

Helping **E**arly **L**earners **L**ook **O**nward



The Region 9 Early Learning Committee includes:

Christian Avera
Stacey Jurecek
Jill Landrum
Donna Meyer
Rita Reeder
Janet Reese
Anjela Schlegel
Crystal Short
Katie Wolf

HEAD START NEWS

Changes have been taking place rapidly in the Region 9 Head Start Program since the beginning of the school year. New personnel, new job descriptions, new software programs, and a new 2009 Federal Monitoring Protocol have all been introduced during the first few months of school. 2009 is the year Head Start is scheduled for the 3-year program review and all involved have worked feverishly to prepare for another outstanding review from the federal government.

One of the major changes in the 2009 Monitoring Protocol is very specific language concerning ongoing monitoring of Head Start sites. The Head Start Reauthorization substantially increases the responsibility of an agency receiving federal money for Head Start to monitor and document the many components of the program. Region 9 has answered this challenge by restructuring the staff in order to accommodate the retirement of Head Start Coordinator Nancy Ritchey and meet the federal guidelines. The Region 9 staff providing ongoing support to the program includes:

The Region 9 Board of Directors
Anne Poplin, Executive Director
Dr. Vicki Holland, Deputy Director
Anjela Schlegel, Director of Accelerated Learning
Jill Landrum, Head Start Coordinator
Janet Reese, Head Start, Quality Assurance
Stacey Jurecek, Health and Education Manager
Lavacca Johnson, Fiscal Manager

Additionally, each of the 39 classrooms in the Region 9 service area receives support from campus principals, site managers, Family Service Workers, and a host of other Region 9 and campus individuals committed to making sure Head Start staff, children and families receive a quality program.

Model TEEM Classroom

Wichita Falls ISD has set up a model TEEM classroom open for visitation and observation to any Pre-K, Head Start, PPCD or Day Care teacher in Region 9. WFISD has partnered with a local

Day Care to set up a TEEM classroom that uses C.I.R.C.L.E. principles in a daily setting. The classroom is in session during the mornings from 8:30 – 12:00. Teachers will see a working example

of how to set up their classroom to optimize chances of their children being Kindergarten ready. If your teachers would like visit this site, please call Trish Dillmon at 940-235-1021, ext. 15004.

New Autism Contact

Christian Avera, the new Region 9 Education Specialist for Autism, will be offering workshops and make & take sessions throughout the year. She is available for technical assistance on your public school campus to help with concerns you have for students with Autism.

Next workshop:

Autism 101: Top 10 Pieces of the Puzzle Workshop #1812.5086

Nov. 11th 9am - 4pm

This training has been developed and made available to you by the Texas Statewide Leadership for Autism Project and a grant from TEA.

Early Learning Week 2009

Mark your calendars! June 22-26, 2009 will be the week you will want to come to Region 9 for training. We are planning the sessions now, so watch this newsletter for details. Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Laura Riffel. You can read more about her at:

<http://www.behaviordocor.org>

LITTLE WORLD LEARNING CENTER IS SCHOOL READY CERTIFIED!

Little World Learning Center, in Burkburnett, has been awarded certification by the Children's Learning Institute (a division of the University of Texas at the Houston Medical Center) for having a Pilot 200 non-TEEM program that prepares their children to attend public Kindergarten *ready* to learn. 200 non-TEEM Day Cares in Texas (not a part of the Texas Early Education Model Grant – TEEM) were asked to participate in the certification process. Their students were en-

tered into the Oz-system during their Pre-K year and tracked to gauge how well they did on the Kindergarten TPRI. As a Pilot 200 Day Care, Little World Learning Center's students scored high enough to be selected as a Texas School Ready site. The Pre-K Teachers involved in the Pilot 200 were Tammy Hibbler and Liz Hudson. Cindy Crain aided in entering the information for the certification process. Sue Waddell is the proud Director of Little World Learning Center.

New Behavior Contact

Crystal Short, the new Behavior Specialist at Region 9, is available to help with any behavioral needs your public school staff has, from CPI training to technical assistance on interventions for entire classrooms or individual students. Crystal will be offering Autism Spectrum Disorders: Applications of *Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training* in the future at Region 9, so look for details to come. This is an updated approach of using CPI with non-verbal individuals.

SAVE THE DATES:

DATE AND TIME	SESSION ID #	TITLE	LOCATION/CONTACT
November 11, 2008	1812.5086	Autism 101: Top 10 Pieces of the Puzzles	Region 9 ESC/Christian Avera
April 19-25, 2009	N/A	Week of the Young Child	Wherever you are!
June 22-26, 2009	Various	Early Learning Week	Region 9 ESC/Early Learning Committee
July 2009	N/A	2009 Academy for Teachers of Young Children	Amarillo/Rita Reeder