



California Childcare Health Program (CCHP)

E-News for

Child Care Health Consultants

May 2008

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Greetings

Spring is whizzing by and summer will be here shortly. As you shift gears for summer, keep in mind the resources on the CCHP website ucsfchildcarehealth.org on summer safety:

[*Keeping Children Safe from Pests and Pesticides*](#)

[*Poison Oak*](#)

[*Prevent Drowning*](#)

[*Smart Fun in the Sun*](#)

[*Summer Safety*](#)

[*The Use of Insect Repellent by Child Care Programs*](#)

Remember that we (two nurses, and an ECE inclusion specialist) are available to you Monday through Friday on the toll-free Healthline, 800-333-3212, to answer your questions about health and safety in childcare. Give us a call!

Announcement

We are also having a sale on some of our publications. [Click here for more info.](#)

News and Resources

From the Healthy Child Care Consultant Network Support Center

The latest issue of the Healthy Child Care Consultant Network Support Center e-newsletter, *NSC Focus*, is now available at hccnsc.edc.org/resources/newsletter.asp This issue focuses on collaboration.

In the Spotlight features an interview with Sharis LeMay, ECCS director in Alabama. Sharis describes how she and her colleagues have built enduring partnerships, and tells us about new collaborations she is fostering to support her CCHC initiative.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) answer common questions about ways to build strong, sustainable partnerships.

Resources include materials to help you with your collaborative efforts:

- *Building Awareness of the Benefits of CCHCs: An NSC Webinar* (March 27, 2007), provided ideas and resources for outreach and advocacy on behalf of CCHC initiatives, with insights from Connecticut and Washington State. The audio file, PowerPoint slides, and additional resources are available on the NSC website hccnsc.edc.org/resources/webinarMar2007.asp
- *Collaborating for Success: An NSC Webinar* (January 22, 2008), featuring state CCHC leaders from Idaho and Virginia, is available on the NSC website, including the audio file, PowerPoint slides, and supporting resources. hccnsc.edc.org/resources/webinarJan2008.asp
- *Collaboration Handbook: Creating, Sustaining, and Enjoying the Journey* (1997), by Michael Winer & Karen Ray. This book provides concrete tips and worksheets to guide and document the collaboration process. (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation)
- *Common Vision, Different Paths: Five States' Journeys toward Comprehensive Prenatal-to-Five Systems* (2007). This report articulates a common vision for early childhood systems in which programs work together to provide high-quality early learning and comprehensive services. Find guidance on how to build on momentum around individual programs for the larger push toward systems to benefit all young children and families. www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/Common_Vision_Different_Paths_Final.pdf?docID=4521
- *Handbook on Developing and Evaluating Interagency Collaboration in Early Childhood Special Education Programs* (2007), by Kathleen C. Sadao and Nancy Robinson. The handbook is meant to assist early intervention professionals and agencies develop and implement interagency agreements that support an efficient and seamless delivery of services. www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se/fp/documents/eciacolbrtn.pdf.
- *The Nimble Collaboration: Fine-Tuning Your Collaboration for Lasting Success* (2002), by Karen Ray. This book is a guide to help existing collaborations become more effective. (Amherst H. Wilder Foundation)

New report on measures of quality in ECE settings

Quality in early childhood care and education settings: A compendium of measures reviews measures of quality in early care and education settings. The goal of the report was to provide a consistent framework with which to review the existing measures of the quality of early care and education settings. In this report, The Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, reviews measures of the quality of early care and education settings to provide comparable information on existing measures that may be useful to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Profiles describe the purpose of the measure; the population and setting for which they are intended; procedures for administration; psychometric properties; as well as underlying constructs and scoring. View the document at www.researchconnections.org/SendPdf?resourceId=13403

An online resource for providing inclusive child care

A website sponsored by the California Map to Inclusive Child Care, a project of WestEd Center for Child & Family Studies, and funded by the California Department of Education, Child Development Division functions as a clearinghouse of resources to support quality inclusive child care for children from birth to 22. Features include downloadable PowerPoints on Early Start, Transition, and Talking with Parents When Concerns Arise. In addition, there are web links to training and technical assistance resources, policy and trends, and early mental health initiatives. The website can be found at www.cainclusivechildcare.org/.

Manual provides guidance in choosing pediatric developmental screening instruments

Pediatric Developmental Screening: Understanding and Selecting Screening Instruments informs practitioners' selection and application of screening instruments in a range of practice settings. The Web-based manual, developed by the Commonwealth Fund, is based on a review of the scientific research on available developmental screening instruments. Part 1 is designed to facilitate the

selection of screening instruments by helping practitioners define their practice needs. Part 2 presents guides designed to facilitate practitioners' abilities to compare developmental screening instruments with respect to clinical utility in practice settings and validity, or sensitivity and specificity, in different populations and at various ages. An interactive Web feature (flow chart) is also available to answer questions about screening needs and make instrument recommendations. The manual is available at: www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=614864

Paper highlights state and local innovation in finance policy for child behavioral health services

Towards Better Behavioral Health for Children, Youth and Their Families: Financing That Supports Knowledge provides an overview of sources of funding (and their policy roots) that underwrite children's behavioral health services, illuminating the flaws and prospects of various policy choices. The working paper is the third in a series titled *Unclaimed Children Revisited* produced by the National Center for Children in Poverty. Although the paper focuses on public funding for mental health and on substance abuse services within the behavioral health arena, it also addresses related funding in education, child welfare, and juvenile justice. Topics include an overview of children's behavioral services, an overview of federal behavioral health funding streams and their impact, fiscal innovation in states and local communities, and challenges and opportunities. The authors conclude the paper with recommendations for policy actions to create and sustain a supportive federal and state fiscal environment. The paper is available at: www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_804.pdf

Study finds association between breastfeeding duration and lower prevalence of metabolic syndrome among women in midlife

Duration of lactation is associated with lower prevalence of the metabolic syndrome in midlife—SWAN, the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 198(3):268.e1-268e6. Ram KT, Bobby P, Hailpern S. 2008.

Abstract available at [www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378\(07\)02226-0/abstract](http://www.ajog.org/article/S0002-9378(07)02226-0/abstract)

This study examined the relationship between how long a woman breastfeeds and her risk of developing metabolic syndrome (a clustering of the following metabolic abnormalities: insulin resistance, dyslipidemia, hypertension, and obesity). For women who breastfed, 18.3% developed metabolic syndrome, compared to 26.7% of women who did not breastfeed. In addition, the study found that there was a dose-response relationship, the longer a woman breastfed, the lower her chances of developing metabolic syndrome. The authors conclude that "in addition to the pediatric benefits of breast-feeding, these findings of maternal benefit may encourage more women to initiate and maintain breast-feeding behavior."

Promoting healthy families, preventing abuse

The *The Promoting Healthy Families in Your Community: 2008 Resource Packet*, developed for service providers, highlights strategies to strengthen families by promoting key protective factors that prevent child abuse and neglect. It also includes tip sheets in both English and Spanish to share with parents.

The Resource Packet is produced annually by the Department of Health and Human Services' Children's Bureau, Office on Child Abuse and Neglect, Child Welfare Information Gateway, and the FRIENDS National Resource Center on Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention. The 2008 packet was developed with input from more than 30 national organizations that work to promote healthy families. The packet and corresponding poster can be downloaded or ordered at www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/res_packet_2008

Or contact Child Welfare Information Gateway at 1.800.394.3366 or info@childwelfare.gov.

Service providers can find additional materials in the Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect section of the Information Gateway website. This web section includes resources for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, as well as information on evaluating and funding prevention programs, enhancing protective factors, and effective parenting. For more details, go to www.childwelfare.gov/preventing

Helping Your Preschool Child booklets available

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) co-published these booklets with the Department of Education and they include practical suggestions and activities to prepare children for success in school. The booklets are available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded at AFT's website. Click this link, www.aft.org/earlychildhood/index.htm. When you arrive at the AFT homepage, click on the Helping Your Child Series link on the right side of the page.

NAEYC seeking feedback on new draft on Developmentally Appropriate Practice (DAP)

In 2006 NAEYC's Governing Board appointed a working group to advise staff on the preparation of a revision of the current NAEYC Position Statement on Developmentally Appropriate Practice (adopted July 1996). Like all NAEYC position statements, the revised statement must go to the Governing Board for approval.

NAEYC is now seeking feedback on this draft revision from anyone who would like to offer their comments. The draft will remain posted until March 28, 2008, and comments received by that date will be considered.

- To review the Draft, go to www.naeyc.org/about/positions/pdf/draftdap0208.pdf
- To submit feedback about the Draft, go to www.naeyc.org/about/positions/draftdap0208_form.asp

County-specific asthma data available

California Breathing has developed County Asthma Profiles for county-specific asthma data.

New, updated Profiles are being developed, but County Rank Sheets are available now. The Rank Sheets list selected asthma measures for each county and California overall. They can be downloaded from their website (www.californiabreathing.org) by going to Data -> County Asthma Profiles.

Rank Sheets are available for the following measures:

- **Lifetime asthma prevalence:** children 0-17, adults 18+
- **Asthma ED visits rates:** children 0-17, adults 18+, all ages; by race/ethnicity
- **Asthma hospitalization rates:** children 0-17, adults 18+, all ages; by race/ethnicity
- **Asthma mortality rates:** all ages
- **Outdoor air pollution data:** Ozone, PM2.5, PM10

"In addition to the publications you can find on our website, California Breathing offers technical assistance and custom data requests. If you are looking for specific asthma data that is not available in our publications, please contact us (Meredith.Milet@cdph.ca.gov). We can also discuss data that is currently available and give assistance on interpreting and communicating this data."

New publications From Zero to Three

Everyday Ways to Support Your Baby's and Toddler's Early Learning

by Claire Lerner and Rebecca Parlakian. This helpful and informative parent handout describes ways parents can help their young children get ready for school. This handout has been designed in the form of 100-page tear-off pads to make it easy to use with the families you serve. The handout is in English on one side and Spanish on the other. Pdf available here: http://www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/early_learning_handout.pdf?docID=3081

Who's Watching the Babies? Improving the Quality of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care

by Douglas R. Powell. The author offers a compelling and insightful review of successful initiatives and programs that target the barriers and pitfalls agencies and trainers face when focusing on the needs of family, friend, and neighbor caregivers. *Who's Watching The Babies? Improving the Quality of Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care* puts research into practice by offering concrete strategies and promising pathways to improve the quality of family, friend, and neighbor care.

Early Learning Guidelines for Infants and Toddlers

A road map for states to use as they develop policies and programs for babies and toddlers. The report promotes the building of a strong foundation for child development and for future learning through care that is responsive, appropriate, and high quality in order to enhance a young child's earliest experiences. In addition, the report offers recommendations and examples to states as they embark on an inclusive process to develop or refine research-based early learning guidelines for infants and toddlers.

The Center for Inclusive Child Care

The Center for Inclusive Child Care includes free services such as consultation, resources and short training modules about serving children with disabilities or special needs. More intensive classes for CEU's require a fee. They also have online courses to train trainers. Center for Inclusive Child Care (CICC) inclusivechildcare.org

Challenging Behaviors and the Role of Preschool Education

This report by the National Institute for Early Education Research addresses questions such as: Is there a rise in challenging behaviors among young children in early care and education? Is preschool a contributing factor or can it provide positive experiences that can reduce the rates of challenging behaviors? What about quality's role in ameliorating challenging behaviors? Authors Lisa A. McCabe and Ellen C. Frede review the research in order to answer these questions and make recommendations that can lead to better behavioral outcomes. The report is available here: [Challenging Behaviors and the Role of Preschool Education](#)

Study shows children injured in motor vehicle accidents are often unrestrained or inappropriately restrained

Child passenger restraint use and emergency department reported injuries: A special study using the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System-All Injury Program, 2004. J Safety Res 2008; 39(1): 25-31. Lee KC, Shults RA, Greenspan AI, Haileyesus T, Dellinger AM (2008).

In this recent study of the circumstances of childhood injuries in motor vehicle accidents, 9% of the injured children were unrestrained in motor vehicle and 36% were inappropriately restrained. Blacks and Hispanics were about six times more likely to be unrestrained than Non-Hispanic Whites (12% and 14%, respectively, vs. 2%). Seventy-seven percent of inappropriate restraint use occurred among children aged 4-8 years, who were prematurely placed in seatbelts. Eight percent of children required hospitalization; unrestrained children were three times more likely to be hospitalized than restrained children (21% vs. 7%). Conclusion: Age-appropriate restraint use should be promoted for child passengers, particularly among Blacks, Hispanics, and children riding in trucks.

The Children's Environmental Health Network has a new feature: The Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month

This is a new communication tool geared toward increasing communication both within and outside of the field of children's environmental health. The Article of the Month is designed to highlight the science-base of current children's environmental health issues with all stakeholders including families, educators, health care professionals and many more. April's article looks at the link between infant lead exposure and the development of Alzheimer's disease later in life. March's article focused on new environmental health approaches focusing on how substances in the environment, such as pollutants, can interact with genes to influence health and disease. The Children's Environmental Health Article of the Month can be viewed online at www.cehn.org/science_aom.htm

Injuries from "roller shoes"

Heelys and street gliders injuries: a new type of pediatric injury. Pediatrics 119(6): e1294-8. Vioreanu, M., E. Sheehan, et al. (2007).

Children's use of "roller shoes" is resulting in orthopedic injuries, particularly to the upper extremities. Many children use the shoes with no safety equipment. Girls are particularly at risk. To address this problem, Child Safety Solutions is offering a free handout, "Smart Steps to Safe Wheeling." The handout can be downloaded, printed, and freely distributed to help raise awareness of safe "wheeling." To download your copy go to www.imsafe.com and click on Free Stuff: Smart Steps to Safe Wheeling.

Exercise may be a simple method of enhancing aspects of children's mental functioning

Effects of aerobic exercise on overweight children's cognitive functioning: a randomized controlled trial. Res Q Exerc Sport 78(5): 510-9. Davis, C. L., P. D. Tomporowski, et al. (2007).

The study tested the effect of aerobic exercise training on executive function in overweight children. Ninety-four sedentary, overweight but otherwise healthy children (mean age = 9.2 years, body mass index 85th percentile) were randomized to a low-dose (20 min/day exercise), high-dose (40 min/day exercise), or control condition. Exercise sessions met 5 days/week for 15 weeks. The Cognitive Assessment System (CAS), a standardized test of cognitive processes, was administered individually

before and following intervention. Analysis of covariance on posttest scores revealed effects on executive function. Group differences emerged for the CAS Planning scale ($p = .03$). Planning scores for the high-dose group were significantly greater than those of the control group. Exercise may prove to be a simple, yet important, method of enhancing aspects of children's mental functioning that are central to cognitive and social development.

From ScienceDaily: Children With Healthier Diets Do Better In School, Study Suggests

Via ASCD SmartBrief:

ScienceDaily (Mar. 22, 2008) — Led by Paul J. Veugelers, MSc, PhD of the University of Alberta, researchers surveyed around 5000 Canadian fifth grade students and their parents as part of the Children's Lifestyle and School-Performance Study.

Information regarding dietary intake, height, and weight were recorded and the Diet Quality Index-International (DQI-I) was used to summarize overall diet quality. The DQI-I score ranges from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating better diet quality. Less healthful dietary components included saturated fat and salt, while healthy foods were classified by fruits, vegetables, grains, dietary fiber, protein, calcium and moderate fat intake.

Full article: www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080320105546.htm

Children With Healthier Diets Do Better In School, Study Suggests. Blackwell Publishing Ltd. (2008, March 22). Summarized in *ScienceDaily*.

From ScienceDaily: Close Ties Between Parents And Babies Yield Benefits For Preschoolers

ScienceDaily (Feb. 7, 2008) — Having close ties with parents is obviously good for preschoolers, but what does that really mean? It means that the preschoolers are better able to control their own behavior by showing patience, deliberation, restraint, and even maturity. That's the finding of a new study conducted by researchers at the University of Iowa.

Full article: www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/02/080207085606.htm

Mother-Child and Father-Child Mutually Responsive Orientation in the First Two Years and Children's Outcomes at Preschool Age: Mechanisms of Influence.

Child Development, 79:1. Kochanska, G, Aksan, N, Prisco, TR, and Adams, EE (University of Iowa) (2008). Summarized in *ScienceDaily*.

Tiny Hearts Hurt by Secondhand Smoke

Via Join Together.

Research Summary: Children ages 2 to 14 who are exposed to secondhand smoke show signs of cardiovascular injury, meaning they may be at increased risk of heart disease, *HealthDay News* reported March 13.

Researchers took hair samples from 125 children and checked them for nicotine exposure, then took blood samples to look for a cellular marker for cardiovascular health called EPC. They found that toddlers tended to have the greatest levels of nicotine exposure — six times that of older children — as well as greater indicators of cardiovascular risk.

"Toddlers are smokers by default," said study co-author John Bauer, director of the Center for Cardiovascular Medicine at Nationwide Children's Hospital and Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio. "Forty percent of toddlers in our study had nicotine content that in adults would suggest that they were active smokers. But, an active smoker has a filter on cigarettes. The toxicity from smoke that is inhaled in the atmosphere is worse because there's no filter."

"Toddlers are like fish in a fish bowl," added Bauer. "They're strapped pretty closely to

their parental units, which exposes them to more smoke than adolescents who live in the same set of circumstances." Researchers also noted that toddlers breath more rapidly, thus inhaling more smoke than older children.

Full article: www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2008/tiny-hearts-hurt-by.html

Energy intake necessary for additional weight gain among overweight children is greater than previously thought

From NUTRITION & YOUR CHILD, a research-based newsletter produced by the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center (CNRC) at Baylor College of Medicine

Long term energy imbalance (calories consumed vs. calories expended) is widely accepted as the formula that leads to weight gain or weight loss.

Dr. Nancy F. Butte and her colleagues at the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center, as well as colleagues from Denmark, attempted to develop a model using growing children. They could then predict the total energy cost of weight gain and the necessary increase in energy intake and/or decrease in physical activity level associated with weight gain in children and adolescents. A complete discussion and several mathematical models can be found in the December 2007 issue of *Obesity* (www.obesityresearch.org/content/vol15/issue12).

Interestingly, the pediatric model demonstrates that the energy intake necessary for additional weight gain among overweight children was greater than previously thought. Dr. Butte explains, "Previous estimates did not take into account the energy necessary to support a greater body mass. In practical terms, this means that halting the increase in childhood obesity will require a sizable decrease in energy intake and/or a measurable increase in physical activity."

Healthy Eating PodCasts Now Available

The MyPyramid website (www.mypyramid.gov) has added another exciting new feature. Since January 2008, short (less than 3 minutes) PodCasts are posted to the website every month. In each PodCast, Dr. Brian Wansink, Executive Director of USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, interviews people or posts a story in news format describing how small steps can make a big difference for people trying to make changes in their weight and health. The PodCasts are available in MP4 and WMV formats. Text versions can be downloaded in PDF or TXT.

View the current releases at (www.mypyramid.gov/podcasts).

To learn more about the Children's Nutrition Research Center research, or to subscribe to the newsletter, visit their web site: www.kidsnutrition.org.

Head Start Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center

The Office of Head Start has an interactive website that is a great resource for the early care and education community. The Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC) offers relevant, timely information, knowledge and learning to Head Start programs and the early childhood community in an easy-to-use format. It will grow and evolve over the next several years and is designed to be a comprehensive resource for anyone involved with or interested in early childhood education. See it at eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc

The March issue of Zero To Three Journal is all on Autism Spectrum Disorders

This issue features articles that provide insight and explore the current state of knowledge about autism spectrum disorders. To order a copy or to subscribe to this very informative journal, [go here](#).

Reduced Sleep in Early Years May Raise Childhood Obesity Risk, Study Finds

From *RWJ News Digest on Childhood Obesity* (April 8, 2008):

A study in the April *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine* suggests that infants and toddlers who sleep less than 12 hours daily are at greater risk for overweight as preschoolers, the Associated Press reports. To analyze that relationship, researchers from Harvard University collected body mass index and skin fold thickness data for 915 Massachusetts children. They also asked participants' mothers about the children's sleep habits at 6 months, age 1 and 2 and their television viewing habits at age 2. Researchers found that 586 children slept an average of 12 or more hours daily and that 7 percent of that group was obese at age 3. Among the 329 children who slept less than 12 hours daily, 12 percent were obese by age 3. Meanwhile, 17 percent of those who slept less than 12 hours daily and watched at least two hours of television daily were obese by age 3. Even after adjusting for birth weight, breastfeeding duration and other factors, the researchers still found that infants and toddlers who slept less than 12 hours daily were at twice the risk for obesity by age 3, compared with those who slept more than 12 hours daily. While noting that their study subjects came from families with relatively high incomes and education levels, making it difficult to broadly apply the findings, the researchers say their results provide strong evidence that sleep duration affects obesity risk in preschool-age children and that sleep deprivation and television viewing in combination "are particularly risky" (AP/Yahoo! News, 4/7/08; Taveras et al., *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, April 2008 [subscription required]).

Healthy Smiles Through Child Care Health Consultation

An online training course for child care health consultants on promoting oral health in child care settings. The course was developed through a three-year federally-funded continuing education project (Maternal and Child Health Bureau Grant # T21MC03417) and continues to be freely offered by the National Training Institute for Child Care Health Consultants (NTI).

Healthy Smiles presents the most current research on children's oral health, including common diseases, prevention strategies, access to a dental home, promoting oral health in child care, and oral health for children with special needs. During the final year of the grant (2007), 64 CCHCs nationwide participated in a pilot study of the course to measure its effectiveness in promoting preventive oral health policies and practices in child care facilities. Results from this pilot are encouraging. In baseline surveys, pilot participants reported that 47% of their child care facilities had an oral health policy of any kind. After the Healthy Smiles consultation, 81% of the facilities had at least one oral health policy. Besides increased policies, each of the 64 consultants reported improvements in preventive oral health measures as a result of their consultation ranging from dental hygiene practices (23% improvement) to record-keeping (21% improvement) to nutrition (20% improvement). The overall outcome of the project demonstrated that the CCHC has an important role in promoting oral health for children in child care settings.

The Healthy Smiles course is available free-of-charge through NTI's public website. To view the course, and to download additional materials including a Toolkit for use in presenting information about oral health to child care providers and other caretakers, please visit nti.unc.edu/healthy_smiles/

If you have any questions about the Healthy Smiles course, please contact Tobie Barton at tobie_barton@unc.edu or (919) 843-7370.

New CDC study entitled "Nonfatal Maltreatment of Infants — United States, October 2005-September 2006" finds one in 50 infants less than a year is maltreated

Almost 70% of babies less than 1 week old were reported for neglect and 13.2% were reported for physical abuse. The study also found that medical professionals, such as doctors, nurses, and other hospital staff were most likely to report child abuse and neglect of babies. The study was authored by

researchers from CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention & Control and the Administration for Children & Families (ACF).

In fiscal year 2006, 23.2 children per 1,000 population aged less than 1 year experienced substantiated nonfatal maltreatment in the United States. Among these infants, neglect was the maltreatment category most commonly cited, experienced by 68.5% of victims. This report is the first published national analysis of substantiated nonfatal maltreatment of infants. The study is available at

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5713a2.htm

EPA issues new rules for contractors who renovate or repair housing, child-care facilities or schools built before 1978 to protect children from exposure to lead paint

From the EPA Newsroom:

To further protect children from exposure to lead-based paint, EPA is issuing new rules for contractors who renovate or repair housing, child-care facilities or schools built before 1978. Under the new rules, workers must follow lead-safe work practice standards to reduce potential exposure to dangerous levels of lead during renovation and repair activities.

"While there has been a dramatic decrease over the last two decades in the number of children affected by lead-poisoning, EPA is continuing its efforts to take on this preventable disease," said James Gulliford, EPA's Assistant Administrator for Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances. "Today's new rules will require contractors to be trained and to follow simple but effective lead-safe work practices to protect children from dangerous levels of lead."

The "Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting Program" rule, which will take effect in April 2010, prohibits work practices creating lead hazards. Requirements under the rule include implementing lead-safe work practices and certification and training for paid contractors and maintenance professionals working in pre-1978 housing, child-care facilities and schools. To foster adoption of the new measures, EPA will also conduct an extensive education and outreach campaign to promote awareness of these new requirements.

The rule covers all rental housing and non-rental homes where children under six and pregnant mothers reside. The new requirements apply to renovation, repair or painting activities where more than six square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room or where 20 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed on the exterior. The affected contractors include builders, painters, plumbers and electricians. Trained contractors must post warning signs, restrict occupants from work areas, contain work areas to prevent dust and debris from spreading, conduct a thorough cleanup, and verify that cleanup was effective.

Lead is a toxic metal that was used for many years in paint and was banned for residential use in 1978. Exposure to lead can result in health concerns for both children and adults. Children under six years of age are most at risk because their developing nervous systems are especially vulnerable to lead's effects and because they are more likely to ingest lead due to their more frequent hand-to-mouth behavior. Almost 38 million homes in the United States contain some lead-based paint, and today's new requirements are key components of a comprehensive effort to eliminate childhood lead poisoning.

For more information, including in Spanish, on EPA's lead program, or to obtain copies of the rule and information on how to comply, visit: www.epa.gov/lead. For copies of the educational brochures on this new program, call 1-800-424-LEAD [5323] or [click here](#).

Sun Safety Week June 1-7

Sun Safety Week is June 1-7. The Sun Safety Alliance (SSA) has materials available as downloads for

ECE programs on the SSA website, and other materials are being developed as part of the Sun-Safe Childcare Project. Several child care health consultants have been involved in developing materials for this national project. To view the Sun Safety Alliance newsletter, go to this link:

www.sunsafetyalliance.org/newsletter.html

or to view the PDF version, [click here](#)

The Immunization Action Coalition's newsletter, *Needle Tips*, is available online

www.immunize.org/express/issue722.asp

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2. FDA approves new rotavirus vaccine for use in U.S.
3. CDC issues Health Advisory in response to widespread measles outbreaks in U.S.
4. New: Popular child/teen vaccination resources now in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean, Russian, and Vietnamese
5. Important: Be sure to give influenza vaccine throughout the influenza season—from now through spring
6. Revised VISs for DTaP, HPV, and meningococcal vaccines now available in Thai
7. National Immunization Survey data tables for July 2006-June 2007 now posted on CDC website
8. CDC reports on transplantation-transmitted tuberculosis in Oklahoma and Texas in 2007
9. For coalitions: California Immunization Coalition Summit planned for April 28-29 in Sacramento
10. Facilitate Vaccine Forum 2008 scheduled for May 14-16 in Geneva, Switzerland

EPA: Earth MonthTip of the Day

Reduce your carbon footprint. Leaving your car at home twice a week can cut greenhouse gas emissions over 1,500 pounds per year. Reduce greenhouse gases on the road.

www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/road.html

Lead levels in children's jewelry match those of car batteries

Six out of 10 children's jewelry items for sale in Canada tested at the government's product safety laboratory in the last two years had dangerous and illegal levels of lead — some with levels comparable to car batteries made of almost pure lead. *CanWest News*, Canada, 8 April 2008.

www.canada.com/topics/news/story.html?id=5c0f67cd-25eb-4602-bd31-c6f18f44374a&k=43026

Government sued after approving 4 pesticides

Environmental and farmworker advocates have sued the Bush administration for allowing the continued use of four pesticides, saying it brushed aside its own findings showing danger to workers, children and wildlife. *San Francisco Chronicle*, California, 8 April 2008. www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/04/08/BA6P101C4R.DTL

Time to update environmental regulations

Should public health standards for endocrine-disrupting compounds be based upon sixteenth century dogma or modern endocrinology? *San Francisco Medicine*, 7 April 2008.

[http://www.sfms.org/AM/Template.cfm?](http://www.sfms.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=2506&SECTION=Article_Archives)

[Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=2506&SECTION=Article_Archives](http://www.sfms.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home&TEMPLATE=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=2506&SECTION=Article_Archives)

Study finds kids with ADHD have fewer symptoms after participating in activities in natural settings

A Potential Natural Treatment for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Evidence From a National Study. *Am J Public Health* 94(9): 1580-1586. Kuo, F. E. and A. Faber Taylor (2004).

This study examined the impact of natural settings on the ADHD symptoms of a diverse group of children with ADHD and found that natural settings have positive effects on ADHD symptoms in a

diverse population of children with ADHD.

Parent's Checklist for Good Dental Health Practices in Child Care

The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) is pleased to announce the availability of a one-page *Parent's Checklist for Good Dental Health Practices in Child Care* that you can use in your work to help influence the quality of dental practices in child care. The checklist encourages parents to look at the dental practices their young children are experiencing in child care/early education settings. The ADA Harris Foundation supported NRC's development of the handout. We have packets of 25 printed checklists available –enough to fill the first 300 requests. You may request a packet at nrc.uchsc.edu/pdc.htm and copy as many as you wish for parents or providers. You can also download as many copies as you wish from our website at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/dentalchecklist.pdf>

Children and Electronic Media is the Focus of New Volume

The Future of Children has released its latest publication, *Children and Electronic Media* (Vol. 18, No. 1). The volume focuses on how common forms of electronic media influences the wellbeing of children and adolescents. Accompanying the journal is an Executive Summary and a Policy Brief.

The volume concludes that rather than focusing on the type of technology children use, parents and policymakers should focus on what is being offered to children on the various media platforms. The fifteen leading scholars who contributed to the volume consider how exposure to different media forms are linked with school achievement, cognition, engagement in extracurricular activities, social interaction, aggression, fear and anxiety, risky behaviors, and lifestyle choices.

Media technology can be a positive force in the lives of children and youth. Editors Jeanne Brooks-Gunn and Elisabeth Hirschhorn Donahue argue in the Introduction that while government's ability to regulate content is weak, educators and families can promote child wellbeing by ensuring that children engage media in a positive way.

The Future of Children is a co-production of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University and the Brookings Institution.

Early Childhood Educator Competencies: A Literature Review of Current Best Practices

The Center for the Study of Child Care Employment (CSCCE) has released their latest research report, *Early Childhood Educator Competencies: A Literature Review of Current Best Practices*, and a Public Input Process on Next Steps for California. The report is now available at their web site, www.irle.berkeley.edu/cscce.

"Competencies" focus on what educators need to know and be able to do, to demonstrate that they are well rounded and well prepared to educate and care for young children. While no single set of early childhood educator (ECE) competencies has been adopted universally in the United States, broad agreement is emerging. Competencies are increasingly seen as a cornerstone of assuring professionalism and stability for the early care and education workforce.

To inform a renewed effort by the Child Development Division, California Department of Education (CDD/CDE) to develop ECE competencies, First 5 California asked CSCCE, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, to conduct a literature review on best practices, solicit broad public input throughout the state about the appropriate content of such competencies, and prepare this final report. The report presents detailed examples of ECE competencies as developed by other states and national organizations, grouped into eight overall "domains" of skill and knowledge, followed by detailed summaries of the feedback they received from an online survey and public meetings.

The Canadian Cancer Society, The Heart and Stroke Foundation, and the Canadian Lung Association demand action from the Canadian government against environmental health hazards

The three groups have announced a major joint initiative: Right to Know - Right For Health, pressing the government to pass legislation forcing companies to identify all the dangerous ingredients in their products.

The three organizations point out that individuals have no control over the air that they breathe. Health Canada has estimated that about 6,000 people die prematurely each year from air pollution alone.

Therefore, they argue that it is the responsibility of the larger society to protect the community as a whole. The groups' most far-reaching recommendation is that Canada pass "community right-to-know" legislation (for more info:

www.cancer.ca/ccs/internet/mediareleaselist/0,3208,3702_1328207547_355376_langId-en,00.html) or a law that would require industry to reveal all substances in consumer products and foods.

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