



KECCS Update January 2011

Report highlights environmental health and its effects on early development

Environmental pollutants pose hazards for all people; however, infants and small children can experience negative developmental and long term health effects. A brief developed by the National Center for Children in Poverty identifies substances and toxins present in homes and early care centers that can affect the health of children. The brief aims to provide education about disease prevention, strategies for keeping early care centers safe from environmental hazards, and describes actions that state agencies can take to encourage collaboration between environmental health initiatives and early childhood programs. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Efforts underway to prevent childhood obesity

National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Education has collaborated with the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association to create a new set of national standards titled “Preventing Childhood Obesity in Early Care and Education Programs”. The standards include strategies on how to help children live a healthy lifestyle from infancy by providing education to families and child care providers about exercise, healthy eating habits, and limiting screen time. These updated standards will be a part of the comprehensive *Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Performance Standards; Guidelines for Early Care and Education Programs, Third Edition (CFOC, 3rd Ed.)* to be released this year. Read “Preventing Childhood Obesity in Early Care and Education” in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Earlier this month, The National Center for Children in Poverty hosted a webinar about “Obesity Prevention Program in Early Childhood”. The webinar highlighted efforts from ECCS initiatives in Arkansas and Ohio and offered valuable ideas on promoting healthy living for young children. To listen to a recording of this webinar, click [here](#).

Communication and Literacy, A Booklet for Kansas Families now offered in print version

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant provided through Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services, “Communication and Literacy” is now available in print version. The booklet explains developmental milestones of young children and offers teaching strategies for caregivers. Reviewing information about children ages birth through 5, “Communication and Literacy” stresses the importance of

early learning and also provides parents with resources about building literacy in early childhood. View the booklet in [English](#) or [Spanish](#). To order hard copies, contact [KPIRC](#).

Upcoming Events

- **FYI!** The Kansas Coalition for School Readiness is hosting **Early Learning Day at the Capitol** on February 2, 2011. This is a great opportunity to talk with legislators about investing in early childhood programs. Click [here](#) to learn more!
- **Register Now!** The next **Early Childhood Forum** will be held on February 10th from 9:00am-3:30pm at the Kansas Museum of History located at 6425 Southwest 6th Avenue in Topeka, KS. Lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) to register for the Forum.