

# CHILD CARE MISSISSIPPI



March 2009

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## Inside this issue:

Message from Melissa	2
Nurturing Homes Initiative	2
Petal R & R Hosts Open House	3
New Thematic Units	3
2009 eInstruction Technology	4

## Important Dates:

- ◆ NACCRR National Policy Symposium: March 10-14, Washington, D.C.
- ◆ Week of the Young Child: April 19-25
- ◆ Provider Appreciation Day: May 8
- ◆ NAEYC National Institute for Early Childhood Professional Development: June 14-17, Charlotte, NC
- ◆ Mississippi Early Childhood Association Conference: Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Biloxi, MS

## MSCCR&R Network Gets Ooey Gooyey



*Lisa Murphy demonstrates her Helmet Painting Equipment during her workshop at MSU.*

As part of a three-day professional development series, Lisa Murphy, known as “The Ooey Gooyey® Lady” presented fun-filled workshops promoting hands-on exploration of art, science, music, and the environment. Lisa’s passion for creating meaningful and relevant educational experiences for children resonated with everyone, from the newest resource technicians to join the MSCCR&R Network to the most experienced professionals on staff.

Lisa and her husband Tom traveled to Mississippi State University at the behest of Dr. Louise Davis and Melissa Tenhet to inspire the staff of the MSCCR&R Network, the Nurturing Homes Initiative, and Area Extension Agents. “She was energetic and had a sincere love for children and their education. She taught us many new hands-on activities to use with providers from science to art! If I had to choose a favorite, it would be the Film Canister Pop. If you want to know what that is, give one of us a call and we will be more than happy to explain!” Amy Stokes, a Training Coordinator based at Meridian Community College said.

Lisa motivated the staff to help parents and providers create environments full of opportunities for children to explore using their senses. She also provided a new understanding of the research and educational theories that support the importance of play in the lives of young children. Look on page 2 of this newsletter for Lisa’s philosophy of early childhood education.

Ooey Gooyey® books and videos are available in all of the R & R sites in the state, or go to <http://www.ooeygooyey.com>.

## Smart & Healthy Kids Initiative:

### Promoting Health & Wellness



In February, the MSCCR&R Network concluded the funding cycle for its Smart & Healthy Kids Initiative, a program designed to improve the health and wellness of early care and education providers and children in ten of Mississippi’s Appalachian Region

Commission (ARC) distressed counties.

Training Coordinator Lydia Bethay presented a distance training workshop on physical development. “I love getting my participants involved and they (see Smart & Healthy, 3)

## A Message from Melissa, MSCCR&R Project Director

Greetings from the MSCCR&R Network. In order to keep our stakeholders and staff informed of our programs and accomplishments, I'm excited to share with you the first issue of our monthly newsletter.

First, I'm grateful to the MS Department of Human Services, our community college partners, the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the MSU-ES Area Agents and County Directors, and the MSCCR&R Staff. I appreciate your continued generosity and hard work on behalf of young children and families in Mississippi.

As we provide workshop data for the MSCCR&R Network, Project Prepare, Partners for Quality Child Care, Jackson State University, MS Forum, and Voices, we want to give early care and education providers a functional planning tool. Thus we are modifying our calendar's appearance to make it more user-friendly. Note: due dates for calendar information remain the same.

Finally, I want to encourage everyone to plan and participate in activities celebrating The Week of the Young Child, April 19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. You can find ideas and information at <http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/>.



Melissa Tenhet demonstrates Plunger Prints during the "Create" portion of Lisa Murphy's workshop.

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MSCCR&R Network:  
1-866-706-8827

## Nurturing Homes Initiative Serves 100 In-Home Providers



Since 2000, Tonya Adkins, Project Manager of the Nurturing Homes Initiative, has carried on a family tradition. Her grandmother owned the first licensed child care center in Houston, and her mother has provided both in-home and center-based care. Tonya supervises four training coordinators who deliver two-

hour technical assistance lessons every 3-4 weeks to 100 in-home child care providers. "Our goal is to get them to see themselves as professionals," Tonia said. "They may not be in a big licensed center, but they still prepare children for school. We provide information on developmentally appropriate curriculum and activities." Visit the NHI Web site: [http://msucare.com/home\\_family/nhi/index.html](http://msucare.com/home_family/nhi/index.html).

## Ooey Goey, The Philosophy

Principle 1: TIME: Children need free time exploration & interaction within their learning environment. 2: OUTDOORS: The outdoor environment is seen as an extension of the indoor space. 3: RULES: Children have the freedom to explore this environment with few restrictions. 4: THE SECRET: The secret to good teaching is learning how to control the environment, not the people in it. 5: FACILITATING: Teachers should serve as facilitators, not "the keeper of keys to the cupboard." 6: ARTICULATION: Teachers are able to explain WHY they do what they do. 7: THEORISTS: Teachers are committed to understanding the history and theory of child development. 8: KEEPING IT REAL: Children are provided with engaging experiences that are (literally) real. 9: THE 7 THINGS: Children are provided time each day to: create, move, sing, discuss, observe, read and play. (Used by permission, © 2008 Lisa Murphy)



Amy Stokes, Kamilah Dunn, and Vanessa Davis experiment with "Fizz, Bubble, Pop and WOW!" materials.



Brandi Cunningham and Niki Thompson are ready for their Open House visitors.

## Petal R & R Hosts Open House

The Petal Resource & Referral Network site, located at the Center for Families and Children in Petal, held an Open House on Tuesday, January 27th. Resource Technician Brandi Cunningham and Training Coordinator Niki Thompson offered “Make & Take” activities to the crowd of over twenty students, teachers, providers, and directors who stopped by.

“The providers really enjoyed the make-it-take-it basket that was made using the Cricut® machine. It could be used for Valentine’s Day, Easter, and Mother’s Day,” Niki said. “They wanted new ideas.”

The Open House was a great learning experience, too. “I learned that caregivers want to feel supported by their community. Having another resource to fall back on gives them the reassurance that they are not by themselves,” she added.

## Nine New Thematic Unit Kits at Every R & R Site

Dr. Sue Unger drove from Bolivar, Missouri to bring her love of nature—and a van packed full of boxes—to a workshop for the MSCCR&R Network. Her company, M.S. Creations, promotes quality educational products that incorporate science, nature, and literature. What that means to child care providers and the children they serve is that they now have access to amazing boxes

full of puppets, books, and manipulatives centered around themes such as “Moose Racks Bear Tracks,” and “I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly.” These and other materials can be checked out for free. Call or visit your local R & R site and check out these fun-filled kits! For site locations, go to <http://www.childcaremississippi.org> or call 1-866-706-8827.



Dr. Sue Unger shows what's in one of her literature-based science kits.



The Smart & Healthy Initiative promotes health and wellness.

## Smart & Healthy, from page 1

may gripe at first, but they really do enjoy it more when they are actively involved, not to mention the most important aspect: they will be more apt to implement these activities in their classes with the children they teach because they know firsthand how much fun it can be.”

The *Mississippi in Motion* program was piloted in Clay and Montgomery counties, where child care centers participated in a 12-week curriculum designed to promote a healthier lifestyle. The global communication mobile lab traveled to three counties to provide training and materials for check-out. Continued technical assistance and training with emphasis on the Early Learning Guidelines gave early care and education providers the teaching tools needed to increase reading readiness and development of young children. In total, 98 workshops were provided to 1,842 participants in the 10 ARC distressed counties. Statewide, 272 hours of technical assistance were provided over the course of the grant period, October 2007 to February 2009.



Moore Hall Room 209  
Mississippi State University  
P.O. Box 9746  
Mississippi State, MS 39762

Phone: 662-325-4129  
Fax: 662-325-1805  
Email: [mccrr@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:mccrr@ext.msstate.edu)

We're on the Web!

[www.childcaremississippi.org](http://www.childcaremississippi.org)

## MSCCR&R To Use Instruction Technology

In 2009, MSCCR&R will begin implementation of pre- and post-workshop assessments using the CPS student response system. In addition to increasing student engagement, the software allows instructors to assess comprehension and customize instruction.

Beginning with the Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) training workshops, MSCCR&R Network staff will include pre- and post-workshop assessment slides in their Power Point presentations. Each child care provider in attendance

will use a "clicker" to respond. Results from these assessments will be used to design personalized technical assistance for the early care and education providers.

"It's exciting to bring the latest technology into the field and use it to benefit the child care providers on a personal level," said Assessment Coordinator Kelly Carmody. "The software is user-friendly and versatile – we'll be able to gauge immediately the effectiveness of our workshops in teaching essential concepts."



*.MSCCR&R Network staff attend a CPS training workshop in Bost Hall. (pictured from left to right: Mary Ann Wright, Kat Hall, Lucy Bryant, Dr. Rita Tanksley, Kamilah Dunn, and Yvonne Shumpert )*

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