

NAFCC August Newsletter *Spent some time*

cleaning out files and closets this week, discovered a box of photo from 25 years ago - my first job in child care! So great to sit and remember. Amazing to remember what I was thinking at the time about my life, and knowing how different my life actually turned out. Have you seen Marley & Me? My Mom loves this movie, she said it reminds her of me. While I'm thinking my goal is to be one thing, life happens, and it turns out I'm right where I should be. What do you know, Mom was right.

Hug a kid for me!

Patricia

Memories We often take time to capture memories for the children in our care: we send photos home, newsletters with stories of their day, things they've created, awards for their accomplishments. But what about our own memories?

As someone who spent 20 years caring for children, I realize that it's something that defined a large chunk of my life, and there are many memories of this that I cherish. My only regret is that I wish I had taken as much time and care preserving my special moments as I had for the children.

For my first year in this field, I have only 12 photos as evidence. No newsletters, lesson plans, names written down or journal entries. Yet, this was a monumental year for me. I just didn't know it at the time. I had left advertising and design behind and taken a chance on a new field, hoping it would be one that was more fulfilling. I worked with amazing teachers and a great director, all of whom were kind enough to give me a chance and show me the ropes. Only 2 of them are in the photos I have.

I've often told the story of how a toddler named Brandon McKinley sealed the deal for me and gave me my first experience in opening the door to a child's future. That moment changed my life. I have 1 photo of him. His parents, who are a part of that story, are not in any of my photos. And since my memories from almost 25 years ago are sketchy, their first names are lost to me as well.

All 12 of these photos are from a single field trip. My first one. At the time I had no idea that it was only the beginning and I would eventually conduct over 900 field trips in the course of my career.

I learned so much in that first year. From the children, from their parents, from my co-workers. And while the lessons stuck, I'm saddened that the people are fading, the details getting lost.

Just looking at these few photos, I'm beginning to recall details, insight, as to why certain things became priorities in my career over time that I had not realized before. Such as the little girl who wore the same dirty outfit everyday, but the staff would take the time to give her a bath each morning and put on the new clothes they bought for her, knowing she wouldn't return with them, happy to do it for her anyway. Their actions stuck with me. Just last year I was subbing at the high school and I gave my new Packers winter coat to a boy who had come to school in just a sweatshirt on a below zero degrees day after hearing from other teachers that each year someone would have to give him an old coat to wear. I didn't think twice about it.

Then there's the little girl who was biting constantly, with other parents threatening to leave, asking for her to be expelled from the daycare. The director taught me how to shadow her and help her to un-learn this behavior in a kind and caring way, that worked beautifully. I've used this technique countless times over the years and that director's guidance became the basis for all of my discipline techniques - to remember that compassion and kindness was the most effective route. And it was.

Then there's the quiet little blondie, who always looked lost in the crowd, but to my surprise, would curl up on my lap and chatter for hours as we rocked. Because of her, it became a natural instinct to spend one on one time with each child as often as possible and see what would emerge. I couldn't imagine it now any other way.

These people and children shape our lives. They change the way we think and behave. They form our futures as much as we form theirs.

Take some time to capture your memories, even before you know if they will be important in the grand scheme of your life. Take photos, label them with names, keep copies of your newsletters, lesson plans, the children's art or awards. They are just as much your memories as they are the children's. Keep a journal. Write down those stories of when and how a child touches your heart and shifts what you know.

While I have dozens of stories on how the children, the parents, and others, have taught me and blessed me over the years, I also know that there were countless more stories that are lost to me forever. Don't lose yours. Capture them now. Treasure them always.

All those lessons are right here: From Babysitter to Business Owner, get yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com.

Tips & Tricks

-Create inexpensive and quick scrapbooks using Bare Books by Treetop Publishing. These hard cover, blank page books come in many sizes and shapes and are perfect for quickly gluing in all your favorite photos and jotting down a quick caption.

-Use photos to create a storybook that tells a story of something wonderful a child did or taught you. Be sure to make a copy for each of you!

-Keep a journal. Spend just 10 minutes during naptime each day to write down any special moments you had.

-Be sure to write names on all your photos. And take photos of children with their parents, putting their names on the back as well. You never know which one may turn out to be part of your life story.

-Take class pictures, and be sure the teachers are all in them! If you work in a center with several classes, be sure each teacher receives a photo of each class - their co-workers and children they've gotten to know are in other class rooms too!

-Have others take pictures of you with the children. Years later, you'll be glad to have it. (Even if it means capturing those "mall bangs" forever like I did!)

-Have a group staff photo taken, be sure to write the names on the back.

-Save the newsletters. They will (or should) be filled with stories of all the fun you are having with the children and their special milestones.

In the News

3rd Annual MEGA Make & Take Day - Saturday, Oct. 8, 2011, at the Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, New Richmond. I received a flyer on this and it looks like a really fun day packed with toys to make for your program at a very low cost, so thought I'd pass it on! For more info call Annette Schladweiler at 715-505-5722 or email stcroisvalleyaeyc@yahoo.com.

Start now to plan to attend the 2012 NAFCC Conference -

Join me in Atlanta, Georgia! Easy layaway plan available, check it out at: www.nafcc.org and I'll see you there!

Books That Help Children Deal With Disasters

Got this great link from friend, http://www.fema.gov/kids/tch_bks.htm, it's a resource list of books (by age group) for children to help them deal with disasters such as flood, tornados, hurricanes and fire. Great idea to have some

of these books handy!

Daycare Tools

Met Carol at a conference this year, she's got a great website packed with all the forms you'd ever want for your child care business. Check it out at www.daycaretools.com.

Curriculum Product

Another great vendor I met at the NAFCC Conference, she's got daily curriculum plans that are well thought out and connect parents to what you are doing as well as other helpful products. Check her out at www.learnplayeveryday.com.

Looking for a FUN Children's Singer for your next Conference?

Shawn Brown was our opening entertainment at the NAFCC Conference and he is one FUN GUY! He'll get your juices going and remind you why you love what you do so much. Find out more at www.SuperFunShow.com.

Monthly Sale Items August Sale Item: KIDBIZ From Babysitter to Business Owner Half Day Training Trainers Guide - \$40 Off!!

Terrific trainers guide gives you everything you need for a half day training for providers on professionalism, communicating with parents, marketing and creating a Parent Handbook. This information is from the book of the same name, and was used as the basis for many of the BAS evaluation standards. Help increase the level of quality of providers in your area with this training, and at a fraction of the cost!

Regular Price: \$95 Sale Price - \$55

September Sale Item: KIDBIZ Teaching the 3 Cs: Creativity, Curiosity & Courtesy Trainers Guide - \$40 Off!

The trainers guides are a popular item right now, so take this opportunity to stock up! This half day training includes a CD with the power point, lecture notes, outline, and participant handouts. You also receive a copy of the book the training is based on. Get this in the hands of your staff and watch them do an inspiring training for the providers and teachers you serve!

Regular Price: \$95 Sale Price - \$55

Order yours today at: www.patriciadischler.com or www.KIDBIZResources.com!

Speaking Events September 24, 2011

MCFCCA Conference

Bloomington, Illinois

Keynote: *Turn the Job You Love into the Career You'll Keep*

Workshops: *Parents Can't Hear Me!*

You're Space/Their Space

Tips & Tricks

For more information call Tami O'Daniel 309-663-0521

October 4, 2011

Provider Appreciation Night Keynote

Waukesha, WI

More information coming!

October 7 & 8, 2011

Central Texas Workforce Trainings

Friday Evening training for directors and FCC owners

Saturday training for FCC providers

More information coming!

November 3-5 NAEYC Conference

Orlando, Florida

Workshop: *Professionalism in Family Child Care*

For more information visit: www.naeyc.org

November 13, 2011

Orphan Sunday Adoption Event

Keynote: *Lessons Learned in Open Adoption*

For more information contact Kris Ficken 314-330-2903

If you are a member of a group planning a training event and would like to book one of my keynotes or workshops, visit the Lecture page on my website and contact me for availability. Visit www.patriciadischler.com/lecture.php. PERMISSION TO REPRINT: You may reprint any items from KIDBIZ Newsletter in your print or electronic publication, but please include the following paragraph:

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