
MnTRECC NEWS



Tribal Early Childhood Retreat

MN TRECC
Minnesota Tribal Resources
for Early Childhood Care

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April - June 2005

A Tribal Early Childhood Retreat will be held at the Northern Lights Events Center in Walker on June 2 & 3, 2005.

Sessions for the Tribal Early Childhood Retreat will begin at 1:00 p.m. on June 2nd and close at noon on June 3rd.

The MnTRECC Planning Team will conduct their regular quarterly meeting the morning of June 2nd.

The MnTRECC Planning Team will have the opportunity to invite Tribal Early Childhood program staff, Tribal Child Care program staff and child care providers from their communities to participate in this Retreat.

More specific details will be sent directly to the MnTRECC Planning Team & will also be included in our next quarterly newsletter.



Reminders:

- © MnTRECC Members
Please send in your Program Summaries
- © MnTRECC Members
Begin recruiting for the Retreat
- © Early Childhood Professionals
Call to confirm attendance at the Tribal Early Childhood Network Meeting

Tribal Early Childhood Network Meeting

The MN Department of Human Services sponsors quarterly Tribal Early Childhood Network (TECN) Meetings. These meetings bring Tribal Early Childhood Professionals together from throughout the state to network and share information about their programs. The next Tribal Early Childhood Network meeting will be held on Friday - May 6, 2005 at Eddy's Resort in Mille Lacs from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mileage reimbursement is available through DHS. Lunch may be ordered from the menu at your own expense.

Please call Carolyn Carr at (651) 297-3876
if you plan to attend.

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Grants Program

REMINDER: Training must be completed and grant purchases made by April 30, 2005. Please submit all receipts, invoices and report forms by this date.

Start-Up Grants are still available on an on-going basis through April 30, 2005. To be eligible for family child care start-up grants through MnTRECC, the provider must be licensed by a Tribal Government, must be an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe or must be a 1st or 2nd generation descendent of an enrolled member. To be eligible for center-based grants, the program must be funded by a Tribal Government, licensed by a Tribal Government or provide services predominantly for American Indian children.

Family, Friends and Neighbor Incentive Package : Applications are still available for FFN incentive packages through March 31, 2005. The packages are for American Indian caregivers who are not licensed and who are caring for children in their home . Applicant must be an enrolled member of a Federally Recognized Tribe or a 1st or 2nd generation descendent of an enrolled member. All applicants for the FFN grants will be applying for an Incentive Package that will include a First Aid Kit and a \$300 Gift Certificate from Discount School Supply. All applicants must verify that they have received training in CPR, First Aid, SIDS or another health & safety related training. Once training verification is received, Incentive Packages will be distributed.

Good Start-Grow Smart

Tribal Child Care programs will soon be meeting with staff & community members to plan for activities to be included in their Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Two Year Plan.

The Good Start-Grow Smart (GSGS) Initiative focuses on partnering with States to improve early learning; strengthening Head Start and providing parents, teachers and caregivers with information on early learning.

Although Tribes are not required to implement the GSGS priorities, many tribes are using the CCDF grant to provide GSGS activities in their tribal communities.

Through MnTRECC, Tribes have the opportunity to partner with the state and provide feedback around early learning initiatives. Tribal Child Care programs will also have access to resources that can assist them in providing early learning information to parents, teachers and caregivers within their communities.

"We cannot direct the wind, but we can adjust the sails."

Upcoming Events

APRIL

24-27 ACF National American Indian/Alaska Native Child Care Conference

25 Deadline to submit training verification and grant reports

MAY

6 Tribal Early Childhood Network Meeting

10 ITTI Trainers Gathering

17-19 Region V Tribal Child Care Conference

JUNE

2 & 3 Tribal Early Childhood Retreat

It's All Perspective

One day a father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to a farm with a firm purpose of showing his son how poor people lived. They spent a couple days & nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from the trip, the father asked his son how the trip was. The son replied, "It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered:
"I saw that we have one dog and they have four. We have a pool that reaches to the

middle of our garden, they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow their own. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them".

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks, Dad, for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't!!



New Resource for Parents

Parents now have a one-stop web destination to help pay for child care: ChildCareFinancialAid.org. This website, which includes an on-line financial aid estimator, was created by the Greater Minneapolis Day Care Association for use by parents across Minnesota.

ChildCareFinancialAid.org includes:

- ⇒ Immediate estimate of a family's eligibility for child care tax credits, fee subsidies and scholarship programs
- ⇒ Program information and links for applications & tax forms
- ⇒ Help for parents looking for a child care provider
- ⇒ Information for employers about employee child care benefits
- ⇒ Grants & education scholarship information for providers

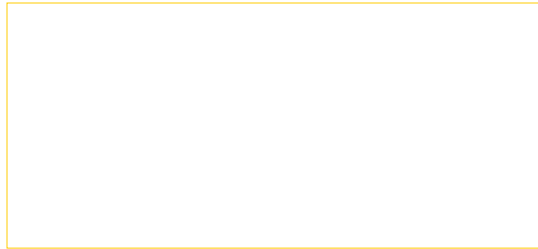
For more information or comments, email info@ChildCareFinancialAid.org or call Nancy Johnson at GMDCA/612-349-0553

Spring Visits to the
Tribal Child Care
Programs coming in
April & May





DID YOU KNOW?
That over 2 million
American Indians live
in America?



Leech Lake Early Childhood Development
Child Care Services Program
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Cass Lake, MN 56633

MnTRECC Mission Statement

To serve as a foundation and a link where child care and other early childhood programs can gain access to resources and information that will enhance and strengthen the child care delivery system for Native American children and families throughout the state of Minnesota

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MnTRECC is a component of the Child Care Services Program within the Leech Lake Early Childhood Development Division



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