

# Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral Center

First Quarter

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## Great Plains CCR&R Staff

**Taffy Henderson**  
Program Coordinator

**Amber Cuyler**  
Community Outreach  
Coordinator

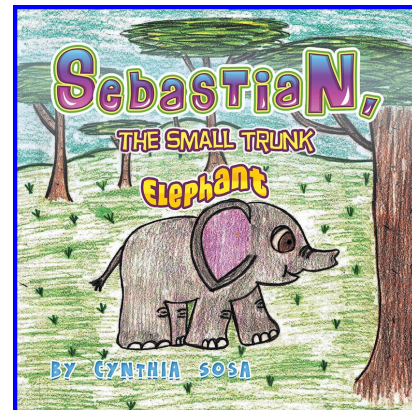
**Rachel Myrko**  
Community Outreach  
Coordinator

**Office Hours**  
Mon-Thurs 8:30-5:00  
Friday: 8:30-4:00  
Every 3rd Sat 9:00-1:00  
888-878-4417  
[www.gpcrr.org](http://www.gpcrr.org)

## We Are Proud Of You!

GPCCRR staff wants to congratulate Cynthia Sosa! Cynthia is a three star child care home in Lawton and has recently published her very own children's book, Sebastian, The Small Trunk Elephant. Cynthia had noticed bullying type behavior starting as early as 2 or 3 years old at her facility and wanted to spark a conversation on the topic of bullying. The story told in the book tells the story of Sebastian, who has a very small trunk. Sebastian doesn't see his small trunk as a problem and neither does his mother. But he encounters bullying from some other animal children; one stands up for him and other kids silently observe his mistreatment. Sosa will be holding a reading of Sebastian at 1pm on August 10th at the Lawton Public Library and another one August 24th at Hastings in Lawton on 616 N. Sheridan. Copies of the book can be purchased on Sosa's website, [www.authorcynthiasosa.com](http://www.authorcynthiasosa.com) and at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

Congratulations Cynthia!  
We are proud of you!!



*Lawton Constitution*

“We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.”  
Stacia Tauscher



# Training Calendar

Date	Training or Conference	Location	Contact
8/17-9/28	Focused Portfolios 1	Holiday Inn Express Weatherford, OK	Patrice Greer 405-325-6808
8/17-8/27	Early Learning Guidelines Training for Infants, Toddlers and Twos	Kiddie College Oklahoma City, OK	Kathy McCoy 405-606-4822
8/20	Infant Safety	First Christian Church Duncan, OK	Taffy Henderson 580-726-2172
9/5	Infant Safety	Great Plains Technology Center Lawton, OK	Taffy Henderson 580-726-2172
9/14-9/21	The Safe Child Program I&II	Western Oklahoma State College	Larry Phillips 580-243-8073
9/20	Love and Logic	Custer County DHS	Taffy Henderson 580-726-2172
10/17-1/2/2014	Early Learning Guidelines Training for Infants, Toddlers and Twos	Bailey Head Start Altus, OK	Sheila Clark 580-482-5040
11/20-11/23	NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo	Washington DC	Www.naeyc.org
Ongoing	Free Asthma Education for Child Care Centers		For more information contact 918-747-3441
Ongoing (3rd Saturday of every mth.)	Red Cross-CPR/First Aid (2yr. Certification)	Lawton	For more information contact 580-355-2480

For online child care professional training go to [www.smarthorizons.org/naccrra/okrr/](http://www.smarthorizons.org/naccrra/okrr/)

For more information on Pathways to CDA contact Vicki Rexroat at 888-302-9050 or 405-643-3247.

For More Information about CPR and First Aide: Contact your local American Red Cross, your local hospital, or your county health department for dates and times.

## Important Dates

August 19th – National Aviation Day  
September 2nd—Labor Day  
September 5th—Rosh Hashana  
September 8th—Grandparents Day

October 7th—Child Health Day  
October 14th—Columbus Day  
October 16th—Bosses Day  
October 31st—Halloween

# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

When parents talk about school safety these days, they're usually referring to the surge in violence at schools. But research shows that school-age children are actually nine times more likely to sustain an unintentional injury — whether on the playground or in school — than to be the victim of violence while at school. In fact, an estimated 2.2 million children ages 14 and under are injured in school-related accidents each year, according to the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Accidents can be prevented if parents are on the lookout for potential hazards. To help you keep your kids free from harm, here are some safety tips from SAFE KIDS, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

## Traveling to and from School

- 1. Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop.** Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and, if possible, with intersections that have crossing guards.
- 2. Walk the route with your child beforehand.** Tell him or her to stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields and other places where there aren't many people around.
- 3. Teach your child never to talk to strangers** or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your children don't know well or don't trust.
- 4. Be sure your child walks to and from school with a sibling, friend, or neighbor.**
- 5. Teach your kids — whether walking, biking, or riding the bus to school — to obey all traffic signals, signs and traffic officers.** Remind them to be extra careful in bad weather.
- 6. When driving kids, deliver and pick them up as close to the school as possible.** Don't leave until they are in the schoolyard or building
- 7. If your child bikes to school, make sure he wears a helmet** that meets one of the safety standards (U.S. CPSC, Snell, ANSI, ASTM, or Canadian). Research indicates that a helmet can reduce the risk of head injury by up to 85 percent.
- 8. If your child rides a scooter to school, make sure she wears sturdy shoes, a helmet, kneepads and elbow pads.** Children under age 12 should not ride motorized scooters, according to recent recommendations from the Consumer Product Safety Commission.
- 9. Teach children to arrive at the bus stop early,** stay out of the street, wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street, watch for cars and avoid the driver's blind spot.
- 10. Remind your children to stay seated at all times** and keep their heads and arms inside the bus while riding. When exiting the bus, children should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, exit from the front using the handrail to avoid falls and cross the street at least 10 feet (or 10 giant steps) in front of the bus.
- 11. Tell your child not to bend down in front of the bus to tie shoes** or pick up objects, as the driver may not see him before starting to move.
- 12. Be sure that your child knows his or her home phone number** and address, your work number, the number of another trusted adult and how to call 911 for emergencies.



# BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

## On the Playground

**13. Check the playground equipment at your child's school.** Look for hazards such as rusted or broken equipment and dangerous surfaces. The surface around the equipment should be covered with wood chips, mulch, sand, pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or fiber material to prevent head injury when a child falls. Report any hazards to the school.



**14. Avoid any drawstrings on the hood or around the neck of jackets and sweatshirts.** Drawstrings at the waist or bottom of jackets should extend no more than three inches long to prevent catching in car and school bus doors or getting caught on playground equipment.

**15. Make sure that the school's athletic director or a custodian anchors soccer goals** into the ground so they won't tip over and crush a child.

**15. Teach children proper playground behavior:** no pushing, shoving, or crowding.

**16. Give your child some strategies for coping with bullies.** He should not give in to a bully's demands, but should simply walk away or tell the bully to stop. If the bullying continues, talk to the teacher.

**17. Make sure your child's school has up-to-date information on recalled toys and children's products.** Schools, daycare providers and parents can receive recall information by fax, email, or in the regular mail free of charge by calling the Consumer Product Safety Commission hotline at 800-638-2772, or visiting the organization's web site.

## Helpful Numbers

**Great Plains Child Care Resource & Referral: 1-888-878-4417**

Provides parent referrals, provider training, technical assistance, library and more.

**Reaching for the Stars: 1-800-522-2564**

A child care rating system based on quality and education

**Scholars for Excellence: 1-866-343-3881**

Provides early childhood educational opportunities through scholarships for child care professionals .

**Warmline: 1-888-574-5437**

Offers free telephone consultation to child care providers on behavioral, health & safety, and care topics. Consultants can offer ideas and solutions and refer providers to appropriate services and resources with in their communities.

**Reward Oklahoma: 1- 888-446-7608**

Provides education-based salary supplements ranging from \$400 to \$1500 per year to teachers, directors, and family child care providers .

**Center for Early Childhood Professional Development: 1-888-446-7608**

Provides training and resources for individuals who work in licensed child care in Oklahoma .



# Back to School Art

## Welcome Wreath

Materials Needed: Half of a paper towel roll for each child\*, yarn, paint, paintbrushes

\*I don't use toilet paper rolls--too many germs!

Cover your table with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth that you can wipe down and reuse all year!

Each child paints a roll. When each one is dry, string the rolls together on a piece of yarn and hang from your classroom door.

Add pictures of the students to their roll!

## Chalk and Water

Materials Needed: Colored sidewalk chalk, construction paper (looks great on black paper, but let each child choose their own color) and shallow trays of water.

Chalk looks great on paper when they have dipped the chalk into water first. This is a great way to find out what their favorite color is (by the color of paper they choose) and to assess their motor and drawing skills.

## An Apple To Take Home

Materials Needed: Pre cut apple shapes; pieces of red, yellow and green paper, glue

Have the children use their small hand muscles to tear the red, yellow and/or green paper into little pieces and glue onto their apple shape.

Add this poem:

This apple that you see here,

Was made just for you in my preschool year.

You'll never see another like it in the great, big land,

Because to make this apple, I used my own little hands.



## Snack Placemat

Materials Needed: Prior to this activity, be sure to have a picture of each child available; you'll need construction paper and paint.

The makes their handprints onto the paper. Glue their picture on and print their name. When dry, laminate and use all year at snack time!

EXTENSION: Once they have made their handprints, give them plain white paper to continue with the fingerpainting fun!



Great Plains Child Care  
Resource & Referral Center  
901 South Broadway  
Hobart, OK 73651  
1-888-878-4417

*Sponsored by Great Plains Youth & Family Services  
and DHS Division of Child Care*

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## New to Library

### **123 Magic - Managing Difficult Behavior In Children 2-12**

This DVD offers easy-to-follow steps for disciplining children without arguing, yelling or spanking

**Don't forget to go to [www.cccpd.org](http://www.cccpd.org) and sign up for the Oklahoma Professional Development ladder so that you can start enjoying the rewards of this registry!**

**Remember to check our website [www.gpcrr.org](http://www.gpcrr.org). Find us on Facebook at Child care resource-referral and LIKE our page for trainings and other exciting news.**