

WVIT eNews

West Virginia



Infant/Toddler Professional Development Program

New Website Launched

www.wvit.org

A new website has been developed by the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Specialist Network just for you! The site offers overviews of the programs offered, the latest news, upcoming professional development opportunities and grant announcements as they become available. You will be able to ask questions to the Specialists and offer suggestions of how the Network can better serve you. Be sure to add www.wvit.org to your list of favorites!



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Wheeling Primary Care Summit Grant Recipient

At the time of the last eNews publication, the Wheeling Primary Care Summit Grant had not been awarded. We are pleased to share that Glendale Unite Methodist Child Development Center was the recipient of the \$3,000 grant.

As you continue on your primary care journey, please reach out to your fellow infant/toddler providers for support through local communities of reflective practice. Providing quality care is a demanding job. Learn to lean on each other as well as your local Infant/Toddler Specialist.

Future Infant/Toddler Summits

The response to the Summits held in the spring seemed to be very positive. Attendance was good. Better yet, real changes in practice have been seen by Child Care Center Licensing Specialists. So, what would you like the ITSN to do? Head on over to www.wvit.org and complete a 3 question survey to help us plan for next year! Don't be left out in the rain.



A New Face with the ITSN



If you are in the Charleston/Connect area, you may have already met our newest Infant/Toddler Specialist, Cate Phillips. Originally from North Carolina, she is a graduate of Marshall University. Cate has a passion for not only helping children succeed and excel, but also in helping teachers understand the curriculum they are following and simple ways to help them become more organized, efficient models for children.

Great Beginnings 2014 Recap

The seventh annual Great Beginnings Infant/Toddler Conference is now behind us. It was a great event with new innovations. Everyone agreed that Ron Mohl's presentations were highly motivational. He was quite literally jumping with enthusiasm. The model rooms saw the addition of 'inspired items.' Those everyday pieces from around the house or outside that can be added to enrich the children's environment. When implementing these ideas at your center, remember age appropriateness and be mindful of any potential choking hazards. As always, check with your licensing specialist to make sure that items are acceptable. Many of you benefited from the Un-Session during which the Infant/Toddler Specialists gave you a detailed tour of each room's arrangement and directions for the 'inspired items.'

We have reviewed your feedback and are busy making plans for next year's event.

Wonder what we'll think of next . . . ?

Creating a Safe Environment for Sleep

Sudden and Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) most often occur during sleep with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) being the leading cause of death for babies less than 12 months of age. Accidental causes of SUID include suffocation, entrapment or strangulation. Other causes of death may be from a medical condition undiagnosed until the coronial process identifies the problem.

Every year there are over 2,200 SIDS cases in the United States. Infants are at highest risk between the ages of 2 to 4 months. More SIDS deaths occur in winter months and more male babies die of SIDS than female. Around 20% of SIDS deaths occur while the infant is in the care of a non-parental caregiver with 60% of those occurring in family child care and 20% percent in child care centers. Around 1/3 of SIDS-related deaths in child care occur in the first week and 1/2 of those occur on the first day. The research shows that unaccustomed tummy sleeping was involved in those deaths.

So, how do you create a safe environment for babies to sleep? Here are the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics:

- Make sure cribs are safe and meet the USCPSC standards
- Infants up to 12 months should be placed on their backs for sleep
- No monitors, positioning devices, loose or soft bedding or toys in the crib with a sleeping child
- Room temperature should be comfortable for a lightly clothed adult
- Infants should not sleep in a car seat, bouncy seat, infant swing, highchair or any other type of equipment that is not a safety approved crib
- Only one infant per crib
- Swaddling is not recommended
- Infants should be directly observed by sight and sound at all times.



The Division of Early Care and Education is pleased to announce the launch of EarlyCareShareWV.org. This is an online platform that delivers a wealth of practical resources for early childhood education directors, family child care providers, and teachers. Its goal is clear: to help save time, reduce costs, and improve quality.

Sponsored by West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources, EarlyCareShareWV.org is now available to early childhood education professionals in West Virginia, especially child care professionals and those that may be providing support, training and assistance to those professionals.

The site can be accessed by visiting www.EarlyCareShareWV.org. Interested parties in West Virginia can fill out a New Member Request form by clicking on Request a Log in Account” upon visiting the site.

Early Care Share West Virginia will be demonstrated at the Celebrating Connections Conference in Charleston on February 19, 2015. Additional details will be available in the conference program.

For additional information about Early Care Share West Virginia, please contact Natalie Snider at nsnider@rvcds.org.



EarlyCareShareWV.org