

KID BIZ NEWSLETTER
MAY 2007

*A Newsletter For Child Care Professionals
Bringing You Information and News You Can Use!*

Brought to you by:
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In this Issue:

1. Fabulous Fieldtrips
2. KIDBIZ Teleseminars
3. Tips and Tricks
4. Calling All Professionals
5. In The News
6. At Pat's Blog
7. Upcoming Events

First, I want to apologize for the untimely delivery of these newsletters! I am trying to find a date that will work each month, but something always seems to mess it up. I am shooting for the 14th of each month, this one is late because my computer crashed on the 12th! Hopefully next month we'll get on track and you'll know when to expect the newsletter – my apologies!

Next, I'd like to thank everyone that was involved with nominating me for the WFCCA Governor's Award. It was truly an honor to be recognized at this year's conference and to receive a commendation letter by our Governor. So many of you stopped by my booth to offer congratulations afterwards, I can't thank you enough! It was really a wonderful experience.

I'm slowly adding a few things to the newsletter, check out my new Teleseminars! Also, don't forget to send me your questions/comments for Calling All Professionals, it's a great opportunity for us all to learn from each other.

1. Fabulous Fieldtrips

Summer is knocking on the door and it's time to open that door and run outside to discover all we can about this wonderful world we live in! While everyone agrees that giving children hands on experiences and exposing them to a variety of environments is great for brain development for them, many providers are afraid to take the plunge because of the potential headaches it will cause for their brain! How can anyone take a large group of kids out and about and not go crazy? It's actually much easier than you may think. With some pre-planning, a little organization and a positive attitude, you'll be out your door before you know it and opening up a entire world of learning possibilities for the children in your care.

There are six key elements to planning and implementing a successful field trip for all:

Be prepared. This means packing a fieldtrip bag with everything you could possibly need – from Band-Aids to diapers. Think through the entire trip and imagine all the possibilities, then pack what you need to handle all those situations.

Train the kids. Keeping control over the children while out is as easy as playing Red Light/Green Light. Teach the kids that when you say "Green Light," they can walk ahead on their own, but that when you say "Red Light," everyone should STOP, TURN AROUND and LOOK AT YOU. This is not only fun for the kids; it easily keeps your group together and following your direction.

Know where you're going. Have a good understanding of the layout of the place you are visiting. If you have young ones in a stroller, will there be stairs? Where are the bathrooms (PLAN to take a break there!)? How far will they be walking – can all of your children handle this or will you need a stroller? What would be the appropriate shoes/clothes for the kids to wear that day? Is there food available there for a snack/meal, or will you need to pack some? If it is a tour, who is your guide and where do you meet them? How close can you park to the door? Have a good understanding of the layout and how you will guide the children through it.

Account for children – don't count them. This is the biggest mistake made on fieldtrips with multiple chaperones and the number one reason children will get lost. Rather than have everyone watching everyone, assign a particular group of children to each adult – then have that adult learn their names and assure their presence by calling their name. When you simply count head of kids it is too easy to accidentally count the head of a child from a different group. Know who your kids are and visually account for their presence.

Plan for "check-in's." Take regular stops to check in with the children, account for their presence, see if there are any issues such as a dirty diaper, someone is thirsty, etc. Don't wait for it to be an emergency.

Make it FUN! Children are much more likely to follow your guidance and learn from the experience if they are having fun! Be sure you are going somewhere developmentally appropriate for the age you have. If you are on a tour and the guide seems to be talking in a level too difficult for the children to understand – translate. Put it in words that will interest them, offer questions to the guide that will provide the information most important to your children. This also means thinking ahead to points in the fieldtrip that may not offer much fun – such as waiting (for the train to come, for the tour guide, for the food, etc.). Always pack activities to use during this time such as small notebooks/pencils for the kids to draw on, a puppet or books.

Taking fieldtrips can be as much fun for you as it is for the children! I have taken over 900 fieldtrips in my career, and I firmly believe it's not only what has led to exceptional learning for my children, but that the fun I have on these trips reduces my stress levels and has contributed to a long and happy career. Fieldtrips are something that gets better every time you do them. Children who

rarely go on fieldtrips will have a harder time understanding what is acceptable behavior in a variety of settings. Children who have been going on fieldtrips since infancy will grow up understanding how they work and what is expected of them – creating fewer problems (if any!) for you.

So you're ready to give it a shot – but where do you go? EVERYWHERE! I have literally taken my hometown yellow pages, and planned fieldtrips at every listing from A-Z! Go beyond parks, zoos and museums (although definitely go there!) and show your kids what's going on all over your town. Visit construction sites, realtor offices, the barbershop, the theatre, photographer, florist, car dealer and more! Every place in this world will offer something – colors, sounds, letters, people, events, science – it's all there if you just take a little time to plan ahead and pull every lesson possible out of the location you're heading too.

I attended the first high school graduation of one of my former preschool graduates last year. When I asked her what her favorite part of my school was, it was an enthusiastic "fieldtrips!" She even went on to tell me one of her favorites was visiting the hospital where the nurses showed the children what to expect if they ever had to come to the emergency room. She said she lost her fear of having to go to a hospital after that because the nurses were all so nice. She is now enrolled at the University of Wisconsin Nursing School.

Open your door – and you'll be opening the door to a child's future!

If you like this article, but are looking for more information, check out my new teleseminars below – Fabulous Fieldtrips is the May workshop being offered!

KIDBIZ TELESEMINARS

NEW! Now you don't have to load up the car with expensive gas and leave your family on a beautiful Saturday morning in order to get the training you need!

Starting this month, I will be offering workshops via Teleseminar. You simply call in, listen, and wait for certificate to arrive in the mail! What could be easier? You'll receive the handouts by email and have an opportunity to send in questions too.

Teleseminar training is used in almost every industry out there – except child care! Why should all the other professionals get the luxury of receiving training while at home – it's our turn!

To get more information and see what workshops are being offered this month go to my website: www.patriciadischler.com and look for "KIDBIZ Teleseminars" in the links on the left of the page.

Don't miss this GREAT opportunity to get the training you need from the comfort of your own home! I am offering a 50% discount on all trainings during the month of May. Visit www.patriciadischler.com to sign up for yours NOW!

TIPS AND TRICKS

It's getting hot out, and that means – popsicles and icecream cones! Which means, sticky streams of the stuff running down all the kids arms too! What to do? Cut the toes off of some old tube socks, slip them on the children's wrists and Voila! No more drips!

This is the perfect time to beef up your marketing so all those fall opening will be filled. Try a couple of these techniques to get the buzz going in your town...

-Enter into a local parade. This can be as elaborate as a large float or just you and the kids pulling wagons with banners of the sides. Tip: don't give out candy, give out small bubble containers – the Mom's of the little ones will love you for it! Make sure your business card it attached!

-Hold a school rummage sale. Raise money for toys while letting the community know you are there! Have parents donate items for the sale, be sure to give your school flyer to all the buyers.

-Send a photo of you with the kids having fun outside to your local paper. They are always looking for fun photos to include, write the caption for them and be sure to include your name and the name of your school – free advertising!

CALLING ALL PROFESSIONALS

I recently heard from Rachel, a provider in Iowa, who is having a dilemma with potty training a little girl who is almost 3 years old. The parents began to "train" her almost a year ago but she still has accidents frequently. The parents bring her to daycare in diapers one day, then Pull-Ups, then underwear. It's always changing. If asked if she has to go her response is always "no." She never requests to go on the potty. She is put on the potty by the provider after each meal/snack at this time. Rachel is getting very frustrated by the parents demands to have the child potty trained.

Can you help this provider? Go to Pat's Blog at <http://kidbiz.blogspot.com> to the article "Potty Training The Parents" and enter your comments. I'll also list some of the best here in the newsletter next month!

IN THE NEWS

Some providers recently made me aware some products that providers may want to warn their parents about. Toys R Us is now carrying a product called "The Babysitter." Aside from the horrible name, the product is a soft seat designed to hold a baby up into a sitting position. It not only is encouraging that parents leave their child unattended in this seat, it is putting young infants in a physical position that they simply are not developmentally ready for! It's believed this product is a knock-off idea from one call "Baby Tend" which is similar, but was designed for disabled children in order to help support them with sitting. It is inappropriate for either seat to be used for infants. Please spread the word!

AT PAT'S BLOG

Visit my blog, <http://kidbiz.blogspot.com> to see my thoughts and feelings on closing my daycare, Patty Cake Preschool, after over 17 years in the business. This was an extremely difficult choice to make. Being a family child care provider has defined who I am for so long it's hard to imagine it not being a daily part of my life! I'll be sharing weekly posts through my last week in June. I'm excited about all I'll be doing, but cherishing every memory made between now and June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 16 Radio Show: Reproductively Challenged Women with Barbara Winters
Show taping on this day but will be accessible at any time after on their website: <http://www.rcwshow.com>.

May 26 KIDBIZ Teleseminar: *Fabulous Fieldtrips* 2:00 p.m. Central
Register at: www.patriciadischler.com

May 30 Adoption Resources: Training for Pre-Adoptive & Adoptive Families
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Trusting In Strangers For The Sake Of A Child
Contact: Leann Meiners lmeiners@wiadopt.org
www.wiadopt.org

May 30 KIDBIZ Teleseminar: *Fabulous Fieldtrips* 7:00 p.m. Central
Register at: www.patriciadischler.com

May 31 KIDBIZ Teleseminar: *Fabulous Fieldtrips* 7:00 p.m. Central
Register at: www.patriciadischler.com

June 9 Lutheran Social Services Adoption Festival: *Trusting In Strangers
For The Sake Of A Child*
LaCrosse, Wisconsin
For more information contact: Laura Conley at lconley@lsswis.org

To see my complete schedule, visit the Lecture Page on my website at: www.patriciadischler.com

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