

KIDBIZ NEWSLETTER
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A Newsletter for Early Childhood & Child Care Professionals

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Last month I let you know about the gift you would receive with your purchase as a newsletter recipient by using a code when you order – I've been informed by my webmaster that Paypal has removed the comment box when ordering, and no idea when it will be fixed. So, in order to get your gift, you'll need to send me an email with the code. Sorry about the extra step, hope it's worth it! If you have any problems or questions, you can email me anytime – pdischler@wildblue.net. I'll let you know when it gets fixed, but for now this should work.

*Hug a kid for me!
Patricia*

Play Isn't Just For Kids!

There's a great book I read recently, "Fish! A Remarkable Way to Boost Morale and Improve Results" by Lundin, Paul and Christensen. It's a story about the Pike Place Fish Market, and how the guys there took a mundane job, make it fun, and completely changed the attitude and atmosphere of not only the employees, but the customers that visit there. A very inspiring book, it was a gift from the NAFCC President, Calvin Moore.

It got me thinking, there's a lot about the job of child care provider that isn't fun. Yes, we love to talk about the good stuff – how we change the lives of children, the great hugs they give, the fun we have with them – but we all know there's lots more.

I talk about the not-so-great stuff in some of my presentations where I read my version of a child care ad, one that is honest. Audiences typically love this, it's a fun look at the

nasty side of our job. The crying, whining, snot wiping, parent pacifying, low pay/high expectations, bummer parts that we try not to think too much about as we focus on the amazing parts and push forward.

After reading this book, I think we could take a different approach. Rather than get through those parts by focusing on the good parts, why not find ways to turn them around? Make them interesting. Or at least have some fun with them.

The philosophy in the book was this:

"Fish! Is a parable, an invented story about finding the deep source of energy, creativity, and passion that exists inside each of us by learning to love what we do, even if at the moment we may not be doing exactly what we love."

It's a wonderful concept. There's lots about being child care provider we don't love to do. But if we could make those parts as inspiring as the parts we do love, wouldn't life be grand?

In the book, they present four basic guiding principles to make this happen:

1. Choose your attitude.
2. Play.
3. Make their Day.
4. Be Present.

The first I talk about a lot, and I think should be easy for everyone. You get to decide before the children and parents even arrive what your attitude is for that day. Don't be reactive in your attitude, be proactive. Choose to have a great day. What you are doing is so important to a child's future, it's something to be proud of and excited about. Reminding yourself of that gets you on the right road to a great attitude each morning.

Next is play. You might be thinking, "Play is a huge part of my day already!" But is it really? Is the play you plan for just for the kids? What do YOU do to play each day? Is there a way for you to bring playfulness to the mundane parts of your job? What can you do to make diaper changes fun? What would make dealing with the screaming kids more fun? (If you've seen me speak, you should have lots answers for this one!)

Then there is make their day. This is putting a focus on what your customer experiences. Our "customers" are the children and parents. Making them happy, giving them a special day, helps us to feel good too. It feels good to make someone else happy. When parents are upset about something, what would make their day? When children are asked to do things they see as mundane (waiting in line, cleaning up the toys, even going to the bathroom) what could you do that would turn this into something fun, rewarding, or interesting enough to make their day?

And finally, be present. We have a lot to think about, worry about, and plan ahead for while working with the children. But it's important to take the time to be fully present in

that moment. Pay attention to what a child is saying or doing. Don't let distractions keep you from missing the good stuff!

Consider how these concepts can change something as mundane, everyday, and not to mention gross, as wiping a child's runny nose.

Choose your attitude: Instead of an attitude of "I hate doing this!" you say to yourself "I have the opportunity here to help a child go from feeling yucky and sticky, to feeling good. How great is that?"

Play – Pretend the tissue is a butterfly looking for nectar – you see some on Tim's nose! Flitter that tissue over there to land softly and soak it all up. Be sure the butterfly says thank you to Tim for the yummy nectar!

Make Their Day – Either make, or buy, a pretty butterfly to give to the child at the end of the day to remind him that thanks to him, the butterfly is happy and beautiful! It could be a small one that could be pinned on their shirt so they can proudly display it to everyone!

Be Present – Take the moment to put the child on your lap as you do this, talking to them, giving them a hug when you're done. It's no fun to be sick, to have a runny nose, let the child know you still care about them, yuckies and all!

I've always said, that a little bit of silliness goes a long way to making life better. If you put on your imagination caps and consider each of the parts of your job you don't particularly love, I'm willing to bet you can come up with ways to change that!

I'd like to invite you to go to my blog, and post your ideas on how to apply these concepts to the list I put there. I'll also post the ad I mentioned earlier there for those of you who haven't seen it. Let's share our ideas and make EVERY part of this wonderful career something we love!

Share your ideas here: <http://celebratefailures.blogspot.com>

For more ideas on bringing creativity to your classroom, check out my newest book: *Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy* at www.patriciadischler.com/books.shtml.

Tips and Tricks

Great tip from a teacher in Texas at my recent trainings there – she has a friend who lives up north mail her leaves in the Fall! This is a great idea that you could expand into even more learning opportunities for your children.

First, connect with another classroom or family child care provider who lives in an opposite climate than you do. (North connect with south, mountains with beach, desert with wetlands, etc.) If you don't already know someone, you can find them easily enough by searching on a state association database, the NAFCC Accredited Providers list, or on child care Facebook pages. Or, attend the next NAFCC conference where they'll be providers from all across the country and do your networking there!

Next, have your group of children become pen pals with their group. If the children are old enough to write, they can write about themselves, if younger, you can have them color pictures of things they like to do and take photos of where they live. Exchange photos during different season to see how the two groups differ. You can take it beyond how nature looks to include how differently the two groups dress. My cousins in Florida always get a kick out of seeing photos of my kids bundled up tight on the porch 3 feet deep in snow and would return photos of them in swimsuits at the pool!

You can really expand this to many things including food. Exchange recipes. Ship food items to share with each other.

Take photos of houses and building and see how they differ. Share the types of jobs the parents of the children have to see if they are much different. Ask how they celebrate their birthdays. What their favorite books or movies are. The goal would be to show not just differences, but similarities. What a great way to explore seasons, nature and cultures!

IN THE NEWS

West Bend Insurance

Attended a great session in Illinois for insurance for family child care providers, sounds like they really understand our field and what our needs are. If you're in Wisconsin, you can contact Rex Dachenbach for more info: 1-800-760-9250. In Illinois give Shawn Maxson a call: 1-877-725-1800.

Resources for Child Care Owners

A friend passed on this link to me for Day Care Tools, they offer contracts, policies, forms and more at a reasonable price (most items are under \$5). They'll be at the NAFCC conference as well. Check them out at: www.DayCareTools.com.

Start now to plan to attend the 2012 NAFCC Conference –

Join me in Atlanta, Georgia! Easy layaway plan available, check it out at: www.nafcc.org and I'll see you there!

Web Design Help for Providers

Hollee Saville offers her web design expertise for your child care program. Check her out at: www.DesignsByHollee.com.

THIS MONTH'S SALE ITEMS

October Sale Item: Babysitter to Business Owner - 20% Off!

Hailed as the "Daycare Professionals Bible" by R&R's across the nation, the book that started it all provides guidance on kicking up your business a notch, doing everything with a new attitude and purpose. Covers every aspect of the business from communicating with parents to curriculum, policies, marketing, your environment and much more! Inspiring to new and experienced providers alike, give your business the boost it needs and order now!

Regular Price: \$17.95 Sale Price \$14.36

November Sale Item: Because I Loved You – 30% Off!

This is my memoir, a very personal story of love. I share my journey through an unexpected pregnancy when I was 21, a choice for open adoption, and the trail-blazing years where my son's adoptive parents and I built a loving, respectful relationship that has become the roadmap for others to follow. Whether your life is touched by adoption or not, I guarantee this book with touch your heart. A great holiday gift!

Regular Price: \$16.95 Sale Price \$11.87

Order yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com or www.KIDBIZResources.com!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 5 NAEYC Conference
Orlando, Florida
Workshop: *Professionalism in Family Child Care*
For more information visit: www.naeyc.org

November 13, 2011
Plover, Wisconsin
Orphan Sunday Adoption Event
Keynote & Workshop: *Lessons Learned in Open Adoption*
For more information contact Kris Ficken 314-330-2903

NEW! I've been doing school bookings for awhile, but getting more organized with it because it's something I love to do! To learn more about bringing me to your child's school to inspire the emerging writers there check out www.patriciadischler.com/school.htm

If you are a member of a group planning a training event and would like to book one of my keynotes or workshops, visit the Lecture page on my website and contact me for availability. Visit www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.htm.

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