

NORTH CAROLINA Parenting Education Network

Volume 5, Issue 1, Spring 2003

The North Carolina Parenting Education Network (NCPEN) is working to build the field of parenting education in the state with a focus on partnership between parents and child care providers, teachers, and parent educators. Working together, we can help each child reach his or her potential. NCPEN is an unfunded collaboration of parenting education organizations and agencies. For more information about NCPEN, see our web site at www.ncpen.org.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK: MAY 4-10, 2003

Since 1984, National PTA has encouraged all citizens to show their appreciation to teachers during the annual National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week. Each May, Teacher Appreciation Week offers the opportunity for citizens to reaffirm their commitment to parent-teacher partnerships.

Our public school system continues to be closely examined. Education experts and government leaders have suggested all kinds of ways to strengthen our education system.

One of those ways is by showing respect and support for our teachers.

Our public school teachers are doing an outstanding job. Compared with many professionals, they are underpaid and overworked. They perform daily miracles in their classrooms, which many Americans often overlook. We have asked them to shoulder a major responsibility, and we frequently seek their help with non-teaching tasks. We are considered to be among the best-educated citizens in the world. And for that, we have our teachers to thank.

We can improve our country's education system significantly by exhibiting respect for teachers and by letting them know how much we value their contributions. We need to look for ways to support them and their efforts to grow professionally, as schools change to meet the needs of communities.

May 4-10, 2003 has been set aside as National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week to focus attention on the many outstanding educators whose work deserves applause. Let's contribute to the efforts of improving our schools and reinforcing the quality of education in our community; let's recognize teachers for the sig-

nificant role they play in our lives and in the well-being of our nation. Let's take time to say "thanks" to the teachers of our community and throughout the United States.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 4-10, planning now can allow you to have a great event to honor the dedication of teachers!

Set up a planning committee for Teacher Appreciation Week. Include students on the committee—some terrific ideas come from some very young children! Assign someone from the committee to coordinate the activities for the week. Set a timeline that allows for publicity planning and additional meetings when needed.

- Have the planning committee review ideas on activities your PTA might want to conduct. Determine events to occur on each day of that week.

- Include your principal in the initial planning meetings. He or she may have excellent suggestions on what will be meaningful to staff as well as on how activities can be handled.

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Support for printing of this newsletter was generously provided by the North Carolina Head Start Collaboration Office. You may find past copies of the newsletter on the NCPEN web site at: www.ncpen.org. Please feel free to make copies.

NCPEN Member highlight: SHEILA BAZEMORE

Parenting Education Consultant II of the NC Division of Public Health

For almost a decade, Sheila Bazemore has been helping families across North Carolina as a Parenting Education Consultant II with the NC Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section.

Sheila's philosophy is that parenting is the ability to provide guidance, nurture positive development and help children learn. In fact, helping children reach their full potential is Sheila's personal philosophical goal for parenting. Families come in a myriad of shapes and sizes today. Raising a child is more than just a day-to-day task. It means having concern for the present and future welfare of another human being.

Sheila believes that Parenting Education includes any methods or practices which increase parents' ability to foster development and gain confidence in caring for their child(ren). Parenting education must provide information and build the skills desired and needed by parents, but also build a solid foundation of knowledge on human

development and an understanding of the parenting role.

Providing language appropriate, culturally sensitive skill development, and instilling confidence in parents is crucial for producing the next generation of healthy resilient children.

The NC Division of Public Health's Parenting Education Program has recently completed its second printing of the "See How We Grow" developmental milestones flip chart for children birth to 12 months. This is the most requested publication from the NC Healthy Start Foundation, the collaborator and distributor.

The Parenting Education Program also coordinates the activi-



ties of the Fatherhood Development Advisory Council, a statewide network of community practitioners addressing the needs of men in our state. A statewide conference is being planned for June 12-13, 2003 in Winston Salem, NC at the Adams Mark Hotel.

Sheila also is a master trainer in several parenting and fatherhood curricula:

Curriculum Content Area

- Parent to Parent Substance Abuse Prevention
- Partners for Fragile Families Fatherhood Development/Male Support
- Nurturing Parent Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention
- Meld Child Development and Parenting
- STEP Systematic Training for Effective Parenting

If you would like to order one of the "See How We Grow" charts or get in touch with Sheila, please email her at: sheila.bazemore@ncmail.net □

TEACHER APPRECIATION

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- Contact other PTAs in your area to see if they are making similar plans. If so, be sure to coordinate your events and publicity campaigns.
- Contact area merchants, businesses, and community groups to invite their participation.
- Send a request to your mayor to issue a proclamation in observance of Teacher Appreciation Week. Ask your state PTA to request a proclamation from your governor.
- Reserve the space you'll need at meeting halls or restaurants, etc., for any special functions you are planning.
- Begin your publicity campaign.

Contact the local media-newspapers, community access cable channels, local television stations, local radio stations-to discuss opportunities for promoting the week.

- Distribute notices to inform parents from each teacher's classroom of opportunities to become involved in the celebration. (If your school has a classroom parent volunteer system, you may want to work through that network.) If possible, recruit one parent to coordinate things for each class. Be sure that your first notice is followed up by a second one and includes a timeline so parents will know what is expected of them.
- Intensify your publicity campaign. Send a public service announcement about Teacher Appreciation Week to

your local radio stations. Ask newspaper editors to run an editorial during the week.

- Create and begin to display posters, banners, and fliers promoting the week.
- Issue a press release about your PTA's plans for the week.
- Check with the planning committee members to be sure all preparations for each day's activities are complete.

You can find a calendar of publicity and additional program ideas to prepare you for Teacher Appreciation Week and follow-up ideas to use after Teacher Appreciation Week at:

<http://www.pta.org/parentinvolvement/teacher/index.asp>. □



Parent Education: No Longer A Track

North Carolina State Attorney General Roy Cooper assisted in the kick off of The Parenting Institute's first conference, Parent Education: No Longer A Track, held September 19, 2002 in Winston-Salem, NC. Over 200 parenting professionals attended the conference representing 52 North Carolina counties.

The Parenting Institute's mission is to increase the capacity of communities to deliver parent education programs in North Carolina. In addition, The Institute's goal is to preserve, strengthen, and empower families, through quality and stable parent education programming in North Carolina.

The conference goal was to begin building a statewide network of parenting educators and 99% of the evaluations agreed that this goal was accomplished. The agenda for the conference provided opportunities for professional development in the field of parenting education. 96% felt that the conference met or exceeded their expectations.

Dr. Michael Popkin of Active Parenting Publishers delivered an engaging keynote which encouraged attendees to continue their professional development and keep North Carolina in the forefront of the field of parenting education.

Dr. Karen DeBord presented 15 parenting education professionals with the North Carolina Parenting Educator Credential. For more information on credentialing please visit: <http://www.ncpen.org/credential.html>

Workshops conducted at the conference included: North Carolina Parenting Educator Credentialing, Creating Parent Education Networks, Parent Education and the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, Evaluating and Marketing Parenting Education Programs, and The State of Parent Education in the State of North Carolina. Other workshops focused on parenting

education in the areas of Public Health and Divorce Education.

Comments from parenting educators attending included:

- Great conference. I'm glad it finally happened and will be an annual conference.
- This has been a long time in coming;
- Informative, excellent organization, enjoyed both lunch speakers I feel so privileged to be a parent educator.
- I plan to attend every conference you have. Thank you; and
- Great networking opportunities and unified, professional development.

When asked what is the one thing you will take from this conference that you can use in your work, responses included: *resources of individual new websites; an increased motivation to provide quality parenting information; ideas about new funding sources, and new ideas on places to "reach" families.*

The next conference will be held August 12 and 13 at the Adam's Mark in Winston-Salem. For more information, you can visit <http://www.theparentinginstitute.org> or call Cinda Wood Amen, Director of The Parenting Institute, at 336-748-9029. □

The North Carolina Directory of Parent Educator Resources

is being created to facilitate communication and networking between parent educators, link programs for better sharing of ideas and support, and identify quality parent educators. It is funded by The Parenting Institute of North Carolina and The Duke Endowment.

As a parenting professional, your registration is critical to providing you and others statewide with parenting information and resources. The term "parent educator" refers to parenting educators, parent involvement specialists, and family involvement professionals who provide educational services to those who parent children.

We need all parent educators to complete the Directory Form. You can do this two ways:

1. You can go to www.theparentinginstitute.org and register online. Just fill out your information and submit the form. Your information will be reviewed within two business days (assuming normal traffic patterns), and an email will be sent to your home address .
2. You can call The Parenting Institute at 336-748-9029 and ask for a hard copy of the form. We will fax or mail to you. After receipt of your form, your information will be posted in the online directory. In both cases, you will select a password which will allow you access to your information for updating purposes. Sensitive information such as home address and telephone number will not be included in posted information.

We at the Parenting Institute of North Carolina greatly appreciate your time and effort to fill out this form. Together we can help increase the capacity of North Carolina communities to deliver quality parent education.

***For Upcoming Events please check the NCPEN website at:
<http://www.ncpen.org>***

North Carolina Parenting Education Network

If you or your organization is interested in becoming a member of the North Carolina Parenting Education Network please visit our website at www.ncpen.org. or fill out the following information. If you are an individual wishing to subscribe to the North Carolina Parenting Education Network Newsletter without becoming a member you can fill out the following information.

Taken from the NCPEN bylaws:
Membership Dues – Each member of the association shall pay annual dues of ten (\$10.00) and organizational dues of twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars due and payable on July 1, of the calendar year. Nonpayment of dues, after one year, shall cause a member to be dropped from membership in the association. Benefits of membership include

alerts via e-mail, access to the North Carolina Parenting Educator Credentialing system, and affiliation of a growing profession.



NCPEN Annual Membership Application

Please print:

Individual membership (\$10.00) OR Organizational Membership (\$25.00)

Name/Name of Organization: _____

Address _____

Employer _____

Phone Number (____) _____ Email _____

Number of parent educators in organization _____

Organizational website if applicable _____

Mail to:

NCPEN

c/o Catherine Anderson, Treasurer
DJJDP - CPSV 1803 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1803.

Make check or money order to:
North Carolina Parenting Education Network
Federal EIN 56-2223885

"School-Based Early Intervention and Later Child Maltreatment in the Chicago Longitudinal Study"

According to this new study by researchers at UW—Madison, educational intervention programs for young children that also involve the parents help cut the rate at which enrolled children will be abused or neglected by their caregivers. The findings come from the ongoing Chicago Longitudinal Study CLS, which examines the effects of the Chicago School District's Child-Parent Centers. The results are published in the current issue of Child Development.

Find the (subscription-needed) journal at:

<http://www.srcd.org/cd.html>

Find the press release at:

<http://www.news.wisc.edu/view.html?get=8190>

Visit the CLS website at:

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/clis/index.htmlx>

Visit the local Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina at:

<http://www.preventchildabusenc.org>

