



WCAA Updates

April 2010

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STARS is a program of the
Wyoming Children's Action.
Other programs include Kids
Count and Voices for
America's Children.

Together We Can!

Stand and Celebrate Set for August 12-14 in Casper



The 10th Annual Stand and Celebrate Conference is generating a lot of attention. The event will be three days, covering Thursday, Friday and Saturday, providing more opportunities for quality workshops. The event is not only a great time to earn STARS credit, but also a great time to network with those in the field and talk about the rewards and challenges of early childhood care and education. We look forward to seeing you in Casper August 12-14! The Department of Family Services has sent out a Call for Presenters asking those who are interested to submit an application to STARS no later than April 23, 2010. The application is specific to Stand and Celebrate can be found on our website at http://www.wykids.org/stand_and_celebrate/ Together We Can! Look for conference brochures in early summer.

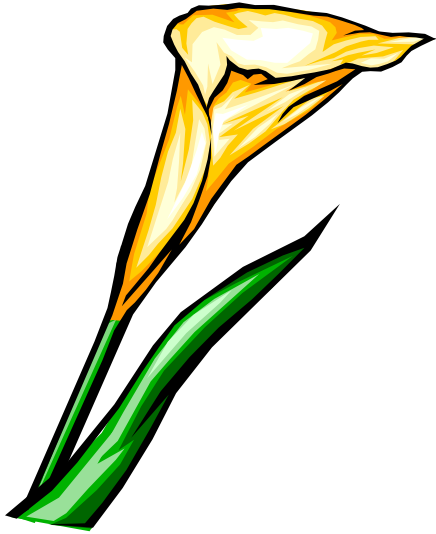
Snapped a Great Kid Picture Lately?

It is that time of year again to get out your cameras and snap some shots of children in your program engaged in their enriching environments. The photograph contest is an opportunity for others to see the children in our world through your lens. The submissions will be narrowed down to the top ten and on display at Stand and Celebrate in August where attendees will have a chance to vote for their favorite picture. Photograph submissions follow the guidelines for the contest. For more information on the guidelines, please feel free to contact the Wyoming Children's Action Alliance. The first, second and third place winners will receive gift cards from Lakeshore for their efforts.





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The National Registry Alliance

The Wyoming Children's Action Alliance is actively participating in The National Training Registry Alliance. This is a nationwide group of organizations charged with operating training registries for child care practitioners. Participation allows STARS to learn about innovations and solutions which other states have developed to support both training tracking for licensing purposes and for career development purposes. One current effort underway at STARS is improvements to our data system that will bring data tracking in Wyoming into closer alignment with the national data set.



**The National
Registry
Alliance**

New Members on STARS Board of Review

Six new members have been added to the STARS Board of Review to fill vacant or expiring terms on the board.

In January the Board welcomed Susan Collamer, a home child care provider from Saratoga, and Jo Madsen, a center provider from Sheridan to the board. In March four additional new members were added. They are Jennifer Leonhardt, a home provider from Lovell, Laura Stadtfeld, a home provider from Casper, Marie Wilson, a center director from Rock Springs, and Jennifer Zook, a center director from Laramie.

The board will meet for a face-to-face retreat on Saturday, May 1, in Riverton to review the work of the past year and plan the work of the coming year. Any one interested in sharing their perspectives about STARS with a board of review member can find their contact information at the WCAA website, www.wywkids.org.

The board also said goodbye to longtime board member Joan Bangen who had faithfully served on the board since 2007.

In the past year the Board of Review has been involved in the revisions of the instructor and class approval forms for STARS. Created a pre-approved national conference list for STARS and streamlined conference evaluation form.

The Board also clarified how college credit is approved for STARS credit and why adult learning principals should be considering in training for care providers.

STARS Clearinghouse reviewed

The STARS Clearinghouse is being reviewed. Outdated items are being removed and others are being moved to a new resource section. This section will still be available for loan but not generate training credit. New selections will be added. If you have books or DVDs in your personal library that you would like to recommend for inclusion in the Clearinghouse share your recommendations with STARS. You can go to the website, www.wywkids.org, and click on the feedback link, select Clearinghouse in the subject box and place your recommendation in the text area. Be sure to share the following things: the title, the type (book or DVD, etc.), date of publication, author or producer, publisher, date material was published and tell us why you think it would be important to include this work in the Clearinghouse catalog.