



Child Care Mississippi

Volume 1, Issue 1

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- Week of the Young Child:
April 19-25
- Provider Appreciation Day:
May 8
- National Association for the
Education of Young Children
(NAEYC) 18th Annual
National Institute for Early
Childhood Professional
Development: June 14-17
Charlotte, NC
- Mississippi Early Child-
hood Association (MSECA)
Conference: Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Biloxi, MS
- 2009 NAEYC Annual
Conference & Expo:
Nov. 18-21
Washington, D.C

MSCCR&R Network Gets Ooey Gooley



Lisa Murphy demonstrates "Balloon Blow Up."

Photo Credit: Kat Hall

As part of a three-day professional development series, Lisa Murphy, known as "The Ooey Gooley" Lady presented fun-filled workshops promoting hands-on exploration of art, science, music, and the environ-

ment. Lisa's passion for creating meaningful and relevant educational experiences for children resonated with everyone in attendance.

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 CFD Extension Area 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 gave an overview of the research and educational theories that support the importance of play in the lives of young children. For Lisa's philosophy of early childhood education, see page two of this newsletter. Ooey Gooley® books and videos are available in all of the R & R sites in the state, or go to <http://www.ooeygooley.com>.

Smart & Healthy Kids Initiative: Promoting Health and 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 Regional Commission (ARC) distressed counties. Training Coordinator Lydia Bethay presented a distance training workshop on physical development.



"I love getting my participants involved and they 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.

(See Smart & Healthy, page 3.)

A Message from Melissa Tenhet, MSCCR&R Network Project Manager



Melissa Tenhet makes "Plunger Prints" during the Ooey Goey workshop.

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 quarterly newsletter.

I'm grateful to the MSU School of Human Services, our community college partners, the Phil Hardin Foundation, the Appalachian Regional Commission, the CFD 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.

We are modifying our calendar's appearance to make it more user-friendly. 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 our early care and education providers a functional planning tool. 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 19-25th. You can find ideas and information at <http://www.maeyc.org/about/woyc/>. This year's theme is Bring Communities Together for Children, Children Bring Communities Together. Be sure to send us pictures and share your celebrations with us!

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Nurturing Homes Initiative Serves 100 In-home Providers



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 three to

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,

four weeks to one hundred in-home child care providers. "Our goal is to get them to see themselves as professionals," Tonya 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://msucares.com/home_family/nhi/index.html to learn more about the program and to find a wealth of resources. This program has been funded by the Mississippi Department of Human Services Office of Children & Youth since its inception nine years ago.

Lisa Murphy's Ooey Goey Philosophy of Early Childhood Education

Principle 1: TIME: Children need free time for 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 during a workshop.



Petal R & R Hosts Open House

The MSCCR&R Network has a new site located at the Center for Families and Children in Petal. At an Open House held Tuesday, January 27th, Resource Technician Brandi Cunningham and Training Coordinator Niki Thompson offered “Make & Take” activities to 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, for MSCCR&R Network staff, 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 early care and education 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>.



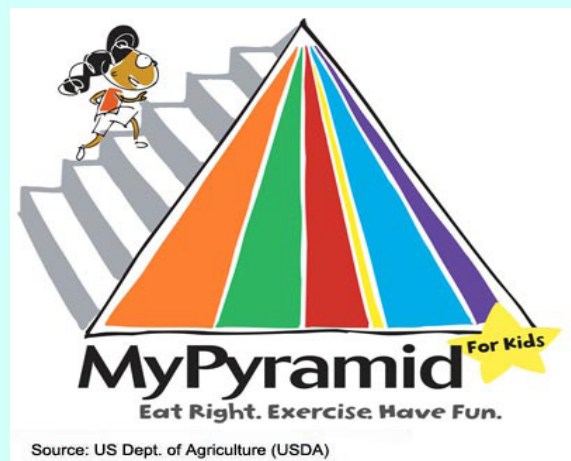
Dr. Sue Unger shows what's in one of her literature-based science kits.

Smart & Healthy Kids, from page 1

The global education mobile (GEM) 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.

Special thanks go to project partners Mississippi Public Broadcasting, East Mississippi Community College, Northeast Mississippi Community College, Itawamba Community College, MSU Extension Service and Early Childhood Institute and the National Food Service Management Institute.

We are grateful to the Appalachian Regional Foundation and the Day Foundation for funding the Smart & Healthy Kids project.



Go to <http://www.mypyramid.gov/preschoolers/index.html> for more information on healthy eating and exercise activities for preschool-age children.



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We're on the Web! www.childcaremississippi.org

MSCCR&R Network to Implement eInstruction Technology in Workshops



MSCCR&R Network staff attend a training in Bost Extension Center. (pictured left to right: Mary Ann Wright, Kat Hall, Lucy Bryant, Dr. Rita Tanksley, Kamilah Dunn, and Yvonne, Shumpert). The eInstruction "clickers" will be used for Pre- and Post-Training assessments for the Early Learning Guidelines workshops.

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."