

Sierra Nevada Children's Services

Families

Community

Early Educators



Full Circle

DEAR FAMILIES, EARLY EDUCATORS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Now that I have been in my position for a few months I am getting a good sense of what Sierra Nevada Children's Services (SNCS) is really all about and what a great service it provides to the communities of Nevada and Sierra counties. Admittedly, I had a high learning curve being new to the area of child development, but I have come to appreciate how important this service is for the well being of our children. We at SNCS are proud to be able to serve our providers, parents, and the community in general, with direct financial support and a battery of resource and referral assistance. I would like to share a card we received from one of our families:

"To EVERYONE here at SNCS

There really are no words that can adequately explain how much I value this organization and how much what you have done for our family has meant. Without your help and support, I would never, EVER, in a million years have been able to go back to work and entrust my son to someone as amazing as Carolyn Sierra Nevada Children Services has changed my life and has allowed my son's early years to be incredibly enriched!

With so much love, Heather & Kyler"

Acknowledgments like this are what keep us going, while striving to serve our community to the best of our abilities.

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Dennis Fournier, Executive Director
Sierra Nevada Children's Services

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Fall Into a Good Book



Sharon Thurman's **SNICS Picks**

THE PILGRIMS' FIRST THANKSGIVING, BY ANN MCGOVERN

"A long time ago, some men and women, boys and girls, two dogs and a cat sailed on a ship across the sea" - Thus starts the tale of the Pilgrims, their ship, the Mayflower, and their voyage to the "new world". "But what kind of land was this? There were no houses. No stores. No people to greet them." They had to find or build everything they needed to live. Their first year was long and hard so when they got to the end of it, they were very thankful. They decided to have a party with their Indian friends. "The Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving lasted three whole days. Ann McGovern's simple text introduces children to the struggles of the Pilgrims during their first year at Plymouth Colony and the events leading to the historic occasion we celebrate today -- THANKSGIVING."

PUMPKINS, BY KEN ROBBINS

"When the air has turned cool and the leaves are falling, splashing their color on the ground, it's time to think about PUMPKINS!" Clear, simple text describes the growing cycle of this harbinger of autumn and symbol of Halloween – from seed, to sprout, to flower, to fruit and back again. The beautiful photographs will captivate readers both young and old.



MORE BOOKS ABOUT THANKSGIVING

Happy Thanksgiving, Biscuit!, by Alyssa Satin Capucilli

Thanksgiving Treat, by Catherine Stock

Thanksgiving Cats, by Jean Marzollo

Thanksgiving Day, by Anne Rockwell

On the Mayflower, Voyage of the Ship's Apprentice and a Passenger Girl, by Kate Waters

Setting the Turkeys Free, by W. Nikola-Lisa

Stone Soup, by Marcia Brown

BOOKS ABOUT AUTUMN AND HALLOWEEN

Apples and Pumpkins, by Anne Rockwell

Pumpkin Pumpkin, by Jeanne Titherington

In November, by Cynthia Rylant

Clifford's First Autumn, by Norman Bridwell

The Toothless Vampire and 99 Other Halloween Riddles, by F. Wolff

Dora's Halloween Adventure (a 'lift the flap' book), by Sarah Willson

Five Little Pumpkins, by William Boniface

The Happy Trick-or-Treaters, by Mary Packard

Pooh's Halloween Parade, by Isabel Gains

Arthur's Halloween, by Marc Brown

REVISIONS TO CHANGES DUE TO CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET

1. The increase in family fees by 10% has been rescinded.
2. Services have been reinstated for 11 & 12 year olds.

REMINDERS

ATTENDANCE SHEETS

As we begin a new fiscal year, we want to remind providers that attendance sheets are due by the 5th day of the following month of services. Attendance sheets received later than the 5th day will be paid the following month.

Also, Parents and Child Care Providers: Please remember that parents are responsible for completing daily entries, including times and signatures, when picking up and dropping off children. Child care providers may not fill in the times or absence reasons for the parent. Attendance sheets that are not completed according to rules and regulations may result in no reimbursement for child care services. Please feel free to contact a Family Support Specialist if you have any questions.

PROVIDER AGREEMENTS

If you have not returned your provider agreement for the fiscal year 2011- 2012, please do so immediately. This is your agreement to receive reimbursements for families subsidized through SNCS. Therefore, if you intend to enroll families who receive services through our subsidy programs, you must have this agreement on file. Also, along with the agreement, please submit the following:

- Parent Contracts
- Policies
- Rate Information
- Handbooks

UPDATES

COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING

Orientation for Family Child Care is now available online. The fee for the online orientation is \$25, plus a processing fee of \$5, for a total of \$30.

CHILD CARE INITIATIVE PROJECT (CCIP)

As we enter the new fiscal year we have experienced some program changes. The License Exempt Provider Project was eliminated and the CCIP Project has been restructured, along with reduced funding allocations. In the upcoming year CCIP funds will continue to focus on capacity building and quality enhancement, yet, the focus of trainings will be less on Infant/Toddler Care and more on the Business of Child Care, Setting up Your Child Care Facility and Provider Support. Embedded in these key concepts are many sub topics which will be offered throughout the year that will allow providers the opportunity to learn, reflect and ultimately incorporate new business concepts into your operations. Orientation will occur in September and subsequent training flyers will be mailed to the provider community ahead of scheduled trainings. We invite all providers to participate in these trainings as they are rich in information and materials that are sure to enhance your business, your child care environment and your approach to day-to-day operations.





SNCS Workshops & Activities

SEPTEMBER

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 a.m.	SNCS Grass Valley	Tots and Twos	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: 530.272.8866
Tuesday September 6 th Deadline: 5:00 p.m.	SNCS	Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE	Subsidy Attendance Sheets for August 2011 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

Date/Time	Location	Title	Description/Comments
EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 am	SNCS Grass Valley	Tots and Twos	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: 530.272.8866
Wednesday October 5th Deadline – 5:00 pm	SNCS	Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE	Subsidy Attendance Sheets for September 2011 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

EVERY THURSDAY 10:00-11:30 am	SNCS Grass Valley	Tots and Twos	Free, fun activities for children, families, and educators to learn more about how children develop and learn. For more information and to reserve a spot please call: 530.272.8866
Monday November 7th Deadline – 5:00 pm	SNCS	Subsidy Attendance Sheets DUE	Subsidy Attendance Sheets for October 2011 due at SNCS no later than 5:00 p.m.

Sierra Nevada Children's Services enriches the community by supporting quality child care and empowering families to aspire to life long success.



GRASS VALLEY

Day of the Young Child will be held at Sierra College Nevada County Campus on September 17th, 2011, from 10 am to 2 pm. There will be lots of activities for young children as well as information on various child care programs and on agencies that assist children and families.

Tots & Twos continues throughout the summer at Sierra Nevada Children's Services. The class is offered to parents and grandparents and their children on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The program is designed to guide parents on the value of interactive play with their toddlers. Pre-registration is required. Call SNCS @ 530-272-8866 to be put on the waiting list.

As many of you know, Education Specialist Ada Miyakawa left the agency in June to relocate to the Palm Desert area. While she will be sorely missed, we are excited to announce, Anne Wolf has been selected as the Education Specialist. Anne comes to the agency with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of early childhood development and we are fortunate to have her joining the team, we know you will join us in welcoming Anne to the team.

SIERRA COUNTY

We are pleased to announce the addition of Alicia Barney as Family Support Specialist in Loyalton. Alicia brings with her a significant amount of early childhood education courses and experience. Alicia's hours will be M-W-F from 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. Alicia will serve as support to Charlene Kreeger, Eastern Regional Director, in administrating CDE funded programs in Sierra County.

TRUCKEE

Since our last newsletter we have made some changes to the Truckee office. SNCS has sublet office space previously used as the toy lending library to Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Nevada County. Additionally, the SNCS office hours have been changed to 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Monday through Friday. Please feel free to drop by or contact the office during these hours with any questions you have or to schedule an appointment. You may also leave a message which will be returned the following day the office is open. The toy lending library has been relocated and incorporated into the main office in Truckee and offers books, toys and developmentally appropriate materials that may be checked out by families, professionals and providers.

COMMUNITY EVENT: TAHOE FOREST CHILDREN'S CENTER – CELEBRATES 20 YEARS

Join in a celebration on October 6, 2011 – 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Music – Food – Slide Show – Jump House – FUN!

COMMUNITY EVENT: TRUCKEE TAHOE PEACE DAY

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 - 5:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Go to: www.truckeetahoepaceproject.org for schedule of events

DID YOU KNOW

Sierra Nevada Children's Services has been supporting effective childcare in Nevada and Sierra Counties for over 30 years?

LIKE US on FACEBOOK
Sierra Nevada Children's Services

NAMI Nevada County is pleased to announce its upcoming free educational course for parents and caregivers of children and youth (up to the age of 21) starting Monday evening September 19, and continuing through Monday, October 24. The meetings will be held from 6:30 - 9:00 pm at the Family Resource Center next to Hennessy School, 235 S. Auburn St., Grass Valley.

NAMI Basics is a 6-week course for parents and caregivers of children who are dealing with mental health conditions, diagnosed or undiagnosed, or who have emotional/behavioral challenges. Classes are free of charge and each participant receives a large notebook of information and resources that can be helpful to you as you strive to care for your child who may be struggling with life on a daily basis.

Topics covered in the class include:

- The trauma of mental illness for the child and family
- The biology of mental illness: getting an accurate diagnosis
- The latest research on the medical aspects of the illness and advances in treatment
- An overview of treatment options -- treatment works
- The impact of a child's mental illness on the rest of the family -- caregivers and siblings
- An overview of the systems involved in caring for children and teens and the importance of record keeping

It is not necessary that your child has received a specific diagnosis. Those who suspect their child is experiencing symptoms of mental illness can also benefit greatly from the course as they begin to navigate the evaluation and treatment process. This is not a support group. This course is intended to provide you with information to help support your child and your family through this stressful journey and is taught by NAMI certified trainers, Cathy Stone and Lynne DeMartini, who are also parents with personal experience of the challenges parents/caregivers face. A few spots are reserved each session for professionals or community members interested in learning more about the direct impact of mental illness in the home, community, schools, etc. Please contact Cathy Stone at 272-7863 or gvcathy@yahoo.com or Lynne DeMartini 273-3559 for further information or to reserve a space.



Observing Children

In an article in the latest **Exchange Essentials**, "Observing Children — Part I," Jim Greenman described what it's like to feel out of place in a new setting (for adults and kids)...

"I sat around the breakfast table of this sturdy farm family where I would spend the next few days. We talked of fences to be mended, calves to birth, carburetors to rebuild. I, the urban consultant, post-modern man, was polite and charming and absolutely useless. What I knew and knew how to do was of little value here. My daily rhythms had no correspondence with this sun-up to sundown physical life. My cheery cynical wit brought on no smiles. I generally felt incompetent, bored amidst the hard work others were doing, and increasingly reclusive. Inwardly I was getting a little surly, my smile growing a little frozen. This was not a situation I was quick to treasure. Over time, I became more comfortable as I adapted to the situation. But the "me" they saw was not the "me" I felt the best about.

Many children in child care are situationally disadvantaged in analogous situations. Just like me on the farm, the situation they find themselves in puts a heavy burden on them to use all their personal resources to adapt. They are situationally challenged — their energy, patience, flexibility, and reservoirs of good will are put to the test. Certainly new situations that require stretching may be necessary, and actually good for us, in that they broaden our experience. Growing is learning how to handle an increasingly widening world. But the immediate result is that we are not at our best."



SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Stars have always fascinated children who ask various questions like; why do stars twinkle, how many stars are in the night sky? The twinkling points of light in the night sky have inspired poets to weave beautiful poems. "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" was inspired by those beautiful stars twinkling in the night sky. So why do stars twinkle? Well, stars certainly make the night sky beautiful, so let's find out more about them.

The twinkling stars that you observe in the night sky are actually very far away from the earth where we live. The light from the star enters the sky in a straight path and air moving around the star changes the path and makes them twinkle.

On a clear night you can see many stars. You may wonder how many stars are in the sky but don't start counting. Astronomers (a person who studies the sky and stars) guesstimate there are at least 70 sextillion in the Universe, and that's a lot! If you look at the night sky you probably can see 3,000 stars with the naked eye.

Stars come in different sizes. Some are smaller than the sun and others make the sun look like a dot.

Speaking of the sun, it is also a star, but is much closer to earth and that is why it looks like a huge glowing ball.

Many constellations have animal names, *Ursa Major* the great bear, *Leo* the lion, *Lupus* the wolf, *Canis Major* the great dog, the brightest star *SIRIUS* the Dog star.

You can introduce children to these stars by taking an illuminating ride through the starry night sky with National Geographic's book, *Zoo in the Sky!* It is a great introduction for children into the wonders of the night sky. This award-winning book captures the glittering light show of the constellations; Little Bear and the Great Bear in the Northern Sky; the scaly dragon winding his long tail; the Great Dog chasing the Hare in the Southern Sky; all are beautifully rendered in Christina Balit's vibrant art, studded with shiny stars, which perfectly illustrates Jacqueline Mitton's rich text.

GOLD COUNTRY ASSOCIATION

FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN AND SIERRA COLLEGE PRESENTS



DAY OF THE YOUNG CHILD

WILD WILD WEST

**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 17TH 2011
FROM 10AM TO 2PM**

SIERRA COLLEGE NEVADA COUNTY CAMPUS

FREE EVENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.

CHILD CRAFTS ENTERTAINMENT FAMILY RESOURCES

OUR SPONSORS ARE..

TALL PINES NURSERY PETERS DRILLING SIERRA CINEMAS
THE BOOKSELLER SIERRA PLUMBING SUPPLY DR. HORLICK DDS
SHARE BEAR EARLY LEARNING CENTER SIERRA NEVADA CHILDREN SERVICES
KIDS STUFF CHILDCARE AND EARLY LEARNING KARENS CHILDCARE
SMALL WONDERS CHILDCARE DOKIMOS PHARMACY



IT'S FREE AND EASY TO JOIN eSCRIP!



SPD Community Card !

SPD Market has joined eScrip to bring you the SPD Community Card, making earning for Sierra Nevada Children's Services even easier!

Here's how:

1. Pick up a card at any SPD Market location and register it one of the following ways:
 - To begin using your card immediately, complete the registration form available at the store
 - Register [online](#)
 - Call 1-800-931-6258
2. Pay for your groceries any way you choose, simply present your card at checkout to earn contributions for Sierra Nevada Children's Services.

Contributions:

SPD Market will contribute **3%** of your purchases to Sierra Nevada Children's Services.

Store locations:

SPD Markets
735 Zion Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

SPD Markets
129 West McKnight Way
Grass Valley, CA 95945

www.escrip.com/SPDMarket

Briar Patch, Raley's and Save Mart also give back to SNCS through grocery rebate programs. Please stop by the Grass Valley office to pick up your store rebate coupons and/or cards and start giving back today.



eScrip is a program that rebates money back to SNCS each time you shop at a participating store.



Main Office:

256 Buena Vista Street, #110
Grass Valley, CA 95945
Phone: 530.272.8866
Fax: 530.272.1354

Truckee:

10075 Levon Ave, Suite 201A
Truckee, CA 96160
Phone: 530.587.5960
Fax: 530.587.0899

Loyalton:

105 Beckwith Street
Loyalton, CA 96118
Phone: 530.993.1288
Fax: 530.993.1512



Sierra Nevada Children's Services
A Resource and Referral Agency

We're on the Web!

www.snics.org

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