

June Newsletter

It's finally done! The Tea Party Celebrations book is on the presses as we speak and I'll start shipping preorders next week. The cover photo was unbelievable - 40mph wind gusts, seven kids holding their hats, plates, cookies, and even the plates! But somehow we got it done and it came out fantastic - check it out on my website at www.patriciadischler.com/books.shtml.

Now it's time to shift gears and start planning my trainings for the NAFCC Conference coming next month, hope to see you there!

*Hug a kid for me!
Patricia*

The Art of Conversation (Excerpt from Chapter 6 of Tea Party Celebrations)

The core of the tea party, and the most fun! The conversations at tea parties can take on whatever goals the teacher may have in mind. However, politeness, manners, and respect for others will always be at the core of these conversations. Making comments and asking questions such as "How was your day?" "I really like that color dress on you." "So how did your soccer game go this weekend?" "Did your Grandma come up from Florida to stay with you yet?" In other words, model for the children how to ask each other about what is important to them: who they care about and the things they care about that happened to them. Teach them to listen. To care. To reach out to each other and show how important their friends are to them through their words. If you are just beginning to hold these types of tea parties, teachers will need to model lots of the conversation, but rest assured, the children will pick up on your tone and purpose and recreate it in their own words.

In addition, it is possible to use these opportunities for conversation to meet other purposes, such as strengthening their knowledge of a particular concept. For instance, a developmental goal one week was to teach the children about weight. So the conversation could be something like, "This tea pot is very heavy when it is full, don't you think so Jeffrey?" "You're scones are light as a feather Terry, which do you think came out lighter - the white chocolate or the cinnamon ones?" "Little Anne thinks her tea cup is so heavy she needs two hands to lift it, what do you think Sam?" "The flowers in the middle of the table are beautiful, but the vase is so light they might tip over. What could we do to make it heavier so it won't tip?" You get the idea. Or, let's say you are teaching them about shapes. You could bake cookies in all the shapes you are teaching, then have discussions such as "This circle cookies is very yummy, is there anything else on our table that is a circle too?" "My triangle cookie is the same shape as the cape you are wearing Tommy!" "What does this shape make you think of Sarah?" And so on.

Simply begin a conversation, help the children to wonder, to imagine, to problem solve. To be polite, to wait turns to answer, to acknowledge someone talking to them, to listen to each other. When the conversation begins to fade, change the subject and get it going again. DON'T RUSH! Children often want to dig into the snacks, gobble them down, and run off. The point of the tea party is to slow

down. To take the time to notice the details, to notice each other. You'll be amazed at how this begins to draw the children in. So often the adults in their lives don't include them in in-depth discussions, it may be new to them, but it will definitely make an impact. They will come to treasure and anticipate these opportunities to be heard, to listen, and to really explore fully what's rumbling around their heads.

While having conversations remind the children of proper etiquette: close your mouth while chewing your food, and never talk with food in your mouth! It's okay to drink or eat while listening intently to others, but when it's your turn to talk be sure to swallow first!

Asking Questions:

Children who have difficulty thinking of questions to ask can be prompted by displaying a poster with the "5W's and H" - an old interview's trick to coming up with questions that prompt more detailed answers than a simple yes or no. They are:

Who
What
Where
When
Why
How

These words help prompt children to develop questions for each other. Encourage the children to choose one and form a question for others at the table.

Examples are:

Who did you see after school yesterday?
What will you be doing this weekend?
Where does your Grandmother live?
When is your bedtime?
Why does your Mom always bring you to school?
How do you get those pretty braids in your hair?

Practicing these words, and developing questions from them, gives the children a conversation tool they can use anywhere. The Tea Party Celebration is a great time for practicing these skills and developing lots of questions for when they meet new people.

Didn't preorder your copy? That's okay, I start shipping next week. Get your order in TODAY at www.patriciadischler.com.

Tips & Tricks

Straight out of my 101 Tips & Tricks Book:

To keep your wading pool free of grass clippings and bugs, keep a bug catching net nearby for the kids to use to scoop them out with.

Carpet stores are always happy to donate remnants or carpet samples to daycares to use for squares to sit on during

group time.

Look for necklaces at garage sales with large beads or shells on them. You can cut the string they are on and have a supply for the children to string and make their own creations. Often, people are willing to donate these if you explain what it will be for.

Each week stores that carry greeting cards have to clean out the shelves of mismatched cards and envelopes. Get to know your retailer and ask them to save these items for you. The children can cut out the pictures on the cards to glue on construction paper to make their own cards and you will have envelopes as well.

Stores that carry wallpaper discard the sample books when new ones come out. Ask them to save them for you; the kids can cut out the pictures on the papers to use for art projects and making cards. Some even have textures and can be used to create texture matching cards.

Instead of putting paint cups that tend to tip over when a paint brush is put inside it, put globs of paint on a paper plate. Each child can have their own "paint palate" to use.

Every needs to have a great play dough recipe! It saves money and can be available in minutes whenever you need it. Here's my favorite:

HOMEMADE PLAYDOUGH

1 cup flour

½ cup salt

1 cup water with food coloring mixed in (paste food coloring makes brightest play dough)

2 tsp cream of tartar

1 tablespoon oil

Mix all ingredients in saucepan until smooth then cook over med-high heat stirring constantly until a ball is formed. Dump play dough out, knead a few times. (Kids love to play with it while it's still warm!) Immediately fill the pan with water to soak, then it will be easy to wipe clean later.

Like these tips? There are 94 more in my 101 Tips & Tricks!

Order today at www.patriciadischler.com.

If you have some great tips to share, send them to: contact@patriciadischler.com to be included in the next newsletter!

In the News

Got Your Room Booked for the 2012 NAFCC Conference?

Join me in Atlanta, Georgia! We've packed this conference with lots of networking, fabulous trainings, terrific keynotes, an Accreditation Celebration, and in one beautiful hotel! The NAFCC conference is where leaders are born. I know from experience. Come and join our 30th Anniversary Celebration, check it out at www.nafcc.org. Our theme is Creating Magic in Family Child Care, and I can guarantee they'll be lots of surprises and "magical" moments!

ATTENTION WISCONSIN PROVIDERS - LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

We've been working hard to advocate against the new Attendance-Based Policy and discovered a new angle for this. Governor Walker has created a task force to look at the policies in the state that harm small businesses. Family Child Care IS a small business! So, go to this link, fill out the form and tell them how this policy is affecting your business. WFCCA collected about 50 of these forms at our conference and I mailed them in, but we need more! Go to: www.bestpractices.wi.gov. Click on the general "Contact" link for a form you can use to tell your story. And THANK YOU!

Kauai Child Care Conference 2012 - Don't miss this opportunity to combine a fantastic vacation with some quality training! Plan now to attend August 9-11 at the beautiful Kauai Beach Resort in Lihue, Hawaii. My good friend Marva Lyons organizes this amazing conference each year, to learn more contact her at 510-521-3997 or happymarva57@yahoo.com.

Monthly Sale Items

June Sale Item: Patty Cake Kids & The Lost Imagination Cap - Only \$6!

This children's book will get your kids creative juices flowing! Follow the Patty Cake Kids as they use their imaginations to help a friend. Set in a family child care home. Great to use with a follow-up art project making paper hats!

Regular Price: \$9.95 **Sale Price: \$6**

July Sale Item: From Babysitter to Business Owner KIDBIZ Half Day Trainer - 50% Off!

This training kit for a half day training based on my book includes the power point, lecture notes, objectives, and a copy of the book - everything you need to replicate the trainings I've been giving for years across the country! The training is on

professionalism in family child care and includes sections on professionalism, creating a Parent Handbook, marketing and communicating with parents. This training gives providers everything they need to build a successful, and professional, family child care business.

Regular Price: \$120 ***Sale Price \$60***

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

Speaking Events

July 25 - 28, 2012

NAFCC 30th Annual Conference

Atlanta, Georgia

Association Leadership Day Training - Creating Magic

- 10 Leadership Strategies from Disney

Friday Workshop - Tea Party Celebrations

www.nafcc.org

To learn more about bringing me to your child's school to inspire the emerging writers there check out:

www.patriciadischler.com/school.htm

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.htm.