Family Matters!

The Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition Newsletter

Volume 31 Spring, 2008

From the President's Perspective

Sharon Bentley, OFRC President, with her great niece Claire and nephew Patrick.

The above quote from Elizabeth Crary's website reminds me of the importance of having a wide variety of options when working with children and their parents.

Elizabeth Crary will be sharing parenting and child development ideas at our Spring Conference in Tulsa.

"There are many good ways to parent. The more alternatives a person considers, the more likely he or she will find something that works for all involved." -Elizabeth Crary

"FAMILY MATTERS CONFERENCE"

Friday, April 25th

Anyone looking for that new idea? This is your opportunity to pick up something new and innovative, but also tried and tested. Elizabeth is the author of over 60 books and articles for parents and children. Her book *Without Spanking or Spoiling* has sold over 160,000 copies – Sounds like good ideas that many educators and parents have found successful.

The Family Matters Conference will also offer a wide variety of small group sessions on a variety of topics from working with teen parents to brain development. You are certain to find a topic that will be beneficial, enlightening, and enjoyable.

Join other educators as we renew statewide connections, and met new professionals that share our interests, cares and concerns for Oklahoma Families.

See you April 25th!

Sharon Bentley, OFRC Pres.

Remember!

Family Matters Conference Friday, April 25, 2008

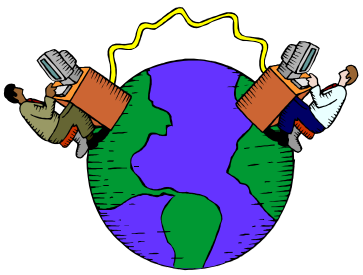
"Growing Great Kids"

Keynote Speaker: Elizabeth Crary

Call: (918) 825-4224

OFRC now has a website!

Check out our new website at www.ofrc.org.



A special **thank you** goes to Lyn Thoreson-Land for dedicating so much time and work to create our website!

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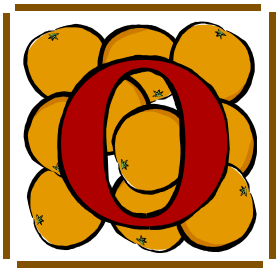
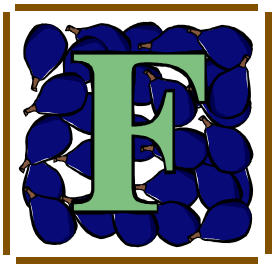
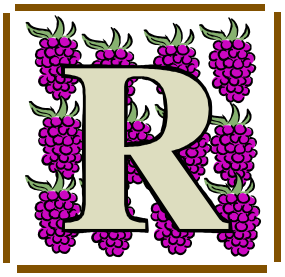
~ Look Who's Certified ~

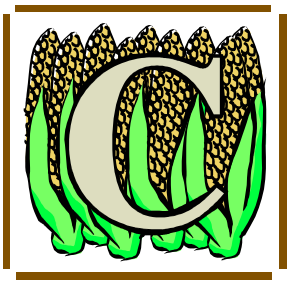
The Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition recognizes the following Certified professionals for the 2007/2008 membership year:

SPECIALISTS CERTIFIED 2007/2008:









Adams, Mark

Austin-Thomason, Kim

Ball, Ruth Ann

Bentley, Sharon

Bertram, A. Glee (Absher)

Bland, Becky

Blazi, Sherry

Boersma, Mary Ann

Boysen, Mary

Burris, Gayla

Burrows, Stacy

Chaboya, Nancy

Chronister, Anna

Clark, Fran

Clark, Ginger

Cole, Kathy

Cowan, Janice

Cowell, Laurie

Criswell, Nema

Dailey, Bobbie

Dameron, Diana

DeMartra, Vernetta

Drew, Ramona

Fanning, Kris

Freeland, Shari

Garrett, Cindy

Godfrey, Stuart

Hamilton, Traci

Hickinbotham, Trena

Hubbard, Janice

Huffman, Kim

James, Tonya

Jarko, Chris

Jenkins, M'Liss

Johnson, Gail

Jones, Donna

Kaiser, Deborah

Lamirand, Georgia

Land, Lisa

Larmon, Kim

Ledford, Denise

Marcotte, Debra

Mason, Earlene

McClour, Christine

McMurtrey, Dawn

Moler, Kim

Morrow, Liz

Moseby, Kristen

Nida-Castro, Krysten

Overman, Jayne

Owens, Pam

Papin, Carol

Parrish, Christi

Percival-Porter, Angela

Phillips, R. Katy (Oden)

Potts, Diane

Rains, Kari

Ramming, Pam

Ratzlaff, Amy

Richardson, Gina

Robbins, Melissa

Rogers, Glenda

Sample, Jewel

Sasnett, Kimberly

Sears, Kaye

Sears, Robyn

Sigle, Leann

Smith, Karen

Sollenberger, Sharon

Staat, Jan

Strom, Tanna

Tate, Linda

Terrill, Denise

Trice, Sherie

Volz, Barbara

Weber, Jennifer

Weston, Diane

Whiteside, Saundra

Williams, Brenda

Wisdom, Ellen

Wise, Pam

Woodruff, Kim

Wright, Barbara

Youngker, Leslie

PRACTITIONERS

CERTIFIED 2007/2008:

Kerr, Karen

Leach, Patricia

Reed, Patricia

ASSISTANTS

CERTIFIED 2007/2008:

Adams, Linda

Ballard, Marilyn

Bohannon, Ginger

Dean, Loretta

Green, Pam

Hankins, Barbara

Higgins, Kathy

Jenkins, Judy

Kerr, Charlette

Schrader, Terri

Get Certified! Just Do It!!!

Certification Application packets are available from the Administrative Director for $10. Call Amy for your packet.

- If you already have a packet make sure you have the 2005 revision. -

??? Questions ?????

Call Amy (580) 747-4448 or Kay Murphy (405) 372-9562.

We can do a preview of your application information if you are concerned about meeting the certification criteria.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

Since the Fall newsletter one person has completed the Certification process for Specialist and two for Practitioner. Several others have changed their status to the next level. Let me introduce these professionals:

Lisa Land is a Child Development Specialist with Oklahoma County Sooner Start. Because Lisa knew she did not have a Child Development Assessment course she completed the *Independent Study for Development Assessment* developed by OFRC before she completed her application. In order to demonstrate that she had educational background in special education, Lisa provided the names, dates and times of the STARS trainings she had attended. This is just one example of the varied ways applicants can meet the listed criteria for certification. Although we don't recommend having a child and being on maternity leave in order to become certified, Lisa used her maternity/ family leave to take her exam. It is always difficult to find time for the 'extra' things in our life and Lisa used this opportunity to become a Certified Child and Parenting Specialist. Congratulations Lisa for becoming a Child and Parenting Specialist certified by OFRC!

Ranae Byrd is employed as an Education Specialist with C.A.R.D. Head Start, in the Coweta office. Ranae is a perfect example of the impact Head Start can have on a family. She started as a volunteer in her child's classroom and two years later was a Lead Teacher. In addition to working full time Ranae began taking college classes and completed her Associate's degree in 1996. Majoring in Family and Community Sciences at Northeastern State University, Ranae graduated with a B.S. in May, 2007. We welcome Ranae as a Certified Child and Parenting Practitioner and are impressed with her professional growth and development.

Debi Dobyns has been employed by C.A.R.D. Head Start for 13 years. She started as an Assistant Teacher and moved to Lead Teacher; for the past 6 years she has been Education Manager which involves both mentoring teachers and working as a member of a team on parent education. In addition to working full time for Head Start Debi was a student, first completing her Associates degree at TCC and then earning a B.S. from Northeastern State University. Becoming a Certified Child and Parenting Practitioner is one more step in her continued professional development. Congratulations Debi!

The next group of individuals also work for **C.A.R.D. Head Start** and are equally impressive with the dedication they have shown to both their agency and their professional development. As an agency C.A.R.D. deserves *'kudos'* for doing an excellent job of nurturing the professional development of their staff and encouraging the attainment of OFRC certification.

Bill Sturdivant is on the OFRC Board and has been involved with the organization since its beginning. As well as encouraging and mentoring his staff to continue their education, he completed his B.S. degree in May, 2007. Bill was certified as an Assistant in 2003 and has now completed the Crossover requirements to become a Certified Child and Parenting Practitioner.

Terri Schrader also certified as an Assistant in 2003 and completed her B.S. in the fall of 2007 from St. Gregory's College. She upgraded to Practitioner in February, 2008.

Rhonda Thompson also earned her B.S. degree while working full time as a disability/ mental health specialist with Head Start. First certified as an Assistant in 2005 she plugged right along with her academic work and also moved to the certified Practitioner level in February, 2008.

Anticipating the next two will have completed the Crossover requirements by the time you receive this newsletter let me pre-congratulate Ginger Bohannan and Judy Jenkins.

Ginger Bohannan completed a B.S. degree in the last couple of years and is moving from the Assistant to Practitioner level of certification. Ginger certified as an Assistant with a group of other C.A.R.D. people in 2005.

Judy Jenkins was certified in 2003 and earned her B.S. degree from Northeastern State University in May, 2006. Both have put in a lot of work to achieve their degrees and have the opportunity to move up a level of certification.

Why would all of this impress me? As a former faculty member and advisor, I know earning 120 credits for a Bachelor's degree is a **LOT** of work. But these people worked FULL TIME and took college classes. We should all be impressed with their dedication and professionalism. Thank you again to C.A.R.D. Head Start for nurturing their employees. Congratulations to Bill, Terri, Rhonda, Ginger, Judy, Debi and Ranae for becoming Certified Child and Parenting Practitioners!

The Family Matters Award

~Nomination~

The Family Matters Award is given to an individual, agency or organization who has demonstrated outstanding work in supporting Oklahoma families.

This prestigious award will be given April 25, 2008 at the OFRC Conference to be held at OSU-Tulsa.

Past Recipients: State Health Department Child Development Program ("For Parent's Sake," Vol. 2), Mary Lou Purdy, Sherre Davidson, OKC Firemen, Channels 6 & 9, OSU Cooperative Extension, Kim Woodruff, Trena Hickinbotham, Barbara Hankins, Donna Jones, Dr. Karen Cornell, Becky Bland, Shelly Ryker and Dr. Kay Murphy.

Please fill out this form to submit your nomination by

March 31, 2008.

Nominee:_____

Address/Phone #:_____

Reason for nomination:_____

Submitted by (optional):_____

Please return to:

Sharon Bentley
skbentley@gmail.com
8815 S. 91st East Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74133

BOOK NOOK

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs,

Jon Scieszka, 1989, Penguin Group.

There are always two sides to every story; for example, The True Story of The Three Little Pigs. This book gives the wolf's version of what happened when he ate the pigs and blew down their houses. The moral of the story is *'Don't judge people until you hear both sides of the story.'*

Review written by Lisa Glover, Bacone student 2007.

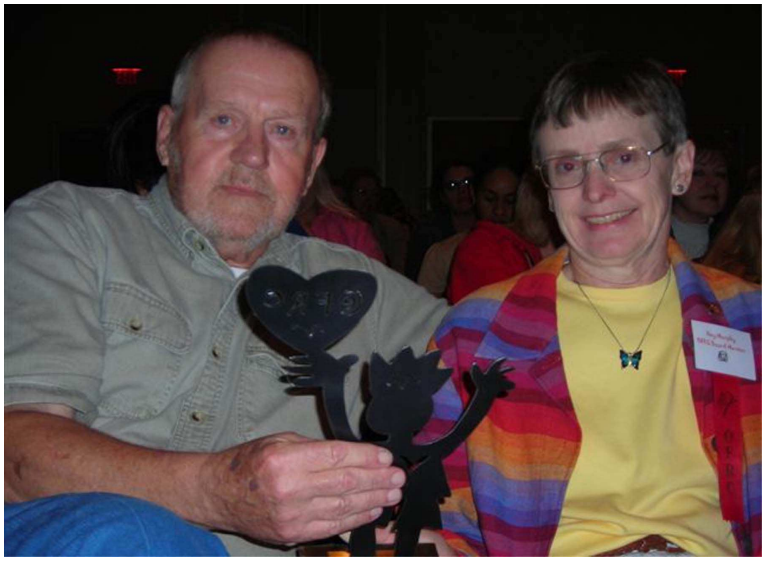
Skippyjon Jones

Judy Schachner, 2003, Scholastic Inc.

Skippyjon Jones is a cat who doesn't know he's a cat. Through his humorous adventures he engages children while introducing various new vocabulary words. It is fun to listen to or read.

Review written by Tiffany Pollard, Bacone student 2007.

Thank you Dr. Murphy and husband Patrick for filling in as the Administrative Director. You are the heartbeat of this organization!

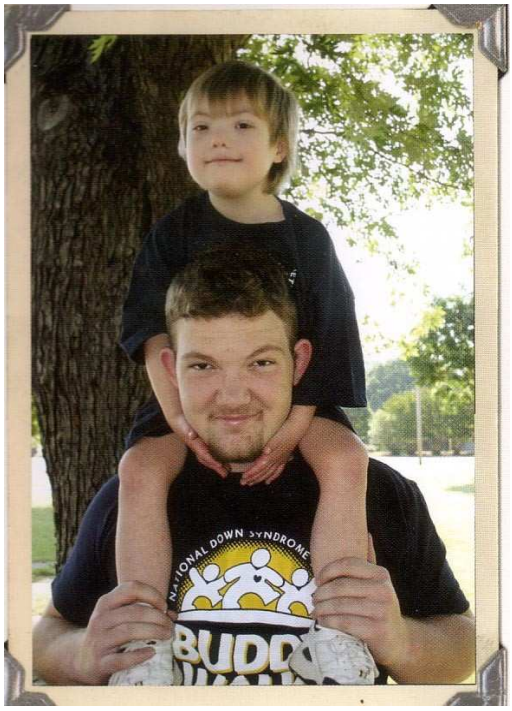


This newsletter is **just for us**! It is printed two times per year to better inform those of us interested in strengthening families.

Our newsletter is always evolving and we welcome your input. Please contact us! We welcome book reviews, conference information, kids' quotes, parents' quotes and pictures!

So, unless you want to continue to be tortured by Kim Woodruff putting her kid's picture in this newsletter *practically every time*, SEND YOUR PHOTO'S!!
Becky: rebecab@health.ok.gov
Kim: kimlw@health.ok.gov

But for now: Nicholas (below) and Daniel (above) Woodruff. :o)



Check Out This Free Conference!

Joining Forces: Supporting Family & Professional Partnership Conference

Saturday April 26, Metro Tech, 1900 Springlake Drive in Oklahoma City; 8 AM to 4:30 PM

Family leaders and agency professionals across the state are busy partnering in planning a first ever leadership skills conference designed to prepare families and professionals to join forces for systems and policy change. The keynote speaker: Eileen Forlenza is the Director of the Colorado Medical Home Initiative for the Department of Public Health and Environment. She will assist the participants in understanding the importance of agencies partnering with families in meaningful ways.

Oklahoma State agencies want to encourage family involvement and promote the development of family leaders. Family driven organizations also want to see that families are prepared to take leadership roles in the development, implementation and evaluation of services to children and youth across the state. The Oklahoma Family Network is facilitating the conference planning and they are joined by the Center for Learning and Leadership, Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma, the Brain Tumor Foundation, OASIS, Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Oklahoma Federation of Families, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, Oklahoma LEND, Oklahoma Parent Center, State Department of Education and Department of Health, Title V, the Department of Human Services: Family Support Services, Division and Developmental Disabilities Service Division as well as Oklahoma Systems of Care, Sooner Success and TARC.

Leadership Basics I and II will cover skills designed to enhance families understanding and participation at the state and local level. If you are interested in attending the conference, watch for notices to begin arriving soon.

In 2008 -- Honor the Connections that Strengthen Families!
Preparations Begin for Family Week 2008 (November 23 - 29)

Family Week is held the week of Thanksgiving. It provides everyone opportunities to honor the connections that support and strengthen families, connections both within families and from families to their communities. That's why the theme for this year is *Connections Count* in coordination with the National Family Week - in its 30th year - directed by The Alliance for Children and Families, a non-profit membership association representing child and family serving organizations in the United States.

National Family Week: *Connections Count* embraces the premise that children live better lives when their families are strong, and families are strong when they live in communities that connect them to economic opportunities, social networks, and services.

Family Week involvement is open to anyone interested in strengthening families and their connections to community. Join and connect with OFRC, who has partnered and connected this year with Sunbeam Family Services, to build an incredible Family Week. For more information or to connect with others who are planning FAMILY WEEK events across Oklahoma, please contact Sherie Trice, 405-271-7611 or by email sheriet@health.ok.gov.

For more information about National Family Week across the U.S., please visit www.nationalfamilyweek.org.

Want to be an OFRC Member? Call Amy! (580) 747-4448

OFRC Mission Statement

We believe that families are the primary influence in the lives of children. The mission of the Oklahoma Family Resource Coalition is to support resources within our communities that build on family strengths to insure the best possible outcomes for Oklahoma families.

O.F.R.C. Board Members 2008

Sharon Bentley
Becky Bland
Maralyn Cundiff
Trena Hickinbotham
Debbie Ihrig
Tonya James
Donna Jones
Karen Kerr
Teresa Ledbetter
Barbara Wright
Kim Larmon
Jan Moss
Kay Murphy
Linda Passmark
William Sturdivant
Lyn Thoreson-Land
Sherie Trice
Kim Woodruff
Louis Worley

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President: Sharon Bentley
President-Elect: vacant
Secretary: Kim Larmon
Treasurer: Amy Ratzlaff