

ECCC Book Fair!

The Employees' Child Care Center Annual Scholastic Book Fair is a great way to enrich a child's life by building a home library. Book experts from Scholastic will deliver a wide selection of popular children's books, as well as new titles which will be on display. Scholastic books are offered at very affordable prices and make wonderful gifts. The ECCC Book Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 30 and 31 in room 734 of the Pennino Building.

Everyone is invited to participate in the book fair and support the ECCC by purchasing books for the children in their lives. The book fair benefits ECCC in the form of "Scholastic dollars" rather than cash profits. The ECCC will be able to use Scholastic dollars to obtain a wide variety of learning materials that are available to teachers through Scholastic's resource catalog.



Food and Nutrition Fair

The Office for Children's registered dietitians — **Abeba Tzeggai, Kamini Jassal, Maria Elena Martinez** and **Everludis Lopez** — are planning a food and nutrition fair for OFC staff Tuesday, March 16 to celebrate National Nutrition Month. You're invited to join them for interactive games, food samples, recipes, healthy tips, fun, prizes, and more. The fair will be held on the 2nd floor of the Pennino Building from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.



the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

"Our goal is not only to help OFC staff enjoy healthy lifestyles, but we'd also like to help staff model the healthy behaviors that they encourage children, teachers and child care providers to have," said

Community Education and Provider Services Coordinator **Maria-Elena Martinez.**

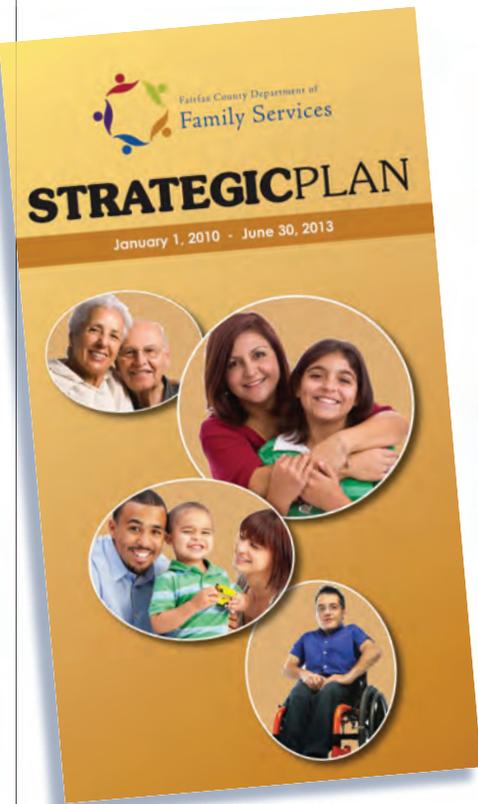
National Nutrition Month is an education and information campaign sponsored annually by the American Dietetic Association. The campaign focuses attention on

CEPS will also host a food and nutrition fair for the child care community on March 23 and 24.

Mark Your Calendar

March

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Lines of Service Update

More than 40 Office for Children employees are serving in the Lines of Service project, which was launched by DFS Director **Nannette Bowler** last May. Lines of Service teams have analyzed agency programs, and are now developing action plans for improving work processes. When teams present their action plans to DFS senior management this month, they'll show how each action plan fits into the overall DFS strategic plan.

The Lines of Service action plans detail the step-by-step process for improving collaboration across programs, divisions and agencies; ways to make work processes and procedures more efficient or effective, and more. The teams have invited coworkers to participate in work groups to help implement the plans.

When all the teams have presented their action plans, the Lines of Service

process will be merged with the ongoing DFS strategic planning process. Each quarter, DFS division directors will report on the progress of the work outlined in the action plans to the DFS strategic planning committee.

"This Lines of Service process has allowed all staff to learn from each other and create great solutions together," said OFC Director **Anne-Marie Twohie**. "The result of their hard work will be evident long after the Lines of Service project ends this summer."

The ongoing DFS strategic plan is summarized in a brochure that was recently updated. You can view it on the DFS Web site under "Publications": www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs.

In Case of Emergency

Fortunately the February snow storms left Office for Children work sites in usable condition. However, county agencies are required to have emergency operation plans in place for times when we're not as fortunate.

There is an overall OFC emergency operations plan, as well as emergency plans for Child Care Assistance and Referral, Community Education and Provider Services, the Employee Child Care Center, Head Start and SACC. Please make sure to review your program's emergency plan so that you're aware of the roles, responsibilities and procedures to follow in an emergency.

If an incident occurs that makes your work site unsuitable for use, you'll be notified about alternate work sites to which you're being temporarily reassigned. Please make sure your

supervisor always has accurate contact information for you so that you can be reached in case of an emergency. Also, be sure to keep your phone number in Outlook up-to-date. If you have questions about how to do it, ask your program's business analyst.

Please sign up to the county's Emergency Alert Network. This will help to make sure that you receive messages about community emergencies, hazardous weather conditions and the closing of county facilities. EAN alerts can be sent to any communication device that receives text-based messages, such as cell phones, smart phones, e-mail accounts, pagers, etc. You can sign up for this free service on the InfoWeb under Emergency Alert Network.



OFC on Facebook

Office for Children employees can help make our community more aware of the important work we do by inviting friends to visit us on Facebook. OFC's Facebook page can be accessed on non-county computers by clicking on the Facebook link at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc.

Thousands of Fairfax County residents use Facebook to keep up with friends, family and organizations that provide services to them. "Using social media sites like Facebook allows county agencies to put important, useful information in popular places that are frequently visited by the public, instead of waiting for residents to find our regular Web site," said **Lois Kirkpatrick**, OFC's marketing manager.

OFC's Facebook page features OFC news and job announcements, photos from OFC events, and short videos about OFC programs.



Family Literacy Workshops

The Early Head Start Family Child Care program will offer family literacy workshops to Early Head Start families this spring. Three workshops will be presented in Herndon by Head Start Child Care Specialists **Bonnie Arjona** and **Sheila Holtzman**; three in Alexandria by **Celia Williams** and **Elsa Calderon**; and three in Annandale by **Juanita Lazo** and **Patrice Hopkins**.

The first workshop, "Baby Basics," will help parents understand the behaviors typically developing children show between birth and 3. The workshop will feature books such as "From Head to Toe" by Eric Carle and "I Want a Kiss!/Quiero un beso!" by Carl Narc.

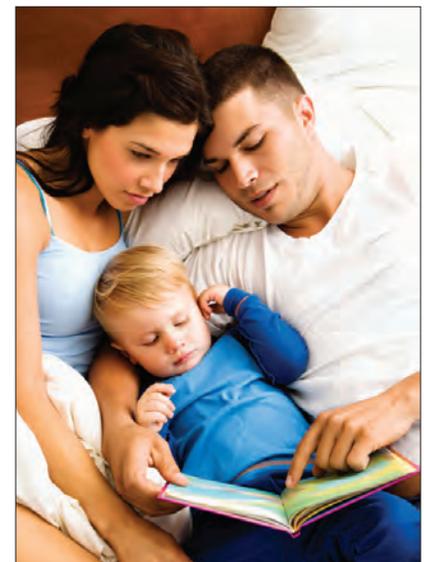
"Music With Baby" will involve parents in reading, singing, playing a game, and making a simple musical instrument with common household objects. This workshop will feature books from the Rookie Toddler series.

In the "Beginning Art" workshop, parents will participate in shaving cream finger painting, making a collage, and watching a video clip about well-known children's book artist Eric Carle.

"Everyday Math" will feature sorting activities and books about counting; "Pre-Literacy Skills" explores environmental print; and "Building Language" will examine how babies communicate and the kinds of books parents can read to children to build their language skills.

"We're very excited about this pilot program," said Early Head Start Coordinator **Karle Finley**. "Research shows that family literacy programs can strengthen the whole family, and increase the likelihood that children will be successful in school."

The workshop series is part of an early literacy partnership between Head Start and WETA, and is funded by the



Washington Area Women's Foundation. Participating families will select a children's book at each workshop to help build their home libraries.



SACC Coat Drives

The SACC centers at Bull Run, Centre Ridge, Centreville, Cub Run, Deer Park, London Towne, Union Mill, Virginia Run and Woodley Hills elementary schools participated in coat drives this winter. The children and their families collected hundreds of coats for families in need during this historically snowy winter.

O F C Office for Children
An Early Childhood Education Agency

This employee newsletter is published by the Office for Children, a division of the Fairfax County Dept. of Family Services. If you have any questions, contact Lois Kirkpatrick at 703-324-7162 or Nancy McDonough at 703-324-8042. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc



Reasonable accommodations made upon request; call 703-324-7162 or TTY 711.