

The CIDSO News

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"A Brighter Tomorrow"

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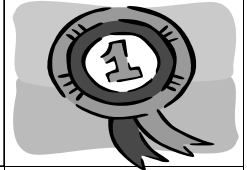
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Employee of the Quarter Award

By Kristi Newbold



I work at Little Jewel Learning Center in Bloomington, Illinois. It is for child's day care. I started there after I graduated from Central Catholic High School in 2005. I work 18 hours a week helping take care of kids in the Bear Room. The kids are 2-3 years old. I help my teachers by playing with the kids and reading books to the kids. I also help set up their breakfast in the morning and for snacks at 9:45. I help Mrs. Deanna and Mrs. Sierra do art stuff with the kids. We have to put t-shirts on the kids so they don't get food on their shirts. I help them set up for lunch and help with dishes in the kitchen. I also wipe down the tables and chairs after lunch. In June 2006 I got employee of the month. This last December 2009 I got Employee of the Quarter. I got to spin the big wheel and won \$100. My teachers say I am doing a very good job. I really like working with the kids. They are so cute. Julie D. says she really likes working with me. I hope to work there for a long time.

HALO program accepting applications for Fall 2010

The HALO program is now accepting application for the Fall 2010 semester. The application process consists of two parts. In the first part, applicants are screened to determine if the program is a good match based on the applicant's current skill and ability levels. After this screening, the applicant may proceed to the next stage, which is an interview with the applicant and parents(s). Applications can also be found on the Heartland Community College website along with general program information. (www.heartland.edu/halo) Please feel free to pass along the application materials to any interested individuals or families. If there are questions, please contact Jane Koscielak at 268-8253 or Cheryl Surratt at 268-8248.

Down Syndrome Births Rise Unexpectedly

By Joseph Shapiro

You might be surprised to learn there's been an increase in the number of children born with Down syndrome in recent years. The conventional wisdom holds that with more prenatal screening, the rate at which children would be born with Down syndrome would have fallen.

But as researchers write in the latest issue of the medical journal *Pediatrics*, there was an increase in Down syndrome births between 1979 and 2003. "It went up by 31 percent--from 9 per 10,000 births to 12 per 10,000 births," says Dr. Adolfo Correa, an epidemiologist at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and co-author of the study.

Correa says the most likely reason for the increase is that women wait longer to have children, which increases the chances of a child being born with Down syndrome. "The prevalence of Down syndrome is five times higher among births to women who are 35 years of age and older," says Correa.

But there may be other reasons. One, which shows up in the study, is that children with Down syndrome are leading longer, healthier lives. And that may encourage a pregnant woman, who learns she may give birth to a child with Down syndrome, not to terminate a pregnancy.

Indeed, kids with Down syndrome now go to regular schools and some, these days, even go on to college. There's support for families, too, from groups like the National Down Syndrome Society and the National Down Syndrome Congress. The study looked at births and also at the number of children with Down syndrome, up to age 19, living in 10 population centers. In 2002, the researchers found that Down syndrome "was present in 1 of every 971 children and adolescents who were age 0 to 19 and living in 10 US regions." The absolute number of people with Down syndrome in the US is about 83,000.

There are differences by race and ethnicity, the researchers found. Hispanic families were most likely to have a child with Down syndrome, followed by non-Hispanic white families. African-American families were the least likely to report having a child with Down syndrome.

The *Pediatrics* study doesn't explain the differences, but Correa speculates that poorer black families may not have the same access to health care. And without good health care, children with Down syndrome, who sometimes have heart defects or other health problems, may not live as long.

Mark the Date

January 25th:

Board Meeting at Jean Bates' home.

February 14th and

28th: *CEC Bowling at ISU Bowling and Billiards Center.*

March 15th:

Deadline for grant requests.

Disclaimer Policy

The editor of this newsletter writes as a non-professional. CIDSO does not promote any therapy, treatment, institution or professional system, etc. Please discuss specific concerns with your health care professional.