

# KIDBIZ Resources Newsletter

A Newsletter for Early Childhood and Child Care Professionals  
May 2010

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*I want to share with you why last month's newsletter was so late - my trip to New York! I found out just after the beginning of the month that I had won the Grand Prize in a contest, the prize was a trip to New York to attend the National Publicity Summit. I had just two weeks to prepare for this, an opportunity to meet one on one with the top media in the country: producers from Good Morning America, Today, Early Show, Regis & Kelly, The View, 48 Hours, etc. As well as editors from national magazines and radio show hosts from nationally syndicated talk shows. It was an amazing opportunity and a fabulous event! I got to pitch my book and myself as a guest, and the response was great! At this moment in time there are producers at shows like The View reading my book and considering me as a future guest! The week in New York was a whirlwind of trainings, working with publicists, and our meetings with the media. The week I returned home was filled with sending follow up information to the 40 plus media I met that were interested in hearing more from me. I apologize that the newsletter was so late, but I hope you understand! I will definitely keep you posted on what comes from these meetings, who knows, maybe by next time the newsletter is late you'll understand because you'll see me on Good Morning America! Wish me luck!*

*Hug a kid for me!  
Patricia*

*P.S. The newsletter has a little different look to it because I finally broke down and made myself learn how to use Constant Contact to send these out! It was taking way to long to get them to you when my server would only allow a couple*

*hundred a day to go out and there are over 3,000 of you waiting! I'm hoping this will help to get them to you in a more timely matter. Don't worry, I still don't know how to do photos, logos and other fancy things! Still just me, writing to you. Enjoy!*

## **Business Administrators Scale: Part One - Professional Development**

*For the next few months I will be running a series of articles highlighting the score item areas covered by the assessment tool: Business Administrators Scale for Family Child Care. I will be providing guidelines on meeting and exceeding these qualifications. Child Care Center Staff: please read these too! The qualifications for FCC are very similar to those for center care and the tips in the articles can help you to set improvement goals for yourself and your classroom as well.*

The Business Administration Scale for Family Child Care by Teri N. Talan and Paula Jorde Bloom is the newest addition to the ever-popular line of child care assessment tools produced by Teacher's College Press (otherwise known as BAS). It is designed to compliment the Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS), covering the business side of running a quality family child care business. It is being used by many states Quality Rating & Improvement Systems as the assessment tool for verifying a provider's level of competence on their Quality Rating Scale.

My first book, From Babysitter to Business Owner, was used as a resource in creating BAS, specifically in the areas of parent communication, marketing and creating a Parent Handbook. Given that, I thought I could offer some insight and examples for providers who are looking to increase their scores. This month I'll take a look at the first item area: Qualifications and Professional Development. This section covers the number of training hours you've received, your college degrees and credits, and your involvement in a professional association.

It can be very frustrating for providers to see how high the bar is set in this section. A CDA or six college credits are required just to earn a rating of 3, which is deemed the "minimal" level. Many long time providers have been diligently attending trainings and conferences for years to improve their quality, without obtaining college credits. Unfortunately, the request for credit-based learning by state child care officials is a trend that shows no signs of stopping. To put it simply, it is the easiest way to ensure the content of training is of a high quality. There are few systems in place to verify that non-credit based learning for providers meets high quality standards for adult learners.

Of course, now that we are aware that credit-based learning plays an important role in verifying our level of education and training, providers can make choices to include such types of training in their ongoing professional development plan. For those who have amassed dozens, even hundreds, of hours of non-credit

based learning, you still have some options.

First, you can work towards a Child Development Associate credential (CDA). This can be accomplished on your own time and fits well into a busy life. Second, you can create a portfolio of your prior learning and take it to your local college or university to see if they can exchange it for college credits. Typically the smaller colleges and universities are more apt to do this. There is a national effort to align state Registries with University systems to streamline this process. Contact your state Registry office or Resource and Referral agency to see if they are aware of places that are open to a portfolio process. Next, we can accept that all our non-credit training is what helped us to raise our level of quality in all the other areas for BAS and FCCERS. It does count because without it we would not meet the high standards in those areas. Then finally, we can choose to obtain further learning that does provide us with credit hours. Look at this as an opportunity to challenge yourself, to put the knowledge you have required to the test. There are countless online options as well as accelerated classes to make it easier for working adults to take classes. If you're making a long term commitment to stay in the child care field in any capacity, earning credits and a degree will help you to achieve these goals.

Bottom line is that if you choose not to raise your rating through credit hours, but feel confident your non-credit learning has helped you to create and maintain a high quality child care business. Then, your high scores in all the other item areas will bring your BAS and FCCERS average up and reflect this. And ultimately, it's your customers - the parents - who will assess your quality as seen through their eyes. Everyone in this business knows that there is one "item" that trumps everything as a sign of quality care - a genuine love of children. The person who will assess and rate this quality is the parent. It's not something you can learn in college, or through trainings, or in a book. You either have it or you don't. And if you do, it will shine through so brightly it will help you overcome any obstacle. Use that power within you to rise to the challenge, create a new path to learning for yourself, and be rewarded in the end.

Speaking of rewards, the final piece in the Professional Development item is involvement in a professional association. Becoming an active member of a family child care state association, the National Association for Family Child Care, or a local support group, can do wonders for you as a provider, both personally and professionally. We work for ourselves, often by ourselves. Being part of a group can give you someone to reach out to when you've had a bad day, someone to mentor you on your journey, or someone you can be a mentor to and pass on all you've learned. I highly recommend joining all three levels: your local support group, state association and NAFCC. Most state associations will offer a discount for joining several at one time through them. Each has something different to offer. Your local group will become your friends that you can lean on and grow with. Your state association can offer you training and an opportunity to strengthen their advocacy work on behalf of providers in your

state. NAFCC provides you a forum to connect with and learn from other providers across the country, they provide many online training opportunities, an incredible national conference and provide a national voice for the family child care field with federal legislation. Simply by being a member of these associations you build their membership numbers, which building the strength of their voice when working with legislators and policy makers. But I also encourage you to get involved, attend the conferences, build relationships, and consider serving on their board or committees.

As you look to the future and create your personal professional development goals, consider the items in BAS and think of them as more than assessment of "grade" for your business as it is today; use it to formulate the business you will become tomorrow.

## Tips & Tricks

One of my favorite things to do for the kids was to make new dress up clothes for them. Now is a great time for this - many second hand stores are full of prom dresses and bridesmaids dresses that are on sale now. These are a perfect place to start! The long dresses have tons of fabric on them, many have sequins and glitter too, or lots of tulle (netting) under the skirts. It's much cheaper to buy a used dress than to buy sequined material new at a fabric store.

Here's a few ways you can use a dress:

- Cut a long dress off at about the knees all the way around. The piece you cut off, sew a seam onto the cut edge and insert elastic. Gather the new skirt together and sew making the elastic small enough to fit on a child's waist. You've got a new skirt!
- The remainder of the dress you can sew the sides in a few inches to tighten it for a child's torso, but don't go too far or worry about it fitting exactly. Take out the zipper in the back and instead sew three strips of Velcro horizontally across the back: the "hook" side strips on the outside of the dress, one at the waist, one at the middle back, and one close to the neckline. Then sew the three fuzzy sides of strips on the inside of the other side of the zipper opening, at the same levels as the other set. Now you can make the dress fit any size child by closing the back using the Velcro strips. Because they are put on horizontally, not vertically, you will have more give as to how big/small the dress will be.
- If you find a dress with lots of sequins on the shoulders and/or bodice, cut out a bolero jacket from the top, seaming the edges so they don't fray. Dresses with big shoulder pads make especially cool looking bolero jackets. The jackets are perfect for kids who want to be the circus master or lion tamer.
- If you find dresses with lots of neat embroidery or sequins along the bottom hem, cut the skirts off at the waist, then cut down each side to make two large pieces. Gather the top edges and sew to a ribbon to create awesome caps. Use Velcro for the ribbon ends to fasten instead of having the children tie them, it's safer for their necks because it will pull apart if they are grabbed or get it hooked on something.
- With the top that is left, if it has a zipper up the back, turn it around so the zipper is in the front, cutting apart the bottom so that it opens all the way and becomes a jacket. You'll have to sew the bottom of the zipper to keep the zipper itself from falling off the bottom of the teeth. You can glue ribbons or other embellishments, or pockets, onto the zipper side too to decorate the jacket.
- Dresses with long sleeves - cut the sleeves off, sew a seam on the cut end and thread some elastic in, pulling the opening small enough to fit snug on a child's arm. These sleeves can then be pulled up on a child's arm to add sleeves to any ensemble they create! They can also be worn as leg warmer type bottoms.

Get out your sewing machine, get advice and designs from the kids, and create a closet full of fun for your little ones outdoor summer plays!

For more great tips, check out my booklet: "101 Tips & Tricks: Ideas to make your job easier, save you money and save you time in your child care business! On sale right now on the products page at: [www.patriciadischler.com/books.htm](http://www.patriciadischler.com/books.htm).

If you have some great tips to share, send them to: [contact@patriciadischler.com](mailto:contact@patriciadischler.com), putting "NEWSLETTER TIPS" in the subject line to be included in the next newsletter!

## In The News

### **NAFCC 2010 Conference is in Nashville, Tennessee!**

The conference theme is "Creating Harmony: Tuning into children through partnerships and professionalism." Conference will be at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel right in the heart of Nashville (The hotel was not affected by the flood, but many providers were. NAFCC will be accepting donations at the conference to help providers in need due to the flooding). Preconference days are filled with in-depth, high level training for providers, trainers, and support staff. Conference days include dozens of workshops by quality presenters and lots of entertainment and networking! Once again, NAFCC will offer the popular payment plan option so you can fit this amazing opportunity for professional development into your schedule. I will be presenting two "Train-the-Trainer" half-day sessions during preconference: *From Babysitter to Business Owner* and *Teaching the Three C's*. Participants will receive **FREE copies of the KIDBIZ Trainers Guides for each session** (A value of \$185!). Visit [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) for more information! And, I'll see you there!

### **Sale Items:**

#### **May Sale Item: 101 Tips & Tricks**

Filled with ideas to make your job easier, save you money and save you time in your child care business! Over 100 of the best tips I've heard in this business over the past 20 years from those who know. Ideas on homemade toys, working with parents, organizing at low cost and much more! Get yours and start saving money and time TODAY!

**Regular Price: \$8.00 Sale Price: \$6.00**

#### **June Sale Item: The Patty Cake Kids & The Lost Imagination Cap**

Get a copy of this inspiring children's book now, and have it autographed to your favorite little adventurer! In the book, Austin and his friends are asked by Periwinkle, their child care provider, to come to group time wearing their Imagination Caps. When Austin can't find his all his friends rally round to help, coming up with amazing and creative ideas on where it could have been lost. In the end, Austin finds the power within himself to solve his problem, and his friends are there to share his accomplishment!

**Regular Price: \$9.85 Sale Price: \$5.00**

Order yours today at: [www.patriciadischler.com](http://www.patriciadischler.com) or [www.KIDBIZResources.com](http://www.KIDBIZResources.com)!

### **Patricia's Schedule**

May 5-8, 2010

Wisconsin Family Childcare Association Annual Conference  
Kalahari Waterpark & Resort, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin  
Creating a Professional Attitude & Image  
Tips and Tricks  
NAFCC Accreditation  
Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy  
YoungStar - Wisconsin's Quality Rating & Improvement System  
For more information visit: [www.wisconsinfamilychildcare.org](http://www.wisconsinfamilychildcare.org)

May 15, 2010  
YWCA Provider Appreciation Event  
Lisle, Illinois  
Keynote: *Crazy for Kids*  
For more information contact: YWCA, 630-790-3030

May 18, 2010  
Merton Schools Writer's Roundup  
Author-in-Residence  
Camp Whitcomb, Wisconsin  
Presentations to classes Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade on writing and publishing.  
For more information contact: Merton Intermediate School, 262-538-1130

June 25, 2010  
Florida Family Child Care Home Association State Conference  
Workshops: *Marketing & Interviews*  
*Policies & More!*  
For more information visit: [www.familychildcare.org](http://www.familychildcare.org)

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