

## July 2007 Chapter Child Care Contact (CCCC) E-News

Dear AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts and Colleagues:

Welcome to the [July E-News](#) for Chapter Child Care Contacts. Thank you to those of you who have confirmed your contact information. If you haven't done this yet, please send an email to Renee Jarrett at [rjarrett@aap.org](mailto:rjarrett@aap.org).

### [Progress Report – What Have You Accomplished Since March 2007?](#)

We hope that you've had a chance to talk to your mentor or partners and discuss what you might want to accomplish as a Chapter Contact.

Some of you have shared with us your current activities and future ideas. We have created a Web page where you can highlight your work so that your colleagues can benefit from these ideas and efforts. Click here:

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/cccreports.html> for a few examples. If you would like to contribute to this Web page, please email [rjarrett@aap.org](mailto:rjarrett@aap.org) with a 3-4 bullet point summary.

If you need ideas, check out the attached List of Ideas:

<http://www.healthychildcare.org/pdf/ListofIdeas.pdf>. These are based on some of the "Learning Contracts" that were submitted by those who attended the April 2005 AAP Conference for Pediatric Advocates in Early Education and Child Care.

### [Resource Highlight: Interactive Listserv!](#)

An important resource you should be aware of is the **National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) electronic mailing list**. The NRC established this listserv many years ago to encourage health professionals and other key leaders involved in Healthy Child Care America projects to share ideas and resources with each other. An easy way to find out if someone else has developed a resource or initiated a project is to email the listserv and ask. No sense in re-inventing the wheel! Sometimes, case-based scenarios or tricky situations are discussed. If you would like to be added to the listserv, please email David Merten at [david.merten@uchsc.edu](mailto:david.merten@uchsc.edu). Participants have reported that over the years, this is the most effective and efficient listserv that they have participated in!

**TIP:** Ask the AAP EECC staff before sending out a message on this listserv, as they will know whether the question has been discussed before or if there are existing resources available to you.

## Creative Ideas and Suggestions:

***Suggestion One:*** As you find other AAP members to partner with, encourage them to become a member of the AAP Section on Early Education and Child Care, especially now while it's still free! Direct them to <http://www.healthychildcare.org/SOEECC.html> for more information on the Section, including how to join. Also email [childcare@aap.org](mailto:childcare@aap.org) if you would like a list of Section members in your state.

***Suggestion Two:*** Keep track of those who offer to help you in your state. This month, we are encouraging you to reach out to the following groups of partners. These folks are receiving information about AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts from their association too! Maybe you've already heard from them.

**State Head Start Collab Directors** – In May 2007, AAP leaders met with the executive staff at the Office of Head Start, and attendees agreed that it would be helpful for the AAP Chapter Child Care Contacts to work in partnership with their “Head Start Collaborative Director”. FYI, the 8 priority areas for the Head Start State Collaboration Offices are: health care, welfare, child care, education, community service activities, family literacy services, activities relating to children with disabilities, and services to homeless children. Roster: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hsd/SCO>

**State Child Care Resource and Referral Networking Agencies** – Also, in May 2007, AAP staff met with executive staff of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA), and it was determined that each AAP Chapter Child Care Contact could also benefit from working with Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (CCR&Rs) in their state. Many states have one CCR&R that is designated as a State CCR&R Network. Click here (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/hsd/SCO>) to find the contact in your state. For additional information: [http://www.naccrra.org/docs/About\\_State\\_Networks\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.naccrra.org/docs/About_State_Networks_Brochure.pdf)

***Suggestion Three:*** Do you know what is in your AAP Chapter's report to the AAP headquarters office? These are typically due in June of each year. If not, email the Chapter President and/or Executive Director and ask for a copy of this document. Are topics like early education and child care, child care health and safety, or school readiness mentioned? Are your efforts highlighted? If not, plan ahead so this information is included for the report that will be submitted in 2008!

**Peer-to-Peer Learning:** This issue brings you the story of Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, FAAP, in Chicago, IL.

I initially became interested in child care health issues in 2002 when I was a new mom of a son in child care and a new pediatric research fellow at Boston Children's Hospital. My daily experiences with my son showed me the importance of addressing health in the child care setting where so many young children and their families could directly benefit from health education and interventions. I developed a survey for parents, child care center directors and health consultants in Boston that addressed health concerns of children in child care and current and desired health activities. The results of this study were fascinating and published in *Pediatrics*. I was fortunate to connect with some leaders in child care health and became a part of the Child Care, Health, Early Education and Child care Research Consortium initiated by the AAP and the Social Sciences Research Center at Mississippi State University as it was just getting started. I became involved in developing a five state survey of child care center directors of both Head Start and non-Head Start centers. We presented this work at multiple meetings and are currently in the process of publishing the findings. We now know a need exists for improving health education and interventions in child care. A better understanding of what interventions work best and how to implement them is the next step in improving child health through child care.

As a young fellow with a passion for an area of research I needed strong guidance and mentorship to achieve my goal. In Boston my primary mentor, Jonathan Finkelstein, MD, MPH, helped guide my research step by step and taught me how to take an idea to reality. In the National Consortium, Sue Aronson, MD; Linda Southward, PhD; and Jack Pascoe, MD; encouraged and motivated me and gave me the opportunity to take the lead on the national survey study. Without this support, opportunity, and guidance, my idea would have remained an idea. Now as junior faculty at Children's Memorial Hospital, Institute for Healthcare Studies, Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine, I continue to have strong senior mentors, and I now mentor medical students, residents and young fellows with a passion for their ideas. This is truly the way for us to help each other advance the field of pediatrics to benefit the lives of young children.

**You can reach the AAP Early Education and Child Care staff (Laura Aird, Trisha Calabrese, and Renee Jarrett) at:**

**Phone: 888-227-5409 or [childcare@aap.org](mailto:childcare@aap.org)**

**Email: [childcare@aap.org](mailto:childcare@aap.org)**

**Thank-you again for all that you do for children!**

**Danette Glassy, MD, FAAP, Chairperson  
Work Group on Outreach and Membership  
AAP Provisional Section on Early Education and Child Care**