



The Resource Room has added 12 new books to our library.

The **Little BIG Chats series**, was written to assist parents, caregivers, and educators in having open and age-appropriate conversations with early learners around crucial and sometimes 'tough' topics. The books are interactive– with prompts to help aid in discussion about these important topics.

Topics include:

- * Empathy
- * Feelings
- * I Always Try
- * Everyone is Equal
- * Mindfulness
- * Secrets & Surprises– Learning the Difference
- * Around the World– Celebrating Diversity
- *Families
- *Consent
- *My Safety Network
- *My Early Warning Signs
- *Private Parts are Private

Become a Resource Room member to check-out these books and more! Contact Ciara today.

Save the Date

Saturday, September 23 9:00am-4:00pm

Early Childhood Symposium*

Being an early childhood educator can be stressful!
Join fellow educators for a day of relaxation, rejuvenation,
and learning strategies for being resilient.

Learning sessions will teach you about brain development, calm down techniques, and resetting your nervous system when you become stressed.

Watch your mailbox for more details in August!

*DCDEE credit hours will be awarded

“Play is our brain’s favorite way of learning.”

-Diane Ackerman

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Update on the 3-year Star Rating

At this time, programs will likely continue under “hold harmless” until June 2024, meaning programs that have an Environment Rating Scale assessment as part of their star rating will not be required to do so until 2024 at the earliest. You are encouraged to request an assessment when you're ready – no need to wait. Contact your licensing consultant for details.

Whatever your schedule may be, it's a good idea to keep your rating scale skills sharp. Give Natalie or Krista a call - we can share information about outreach assessments from NCRLAP and individualize classroom visits from Smart Start that target your needs.

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Team

Our Child Care Resource & Referral Consultants **Natalie Pond, Krista Smith, and LaKeasha Glaspie** are here to provide support to you in your classroom.


Through coaching and mentoring, the CCR&R Consultants visit your classroom to offer techniques and strategies to help you provide the best quality of care in your room. Below are a few examples of support they can offer.

- ◇ Observe routines and transitions to provide feedback
- ◇ Provide support to programs with children with a special health care need
- ◇ Assist with room arrangement
- ◇ Review your schedule to see if you're making the most of your day
- ◇ Provide techniques to help with classroom behavior management
- ◇ Review Health & Safety policies for your program
- ◇ Help you use information gained in a Smart Start workshop in your classroom
- ◇ Guide you in having meaningful interactions with your children
- ◇ Provide you with resources (articles, websites, books) to learn more about child development, family relationships, and other important topics
- ◇ Offer support and strategies in dealing with conflicts with coworkers or co-teachers
- ◇ Make referrals to Smart Start Behavior & Inclusion Support Consultants
- ◇ And many others!

Give us a call or submit a Technical Assistance Request form on our website if you'd like to request a CCR&R Consultant to work with you in your classroom!

Not getting our emails?

Be sure to always check your **junk/spam email folder** if you aren't seeing an email from us- then mark us as **'Safe Sender'**.

Directors: a private  Facebook group, **Smart Start of NHC: Early Childhood Directors**, was created for you. This page provides a place for administrators to network, ask questions of each other and coordinate efforts to better serve the children in their program. In addition, the Smart Start ECE team will share news and events, and help you with questions you may have about our services.

We hope you join to keep in touch! Find us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/>



Directors...

...Looking for a way to meet other directors, network, get ideas, or share frustrations?

We're facilitating our Director Dialogues— [via Zoom!](#)

Join other directors for the next meetings on **Tues., Aug. 15 @ noon.**

A Zoom link will be emailed prior to the meeting. No planned agenda, and no RSVP needed, Just log on to chat!

For more information or questions, contact Natalie Pond.

...share our newsletter and training calendar with your staff.

- * post them in the staff breakroom (do staff know if the newsletter and training calendar are posted and where?)
- * email them to staff
- * provide a copy to each classroom or teacher or provide them with our website address to view the training calendar
- * encourage staff to decide which training(s) he/she would like to register for
- * remember that classes fill quickly. It's important to register online early.

Be sure to always check your junk/spam email folder if you aren't seeing an email from us- then mark us as a 'Safe Sender'.

Resource Room Corner

In the words of Nelly, "It's getting hot in here!"

Summer is here, and with the temperatures and humidity rising, going outside is not always going to be a fun activity. If it's too hot to go outside, what can be done inside a classroom to let children release their energy?

Our **'Movement' theme box or 'Be Active Kids' kit** can help you with that! Both include toys and activities that can safely be done inside a classroom (if space allows) that help kids get moving.

Of course, if you can go outside in the mornings or afternoons when it's not as hot, these toys and activities are flexible to transfer back and forth.

Nelly also made a good point and when he said, "I am getting so hot," because it is important to keep an eye on the forecast and understand what temperatures are considered safe and unsafe for outdoor play.

For childcare weather watch, refer to the DCDEE Rule:

(23) "If weather conditions permit" means:

(a) temperatures that fall within the guidelines developed by the Iowa Department of Public Health and specified on the Child Care Weather Watch chart. These guidelines shall be used when determining appropriate weather conditions for taking children outside for outdoor learning activities and playtime. This chart may be downloaded free of charge from <http://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/HCCI/weatherwatch.pdf>

You can also download a free childcare weather watch chart from <https://www.c-uphd.org/documents/wellness/weatherwatch.pdf>

Download from either of links above and post a physical copy of the weather chart in your classroom to follow safe weather guidelines.

Let's have a fun and safe summer!





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Address Service Requested

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER AND TRAINING CALENDAR WITH ALL STAFF

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If you would like to receive our newsletter electronically, send us an email letting us know.

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