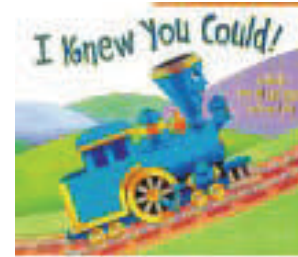


I Knew You Could Do It!

*I knew you could! And you knew it, too—
That you'd come out on top after all you've been through.
And from here you'll go farther and see brand-new sights.
You'll face brand new hills that rise to new heights. (pg. 1)*



This passage from the book, *I Knew You Could!* By Craig Dorfman, is intended for children but I love the messages on each page. I appreciate the journey you are taking with Aggie CARE. We find new roads, find tracks that take us to plenty of stops, and can go fast or slow. The important thing is enjoying and learning in our journey.

With Aggie CARE entering its 5th year we have nine providers nationally accredited with three providers waiting for their observation results. Being part of Aggie CARE is an elite group who's bringing the career of Child Care Provider to a greater stature. As we begin to set goals for the next fiscal year we will focus on the steps to renew accreditation and your individual professional development needs.

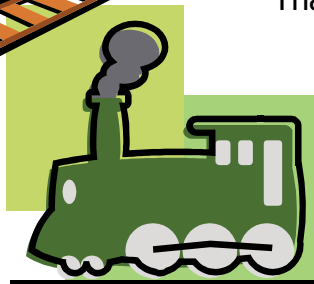
I am here to help you in any way I can. I know the hard work and dedication it takes to be at the level each of you have achieved. So . . .

On the days when you're sad and feel you can't go

Speak up and ask a friend for a tow.

That's what friends do, so don't be afraid.

You'd do the same if your friend needed aid. (pg. 18)



Thanks! Cara



Growing Professionally

Professional development is more than taking a college class or attending a workshop. Just as children's development encompasses more than the old "nature versus nurture" debate, the growth of teaching competence involves more than just believing that we can make decisions that impact our own professional development and teaching quality. A study by Wittmer and Petersen tell us that becoming a professional "requires courage, commitment, and caring." They add that to be "a reflective, theory-based professional is to reflect on your vision for children and families, professional philosophy, ethical values, and professional plan (your vision for yourself).

The quality of an early childhood program is directly related to an individual teacher's professional development. By designing and completing a professional development plan, early childhood educators ready themselves for each step on the professional development ladder. The process enhances their own personal and professional development and assists them in effectively meeting a broad scope of demands in today's evolving early childhood education profession. Most important is the empowerment that comes from taking charge of your own personal and professional development. You will become the best qualified educator you can be for each child whose life you touch and change during the course of your career as an early childhood educator.

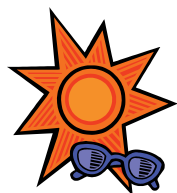
Excerpt from *Talking Charge of your Personal and Professional Development*, NAEYC, Young Child, November 2010. pg 86-90.

12 Personality Characteristics of an effective early childhood teacher.

- Passion
- Perseverance
- Willingness to take risks
- Pragmatism
- Patience
- Flexibility
- Respect
- Creativity
- Authenticity
- Love of learning
- High energy
- Sense of humor



- 5.6 The provider seeks continuing training and education and is open to new ideas about family child care.
- 5.7 The provider keeps up-to-date with topics related to program quality. When needed, she consults with experts to gain specific information, such as how to work with children and families with special needs.
- 5.8 The provider is actively involved with other providers or a related professional group, if available.



Happy Summer!

NAFCC Accredited Provider stories

Sandra Cole-Illinois

When I started watching kids after the birth of my daughter in 1998, I saw myself as a glorified babysitter. I never imagined I would be providing families and children with the high level of quality care that I do today. I pride myself on opening my door to children of all ages and diversities, and as a result, forty- three families have invited me into their lives by trusting me with their children. I originally intended to return to teaching public school when my daughter went to school. However, I soon found that I could do so much more in my home than just babysit. I could truly provide a solid educational foundation for these children. As I grew to love my job, I no longer wanted the word "babysitter" to be in the same sentence as my name. I wanted to be professional and be recognized for my achievements.

As I took a deeper look and evaluated my program, I started to realize that accreditation would pave my way to professionalism. I used to have the mindset that I was not really teaching unless I was working in the school district. After going through the process of accreditation, I came to realize that I was indeed a teacher. It was not until I evaluated my program that I realized how much teaching I do daily. I have built many relationships with children, parents, peers and professionals. Through the accreditation process, I built a foundation with the parents by involving them in the entire process. From the application, to self-study, to surveys, to the observation visit and to the final phase of seeing if I had what it takes to become an accredited provider, they remained involved. By doing this, they were able to see how much work was involved and why it is important to have an accredited provider caring for their child. I have enjoyed the opportunity to build relationships with other providers and becoming the President of a local family child care association has helped me to prevent child care provider stress and burnout and utilize my leadership skills.

Since becoming accredited I have had many opportunities and have experienced many professional achievements. Many of them were only made available to me because I was an accredited provider. Being an accredited provider has raised my self-esteem, helped me become confident and outgoing, and surpassed my expectations of becoming a professional. When people ask me what I do for a living, I tell them proudly that I am a family child care provider. I often hear, "Didn't you go to school to be a teacher?" My answer is yes and I use that degree every day. I have created my own classroom and get the unique privilege to teach children and touch the lives of other providers. I could not ask for a more fulfilling way to use my teaching degree.

NAFCC accreditation newsletter
www.nafcc.org





www.usu.edu/aggiecare

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				July	1 Event	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	7
10	11	No meetings during July			15	16
	18				22	23 NAFCC Conference Las Vegas
21	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1 Aug	2 CCR&R Training Family Child Care 1	3 CCR&R Training School Age 1 Ages and Stages	4 CCR&R Training Infant Toddler 1 Resource Night	5	6 CCR&R Training Looking to Learn
7	8	9 CCR&R Training Family Child Care 1	10 CCR&R Training School Age 1 Ages and Stages	11 CCR&R Training Infant Toddler 1 Resource Night	12	13 CCR&R Training Looking to Learn Touchpoints 1
14	15	16 CCR&R Training Family Child Care 1	17 CCR&R Training School Age 1 Ages and Stages	18 CCR&R Training Infant Toddler 1 Resource Night	19	20 CCR&R Training Looking to Learn Touchpoints 1
21	22 Accreditation Support Meeting Open House 7pm CDA Support 7pm	23 CCR&R Training Family Child Care 1	24 CCR&R Training School Age 1 Ages and Stages	25 CCR&R Training Infant Toddler 1 Resource Night	26	27
28	29 CDA Support 7pm	30	31			