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T.E.A.C.H. Web Link

www.wvearlychildhood.org/teach_wv/html

Helpful Links

http://www.wvearlychildhood.org/WV_STARS.html

STARS Registry

www.wvacds.org
ACDS

www.earlycaresharewv.org

WV Early Care Share Website

T.E.A.C.H. 2014 Summary

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA has had an exciting year! Here are just a few of the great things that happened this year.

- ❖ T.E.A.C.H. WV created three new scholarships to add to the program in 2013-2014. One of the new scholarships was the Director's scholarship which offers college funding assistance to directors of licensed child care centers in the state of WV. A second new scholarship was the Jump-Start/Final Step scholarship that has been designed for early childhood educators to try out or complete college courses within 3-8 college hours. Finally, we are rolling out our CDA Assessment Fee scholarship December 2014. This scholarship will provide recipients with \$375 toward their CDA assessment fee and includes a bonus.
- ❖ T.E.A.C.H. WV added a new participating college to our list of exemplary schools offering early childhood education degrees. Shepherd University added a new early childhood education degree to their many degrees offered. They then contacted T.E.A.C.H. to promote and participate in the T.E.A.C.H. WV Scholarship Program.
- ❖ T.E.A.C.H. has formed a state articulation committee to work with WV two and four-year degree granting institutions with the goal of creating a statewide articulation agreement between all public higher education schools in the state.

Outdoor Play in the Winter



As temperatures start to drop, so does our motivation to go outside and play. Of course, greater effort is required to prepare children for outdoor play, but with a little planning and the proper clothing it can be well worth the extra effort. We must remember, "there is no such thing as bad weather, only inappropriate clothing for the weather!"

That is one reason we need to communicate with the families. They need to be aware that outdoor play is being planned so they can send the appropriate clothing with their child. Many parents are leery about allowing their child out in

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Don't Forget!
Celebrating
Connections,
February 17-20.

T.E.A.C.H. will
conduct a session on
Thursday February
19, 2014 at 10:30 AM.
Come learn with "The
Stories of T.E.A.C.H."

Visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/TEACHEarlyChildhoodWV>

the winter. Here is one myth that parents may believe that early childhood educators can debunk.

*Myth One: **The cold will make my child sick.***

Quite the contrary. Being outside in cold weather actually helps build up the immune system. Children who are consistently exposed to dirt, animals, pests, bacteria, and other things found in the natural outdoor environment tend to have healthier immune systems. Additionally, parents worry that children will get a cold when it's cold, but a cold is a virus caused by exposure to germs not temperature. Cold germs are generally found in warm, highly populated, closed-in areas... like a classroom. So let them out!

The body stays warmer if you're active than if you're standing still, so plan lots of fun activities for outdoor play on winter days. Here are some web pages that offer activities for cold weather days:

- <http://naturalearning.org/winter-play>
- http://www.lets-go.org/wp-content/uploads/ECTab05D07_OutdoorPlayonWinterDays.pdf
- <http://extension.psu.edu/youth/betterkidcare/early-care/our-resources/activities/all-activities/outdoor-play-on-winter-days>
- http://www.healthychildcarenc.org/PDFs/ccnews_2011_se_winter.pdf

Early educators and parents must always use their best judgment when supervising and interacting with children in cold weather. As with warm weather, watch for changes in skin color and behavior, take multiple breaks to warm up, and get plenty of fluids. Most of all get those children outside!

Spotlight on T.E.A.C.H. Participating Colleges



Featured Community

College: Bridge Valley Community and Technical College offers an Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) in Early Childhood Development. Tonia Padrick is the Education Studies Chair and is also championing the growth and quality of the degree offered by BVCTC. T.E.A.C.H. WV is proud to have BVCTC as a participating school. For more information about the AAS in ECD, please contact Tonia Padrick at tonia.padrick@bridgevalley.edu.



Featured University: West Virginia University offers a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Child Development and Family Studies Birth Through Pre-K Early Childhood; and a Director's Certificate. For more information about this participating school, please contact Bobbi Warash at bwarash@wvu.edu.

Participating Program Spotlight



The Imagination Station has two sites located in St. Albans, WV. The state licensed, tier two program employs three T.E.A.C.H. recipients, including the program director and owner, Michelle Lusk.

Site one admits children ages 2 months to 6 years and has a capacity of 41 children.

Site two admits children ages 1 month to 6 years and has a capacity of 48 children.

The center provides a relaxed environment in a calm residential neighborhood. The educated teachers provide developmentally appropriate activities and experiences to benefit all children, whether in groups or individually. T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA is proud to partner with the Imagination Station in their effort to provide high-quality care and education to the young children of Kanawha county, WV.

For more information about Imagination Station, please contact Michelle Lusk, Director at 304-722-6263.



What's New with T.E.A.C.H.?

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA is increasing the travel stipend and release time amount beginning in January 2015. Current recipients and sponsors will see the increase with their Spring semester. All new recipients and sponsors will see the increased rates within their contracts. The travel stipend is increasing from \$50 per active semester to \$75 per active semester. The release time reimbursement is increasing from \$4 per hour to \$6 per hour for a maximum of 48 hours each active semester. Contact T.E.A.C.H. if you have any questions.



T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA is a licensed program of Child Care Services Association.