Recommended Books for Family Child Care

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**Active Learning Series.** Debby Cryer and Thelma Harms. Menlo Park, CA: Addison-Wesley, 1987-1996. Each book has a planning guide, activities for listening and talking, for physical development, creative activities, and activities for children to learn from the world around them.

- **Active Learning for Infants.** 193 pgs
- **Active Learning for Ones.** 218 pgs
- **Active Learning for Twos.** 330 pgs
- **Active Learning for Threes.** 354 pgs
- **Active Learning for Fours.** 402 pgs
- **Active Learning for Fives.** 450 pgs


400 fun, fast, easy-to-use, playful learning activities to enhance the growth and development of children from birth to five. The activities, developed to complement the *Ages & Stages Questionnaires*, are arranged by age and developmental area – communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem solving, and personal-social – and are perfect for sharing with parents.


Social-emotional learning activities for children from birth to age six who are developing typically or need non-intensive support. Includes parent newsletters and topic-specific handouts written at a 4th- to 6th-grade reading level. Specifically developed to complement the *Ages and Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional*. 

Easy-to-use assessment tool measures: qualifications and professional development, income and benefits, work environment, fiscal management, recordkeeping, risk management, provider-parent communication, community resources, marketing and public relations, provider as employer.


Explores the emotionally charged issue of love in family child care settings. Uses real-life stories to show how parents and providers can work together to meet the attachment needs of children and surround each child with love.


This book tells how to organize a family child care support group, which is a small group of providers from the same local area who meet together, usually once a month, to socialize, share knowledge and experiences, help each other solve problems with children and parents, develop new leadership skills, and improve the quality of care in their community.


Shows how everyday routines and experiences are opportunities to build relationships and promote learning for children birth to 12. Helps providers be intentional about the activities they plan while still having the flexibility to respond to each child’s changing interests and abilities.

Volume 1: The Foundation (212 pgs.)
Volume 2: Routines and Experiences (257 pgs.)
Volume 3: Objectives for Development & Learning, Birth through Third Grade (227 pgs.)


Five books filled with fun, educational games to play with children from birth through 60 months of age. Developed by the Abecedarian Project and proven to benefit children, the games focus on social, emotional, and cognitive areas of development, especially language.

Volume 1: Birth-12 Months
Volume 2: 12-24 Months
Volume 3: 24-36 Months
Volume 4: 36-48 Months
Volume 5: 48-60 Months


Family child care providers show how everyday items such as PVC pipe, duct tape, nylon twine, and nuts and bolts can be used to create learning toys that draw on the imagination of children aged six months to six years.

A simple method for providers to evaluate the quality of their child care home on a 33-item scale covering space and furnishings, personal care routines, language and books, activities, interaction, and program structure.


Colorful photographs of beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces illustrate low-cost tips for selecting items, organizing materials, designing learning zones, and creating a place that feels like a second home to the children in your care.


The author is a family child care provider and former center director. Using humor and empathy, he offers dozens of ways to cope with the stressors common among child care professionals.


Excellent advice on family child care business practices: selecting new clients and retaining valued clients, developing and using a thorough parent handbook, selecting an appropriate and manageable curriculum, creating work spaces in your home, and setting long-term personal and business goals.


Includes step-by-step instructions and photos for 160 recipes that all fit the CACFP guidelines, a seasonal menu, including a four-week cycle menu for lunch, plus a two-week cycle menu for breakfasts and snacks.


Describes components of the family child care work environment that enable providers to do their jobs well and continue on the job for a longer time. Many of these standards rely on a greater public investment, so the book is an educational and organizing tool as well as an assessment and planning tool.


The fun activities in this book use the HighScope active learning approach for children 2½ - 5.


Creative and inclusive learning activities for family child care, arranged by age and developmental domain: physical and motor, cognitive, communication and language, social and emotional, and approaches to learning.

Lots of ideas for activities that will enhance children's natural abilities to be creative, curious, and courteous, and thus give them a strong foundation for all future learning and enjoyment of life.


Practical information and advice to help you solve some of the most persistent problems in your work with children: difficult separations, children who lie or tattle, how to calm children, how to improve naptime, and much more.


Tips to simplify routines, organize your home, make your time with kids more fun, and make your family child care business run more smoothly.


- **Family Child Care Business Planning Guide.** Tom Copeland. 2009. 85 pgs.
- **Family Child Care: Guide to Visits, Inspections, and Interviews.** Donna C. Hurley. 2013. 125 pgs.