

## Training Updates

### Maine Quality Rating Scale

We are currently at step 1 of the Quality for ME Quality Rating System. Upon completion of my current credential in Maine Early Learning Guidelines, ages 3 to entering Kindergarten, we will be eligible to move up a level. However, there are two other requirements necessary for KP to move up to this level as well.

1. Offer a conference every 6 months to all parents and guardians.
2. Form a PAG.

We will be handing out a conference sign up sheet today and this will fulfill requirement number 2. We hope by the end of our meeting we will have a volunteer willing to head up the PAG.

### DRIVING

We are required by the State of Maine to complete a Driver's Safety Class in order to transport KP children. I am looking into the cost and logistics of the next available class. We are hoping to go to the library, Island Commons, School for short trips in the future.

### A Note From Our Director

*As a Parent and the Director of The Kids' Place I feel that parent involvement in decision-making is key to our continuous development as a Child Care Center.*

*Paige Boisvert*



**The Kids' Place Parent Advisory Group Meeting and Information Session**

**March 26th, 2011**

### The Kids' Place Child Care Center

Located next to the CRC  
374 North Rd  
Chebeague Island, ME  
04017

Phone: (207)846-8712  
CRC Phone(207)846-5068  
E-mail: Paige@chebeague.net

## Parent Advisory Group (PAG)

It is our belief at Kids' Place that parents are the most important teachers in their children's lives. This is the reason we have decided to ask the parents to develop a group to act as a sounding board for all aspects of our future development. We would like to ensure the Parent Advisory Group (PAG) represents the diversity of families on Chebeague.

Currently, KP board has been filling this critical position and we feel it is time to broaden our circle. It is in the best interest of KP and our children to have these roles differentiated.

Parent involvement in decision-making is the key to having policies and programs that support families strengths and needs.



### Important Definitions!

#### Quality for ME:

is a four-step program designed to increase awareness of the basic standards of early care and education, to recognize and support providers who are providing care above and beyond those standards, and to educate the community of the benefits of higher quality care.

#### Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ):

is an Early Care and Education Career Development Center created to ensure all of Maine's children will be in a quality learning environment. The MRTQ registry tracks child-care professional training and education. MRTQ offers support and guidance for facilities seeking accreditation.

#### Maine Early Learning Guidelines:

is a guide for Early Learning Professional to improve lesson plans and early learning practices for children ages 6 weeks to entrance into Kindergarten. The *Early Childhood Learning Guidelines* are intended to effect greater collaboration and consistency across systems by aligning practice across all early childhood settings and the early grades.

#### National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC):

is a voluntary accreditation system that has set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and helped families identify high-quality programs for their young children.



### SUMMER SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Summer school is no longer a threat or punishment. Our CRC Fellow, Caitlin Gerber, will be teaching a pre-school that is a bit outside the box. Or, outside of the KP, at least. We are going to focus on exploring the outdoors.

The preschool students have spent the fall and winter exploring the wonders of the seasons and have begun discovering letters, numbers, colors and shapes through crafts and learning activities. The regular preschool program will run through June. In July we will be starting an exciting new themed summer preschool program! Some of the themes will include crafty creations, summer seashore exploration and gardening: discovering growing plants. The program will run Tuesday and Thursday mornings in July and August. Please contact the CRC to sign up and for more information.