



# Building Brighter Futures Provider Newsletter

October 2009

Issue 3

## Connecting Families to Nature

*"The benefits of nature to families involve health, but they also involve the heart. Families that go outside together tend to stay together."*

- Richard Louv, author of "Last Child in the Woods"

### Nature Rocks

Now there is a way to share the great outdoors with families, friends, neighbors, school groups and more. You can start a **Nature Rocks Flock**, a family nature club, and share the natural world with the families served by your child care facility. By starting a **Nature Rocks Flock**, you can make nature exploration and outdoor activity a new way of life for the families you serve by creating a way to get together and enjoy all the wonderful benefits of connecting to nature. Whether you get out with your Flock weekly, monthly or on special occasions you'll have a great time building relationships, strengthening bonds and creating lasting memories. For inspiration, ideas, information and tools to start your own **Nature Rocks Flock**, download a guide for starting a family nature club from <http://www.naturerocks.org/flocks.aspx>.

Brought to you by The Nature Conservancy, REI, Children & Nature Network, American Camp Association and ecoAmerica.



## News for Family Child Care Home Providers

Starting November 4, 2009 through December 3, 2009 Child Care Consultant, Kim Sherry, is offering a **"FREE"** training opportunity to family child care home providers. The hands-on training will offer guidance and information on how to create and operate a high-quality child care program. Topics will include: environment, program structure-schedule and routines, activities and experiences, and supportive interactions. Participants will receive **2.5** DCD Contact Hours Credit. **For information on dates, times and how to register please call the Onslow County Partnership for Children: (910)938-0336**

## Respectfully Care for Infants and Toddlers

If you care for infants and toddlers, you will want to check out Resources for Infant Educators (RIE). RIE was founded in 1978 by the late educator and infant specialist Magda Gerber and pediatric neurologist Tom Forrest, M.D.



RIE is a non-profit organization that has developed and is teaching a unique philosophy and methodology in working with infants and toddlers. The RIE approach is based on respect, helping raise authentic infants and toddlers who are: competent, curious, attentive, exploring, cooperative, secure, peaceful, focused, self-initiating, resourceful, involved, cheerful, aware, interested and inner-directed.

According to Magda Gerber, "an infant always learns, the less we interfere with the natural process of learning, the more we can observe how much infants learn all the time." For more information on the RIE Approach by Magda Gerber visit <http://www.rie.org>.

## Challenging Behaviors: Where to Begin?

Louise B. Biller & Associates provide technical assistance and training to childcare providers that address challenging physical, social/emotional, and/or behavior needs. To schedule technical assistance/training in your child care facility call (910)347-7994.