

PARENT CONNECTION: Sharing Stories

The Wheels on the Bus Go 'Round and 'Round

... and communication is key to making everything go full circle! Child care providers spend the majority of the day with the children they care for. Parents

are curious and want to know how their children play, grow, and learn when they are not with them. CACFP Sponsors regularly seek ways to connect families to the CACFP program and to the benefits of having their children enrolled in a participating care program where these guidelines are met. A newsletter is a fantastic communication tool that child care providers can use to reach out to the parents of the children that stay at their center.

The 2017 NCA Nutrition Calendar Parent Provider Connection program includes formatted, ready-to customize parent connection newsletters for child care givers to send home each month. Parents will see examples of the healthy foods served, as well as the fun and educational activities their children are engaged in. The best part is that the templates are ready to be fully customized by you for your needs.

NCA sends out monthly emails with the parent provider connection to sponsors who purchase the calendar as a reminder of this tool and the newsletters can always be found on the website cacfp.org ready to be emailed or printed to share with families. This training module focuses on the information available to share with parents to expand their understanding of nutrition education and why CACFP is an indicator of quality childcare.

CACFP is an Indicator of Quality Childcare

Many parents are unaware that child care facilities can be a member of CACFP and even what CACFP is. In the monthly newsletter, we have offered different snippets of information to educate parents as to what CACFP is, why CACFP is important and why you are an even better provider because you follow the CACFP guidelines.

Through CACFP you are able to provide more nutritious meals and snacks while receiving regular monitoring to ensure you are meeting the program's high standards. Research shows that child care providers who participate in the food program offer more fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean meats than those who do not participate in the CACFP. As a CACFP provider, you are giving the children in your facility the best care you can possibly give. Parents need to know that!

Try It!

Challenge yourself to complete all the activities found each month in your 2017 Calendar & Record Keeping System and start sending home the Parent Provider Connection at the end of each month.

Bonus: Visit cacfp.org to learn more about National CACFP Week, March 12 - 18, 2017 and ways you can promote awareness in your community.



Home Work

care provider offers families as a participant in the CACFP fun and important way. These reinforce the elevated standards a child When providers send newsletters home, they connect with parents in a

Table Activity

recipe is provided to try at home. always fun too and each month a new healthy, and easy, parents after long days at work. Cooking with parents is Home activities and craft ideas are also made easy for essential to a child's growth and development and overall well-being youngest a head start on life. Spending quality time with parents is some of the ways child care providers are working daily to give our Healthy eating, physical movement, and nutrition education are just

Activity Physical

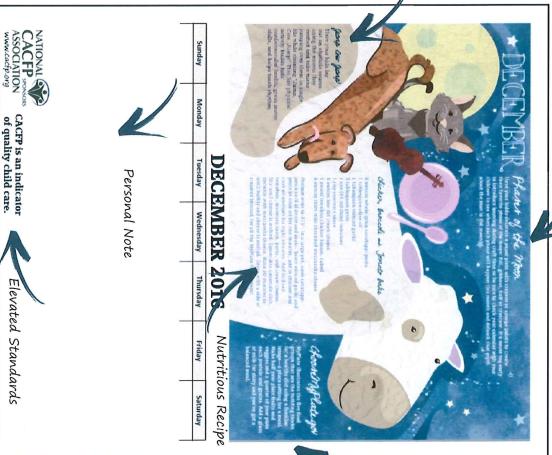
> Nutrition Note

Write Your Own

communicate that to the parents and exciting food that the kids have really loved, you should definitely child care facility. If you have worked on special projects or tried a new yours. All of the information can be customized to fit the needs of your month along with recipes tried and crafts created, but the space is out with a few ideas of activities that will be completed during the own information you would like to convey to the parents. We start you In the body of each newsletter, there is space for you to customize your

special craft and need specific supplies. and need to make sure permission slips are filled out or you're making a them to know for the month ahead. Maybe you are going on a field trip This is also a great space to mention to parents anything that you need

you like the parents to know? the newsletter to work for your child care facility? What information would Look at the December Parent Provider Connection. How can you customize





Elevated Standards

Program

www.cactp.org

Classics from the Cupboard: 2017 CACFP Calendar Training



Child Care providers that are interested in the voluntary credit will review the information in the calendar and the module provided and complete the quiz. Quiz must be completed and sent to SENDCAA to earn the training credits. This training opportunity is only available to **SENDCAA** providers and is **Growing Futures approved**. At the end of each month, providers that have completed the credit will be sent a completed certificate and their name will be sent to Growing Futures.

| Nam | e | - |
|-----------|---------------------------|---|
| Growing F | utures registry ID number | |
| Er | mail | |
| Р | hone number | |

Deadline: December 31st, 2017

Please mail to:
SENDCAA CACFP
3233 S University Drive
Fargo ND, 58104

Or email to sharlao@sendcaa.org

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



QUIZ PARENT CONNECTION



Sharing Stories

Use the training module and your 2017 Nutrition Calendar to answer these questions.

| 8. Wet Sponge Hot Potato is a fun, outdoor activity for parents to play with their children. In which month would they learn about that activity? | |
|---|---|
| TRUEFALSE | |
| In each newsletter, the parents will read about a recipe, table craft, game/activity, and nutrition information on what their child is learning. | 4. How would you customize the June 2017 Parent Provider Connection newsletter for the parents of your facility? |
| 7. TRUE OR FALSE? | CACFF is an of quality childcare. |
| | HE BLANK |
| | |
| | TRUEFALSE |
| 6. Why is it important for parents to know about CACFP? | The Parent Connection Newsletter is already completely written for you. You are unable to customize it to include specific information. |
| | 2. TRUE OR FALSE? |
| c. Tuition Due Noticed. New Foods Tried | |
| a. Supplies Neededb. Permission Slip Deadline | |
| 5. What additional information might you want to list in the personal note section of the newsletter? | 1. What craft activity can parents do with their children at home in March? |