



Spring 2010

A System of City of Madison Accredited Family Child Care

## Sentiments from the Satellite Team

*Dear Providers,*

*In celebration of Provider Appreciation Day on Friday, May 7, all of us here at Satellite want to extend our sincere appreciation for the hard work you do, your dedication to your profession and your commitment to providing quality child care to the children and families you work with. We know what a demanding job family child care can be and your willingness to meet this challenge on a daily basis inspires us as we go about our work to support you. We all feel fortunate to work with each one of you.*

*Thank you for all you do to ensure that the children in your programs are receiving the highest quality child care possible!*

### In appreciation

As of this writing, we are directorless, as our director for the past 8 years, Kari Stroede, moved on to an administrative coordinator position with Western Dairyland Community Action Agency. True to form, Kari left us all with detailed instructions, earmarked files and highlighted emails about upcoming events and projects. We certainly miss Kari's attention to detail, her strong leadership and her unwavering advocacy for Satellite. Kari diligently led Satellite through good times and rough times, always keeping in mind Satellite's mission to support quality in family child care. We are all thankful for Kari's commitment and her thoughtfulness and we will miss her.

However, just because we are momentarily leaderless does not mean that we are directionless! Please be assured that business continues as usual in our little office as each staff person takes on the responsibilities of various projects that you, our providers have come to expect. So, watch your mail or email for announcements about the Annual Parade of Homes, coming in June, and, new this year, a summer Math Series with featured presenter Judy Ballweg.

Finally, rest assured that the hunt for a new Satellite Director is underway! We will be sure to let everyone know once we find that special person to step into the big shoes left by Kari. Thank you all for YOUR support and concern; we couldn't go on without you!

### Early Head Start Update

We are delighted to report that Early Head Start (EHS) met its goal and signed up 24 children with 15 providers by the end of March! In fact, there is a waiting list of families eager to join. Family Advocate Heather Watts and Child Development Director Keith Brownlow put in an enormous amount of effort and are continuing to work with families and providers to ensure the program's continued success.

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2010 Advisory  
Committee**

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## Re-inventing Outdoor Play

By Terri Wilson-Carman

When I was a kid growing up in a small town in southeastern Wisconsin, I lived in a newly developed subdivision. At the time my family and I moved to this development, there were only 3 or 4 houses built, which meant that there were plenty of fields, swamps, and even building sites to explore. All I had to do was walk outside the back door to find a new adventure every day. I remember knowing this landscape like the back of my hand; I knew exactly where to find hickory nuts in the fall; when it was the best time to pick the biggest bouquet of lilacs and when not to walk through the swamp, in the spring and the fall. I really KNEW this place because I spent so much time in it, exploring, tasting, feeling and loving it.

These memories of my childhood have sparked my recent interest in Place-Based Learning. Laurie Lane-Zucker writes in her introduction to the book *Place Based Education* by David Sobel:

“Place based education...emphasizes creative exploration and the joyful realization of the ties that connect a person with nature and culture in her place. It does so out of the realization that love – love of nature, love of one’s neighbors and community – is a prime motivating factor in personal transformation, and the transformation of culture.”

What draws me to place based learning is the idea of really getting to know and understand a small area; maybe it’s your backyard or your neighborhood park or maybe it’s the Arboretum. I like the idea of exploring a familiar place; looking at the plants and animals, bugs and reptiles that may populate your little piece of heaven. I like knowing, for example that the house I live in now was built on reclaimed marshland and that if Lake Mendota decided to jump her banks and take back what is rightfully hers, I’d either have lakefront

property or have to prop my house up on stilts. I like knowing that if I dig down 6 inches in my little yard I will find sand and quite possibly sea (lake?) shells, another reminder that Lake Mendota was a lot bigger a century ago. I like knowing that at one time, a horse lived or walked on the very same land that I do because I found its tooth one day when I was planting a tree in my garden. And I like knowing that in any season I can find my way round my yard, on the paths I painstakingly laid in stone, because I KNOW where they are, even at night, even in the snow. *Continued on page 4*

If the idea of place based learning intrigues you, check out the following books from our resource library:  
**Place-Based Education**, by David Sobel  
**I Love Dirt**, by Jennifer Ward  
**Sharing Nature with Children**, by Joseph Cornell  
**A Child’s Garden**, by Molly Dannenmaier  
**Discovering Nature with Young Children**, by Ingrid Chalufour and Karen Worth

# I'm a member

## Stories from Satellite

By Sara Turner

I can't even tell you in words how much it means to me to have consultants at Satellite for a support system. There have been many times over the past 18 years that I have needed guidance or simply an ear to listen. My consultants have always been there for me with wise advice and encouragement.

Satellite has also been there for me when I have needed respite care to go to a doctor or dentist appointment or simply needed some time away from my job.

The most important thing that Satellite offers me, though, is accreditation through the city of Madison. It is important to me that I am held to the highest standards there are in the early childhood profession. I am very proud of being a quality child care provider and Satellite staff is integral in this process! Thank you!

Let us know if you need respite! Requests increase during the last quarter of the year, making it harder to schedule. Call now and we'll do our best to get you the times you need. Remember to use your 2010 coupons! Contact Satellite at 270-3438.

### Referral Information for Quarter 1 of 2010:

Satellite received 123 referral requests in January, February, and March of 2010.

105	were for the 0-2 age group
18	were for the 3-5 age group
0	were for age 6 and up
75	were for full-time care
48	were for part-time care

**Remember to let us know when you have changes in your openings! Help us keep your information on our referral list up-to-date. Contact Satellite at 270-3438.**



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"Above and Beyond" award nominations are now being accepted by WECA and WDEC in the following categories: Early Childhood Special Education Teacher of the Year, Early Childhood Teacher of the Year, Collaborative Team of the Year, Outstanding Service Award, Outstanding Partner in Early Education and Care, and Student Teacher of the Year. Awards will be presented at the 56th Annual WECA Conference on Friday November 12, 2010, at the Madison Marriott West. For information, visit [www.wecanaeyc.org](http://www.wecanaeyc.org)

**The Madison Children's Museum needs empty toilet paper tubes. Send in your donations to the Satellite Office.**

# Professional Development

For more information or to RSVP contact the Satellite office at 270-3438.

Events are held at Dane County Parent Council (2096 Red Arrow Trail) unless otherwise noted.

## Dates to Remember

May 21	6:30	Arco Iris (Spanish-speaking Support Group)
May 26	5:30	Family Fun Night for EHS providers and families
May 27	6:30	Sojourn Support Group at Karen Culbertson's
June 9	6:00	Satellite Parade of Homes
June 18	6:30	Arco Iris (Spanish-speaking Support Group)
June 24	6:30	Sojourn Support Group at Denise Mirkin's
July 7, 14 and 21	6:00	Summer Math Series: Integrating math into your program, activities for 3 age groups

## Support Groups

Arco Iris (the Spanish-speaking provider support group) and Sojourn (an accredited provider support group) meet monthly. Please contact the Satellite Office at 270-3438 for upcoming dates and locations.

### ***Re-inventing Outdoor Play, continued from page 2***

Imagine walking out your back door on a beautiful summer day and “discovering” that, overnight, flowers have bloomed in your garden or the mourning doves you hear cooing outside your window, have built a nest in a tree in your yard; or maybe you find that water has collected in an overturned pot in the yard from last night's sprinkle, creating an impromptu pond with tiny insects already living there. Now, think about what your children can learn, just by stepping out the door: observation, patience, life cycles, prediction, just to name a few. Getting to know one place well also allows you to learn how to care for that space and maybe more importantly, how to care about that space. Laurie Lane-Zucker, in her intro to Place Based Education explains:

“Place based education challenges the meaning of education by asking seemingly simple questions: Where am I? What is the nature of this place? What sustains this community? It often employs a process of re-storying, whereby students are asked to respond creatively to stories of their homeground so that, in time, they are able to position themselves, imaginatively and actually, within the continuum of nature and culture in that place. They become part of the community rather than a passive observer of it.”

I have lived in my current home for almost 28 years. Yet every spring I'm surprised and delighted by the first little snow drops that push their tenacious buds up through the winter squashed leaves; I'm thrilled to see my 60 year old rose bushes once again put on their spectacular show and scent the air with their lovely aroma and I'm happy to see that the cardinal couple have returned to build yet another nest to raise their babes in. When we take the time to note the changes in our environment, to observe and appreciate the life cycle, the hope and anticipation of what comes next, we are paying tribute to the place, developing a connection that will reach beyond our simple garden. *Continued on page 6*



# 25 Books for Early Childhood Literacy

**Recommended by the early literacy specialists of Dane County Parent Council**



**Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Polar Bear, Polar Bear** By Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle (Spanish)

**Caps for Sale** By Esphyr Slobodkina (Spanish)

**Cat in the Hat** By Dr. Seuss (Spanish)

**A Chair for My Mother** By Vera B. Williams (Spanish)

**Chicka Chicka Boom Boom** By Bill Martin Jr. Illustrated by Lois Ehlert (alphabet) (Spanish)

**From Head to Toe** By Eric Carle (Spanish)

**Good Night Moon** By Margaret Wise Brown Illustrated by Clement Hurd (Spanish)

**Guess How Much I Love You** By Sam McBratney Illustrated By Anita Jeram (Spanish)

**It Looked Like Spilt Milk** By Charles Shaw (Spanish)

**The Little Engine that Could** By Watty Piper (Spanish)

**Mama, Do You Love Me?** By Barbara Joose Illustrated By Barbara LaValle (Spanish)

**Margaret and Margarita** By Lynn Reiser (bilingual)

**One Duck Stuck** By Phyllis Root (numbers)

**Snowy Day** By Ezra Jack Keats (Spanish)

**Swimmy** By Leo Lionni and **Rainbow Fish** By Marcus Pfister (Spanish)

**The Very Hungry Caterpillar** By Eric Carle (Spanish)

**Today is Monday** By Eric Carle (Spanish)

**Where the Wild Things Are** By Maurice Sendak (Spanish)

## Farm Animal Books

**I Went Walking** By Sue Williams Illustrated By Julie Vias (Spanish)

**Big Red Barn** By Margaret Wise Brown Illustrated By Felicia Bond (Spanish)

**Classic Folk Tales** (Books with many versions based on oral storytelling) (bilingual)

**The Three Billy Goats Gruff** Retold and Illustrated by Paul Galdone

**The Three Bears** Retold and Illustrated versions by James Marshall or Paul Galdone

**The Three Little Pigs** Illustrated by Maria Rius

**The Mitten** Retold and Illustrated by Jan Brett

**The Gingerbread Man** Retold and Illustrated versions by Jan Brett or Karen Schmidt

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) is a unique and vital resource for adults with an interest in children's and young adult literature. A library of the School of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the CCBC is a nonlending examination, study and research library serving Wisconsin school and public librarians, teachers and early childhood care providers. The CCBC is supported in part by funding from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. You can contact the library to arrange to see newly published books on specific themes or topics. They will pull books in advance of your visit and you can examine them firsthand. Any adult is welcome to drop by the library during the public service hours to browse the collections and resources. The CCBC is located in Room 4290 of Helen C White Hall at 600 N. Park Street. Phone: 608-263-3720 Email: ccbcinfo@education.wisc.edu www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/

## in **RECOGNITION** and **APPRECIATION**

Thank you for your dedication to family child care. Your achievements and contributions are both commendable and inspiring. The work you do is strengthening your community, raising up our profession, and truly making a difference.

### **Thank you!**

- Thank you to Chris Garrett for posters and several books for the unit kits
- Thank you to Abby Abrisham for books for the resource library
- Thank you to Anne Alexander for a puppet theater and puppets for the rotation equipment and for books for the resource library.
- Thank you to Ana Blanco for Spanish-language activity books from Mexico
- Thank you to Marisela Alcantara for the Step2 table with four chairs
- Thank you to Peggy Rainbow, Rashelle Kindschi, Drew Hanson, and Andrew and Sarah Houge for cash donations to support the work of Satellite.

### ***Re-inventing Outdoor Play continued from page 4***

So, my challenge to you, dear providers, is to find that special place. Explore it, cultivate it, share it, observe it, but most of all, love it. Then encourage your child care group to do the same. Allow them the opportunity to get to know their “neighbors”: the birds, bunnies, raccoons, spiders, snakes, flowers, plants, trees, rocks, dirt, grass, all those incredible things that inhabit your special place. Write in journals, take pictures, and draw what you see. Pick flowers and grass. Catch and release butterflies, ants and ladybugs. Splash in puddles and make mud pies. Plant a flower, an herb or a garden. Listen to bees buzzing, birds chirping and rain falling. Feel the sun on your face, smell a rose, taste a basil leaf. Look for bird’s nests, eggs and feathers. Put out a bird feeder, bird bath or a hummingbird feeder. Spy rainbows, clouds and squirrels. Invite your children to know and appreciate the delicate balance of life that we are fortunate to witness with the changing seasons. Encourage the children to learn about, then care about, the world just outside the door. Play. Investigate. Observe. Love. ☺