Best Beginnings programs)

