



### Increasing Child Care Quality by *Growing Healthy in Nature*

Announcing ABC Quality *Growing Healthy in Nature*, a new statewide effort to encourage early childhood programs to connect children to nature in early childhood programs!

A naturalized environment provides a range of advantages for children, as they spend a significant amount of time in child care settings. Nature provides stimulation of the senses which improves physical, cognitive, and social and emotional development. It also fosters a lifelong appreciation of the natural world and teaches that humans are an important part of it.

Child care programs have the potential to influence families' interactions with nature by suggesting simple activities, like taking a walk in the park together to increase bonding, stability and learning. Child care programs and nature are a natural fit to increase the quality of early childhood experiences.

Dr. Claire Warden, an expert in nature pedagogy, presented her philosophy for the first time in South Carolina to a group of ABC Quality programs during a Symposium and Outdoor Learning Lab series. Dr. Warden is a founder of the International Association of Nature Pedagogy and has authored books like 'The Potential of a Puddle', which details a vision and values for outdoor play. To learn more about nature pedagogy, visit [www.naturepedagogy.com](http://www.naturepedagogy.com).

For more information on outdoor learning-focused training opportunities, contact Sherrie Dueno at [sherrie.dueno@dss.sc.gov](mailto:sherrie.dueno@dss.sc.gov).

### Product Recalls

DSS Regulation 114-507C(2) states that furniture, toys, and recreational equipment shall meet the standards of the US Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC), if applicable, and that recalled products shall not be accessible to children. For more information, call CPSC's hotline at **800-638-2772** or visit their website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). To report a dangerous product or related injury, go to <http://saferproducts.gov>.

- **Contigo Kids Water Bottles** due to choking hazard caused by detachable silicone spout.
- **Kirkland's Chests of Drawers** due to tip-over and entrapment hazards.
- **Sandoz Losartan Potassium and Ezetimibe Prescription Drug Bottles** due to failure to meet child-resistant closure requirements.
- **Pearhead Ubbi Connecting Bath Toys** due to choking hazard.

- **RH Children's Chairs and Stools** due to violation of federal lead paint ban.
- **Artizen Oils Essential Oils** due to failure to meet child-resistant packaging requirements.
- **Walker Edison Furniture Children's Bunk Beds** due to fall and injury hazards.
- **Ragdoll & Rockets Children's Loungewear** due to violation of federal flammability standard.
- **Healing Solutions Essential Oils** due to failure to meet child-resistant packaging requirements.
- **Home Meridian Three-Drawer Chests** due to tip-over and entrapment hazards.

### S.C. Center for Child Care Career Development

In summer 2019, the Center for Child Care Career Development was proud to recognize the following T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® Scholarship graduates.



Niqelia Gregory-Colleton graduated with her A.A. in Early Care and Education from Trident Technical College. She has been a T.E.A.C.H. South Carolina scholarship recipient since fall 2017. Niqelia is a teacher at a child care facility in McClellanville, South Carolina serving more than 70 children.



Danesha Aiken-Stocker graduated with her A.A. in Early Care and Education from Spartanburg Community College. She has been a T.E.A.C.H. South Carolina scholarship recipient since spring 2019. Danesha is a teacher at a child care facility in Spartanburg, South Carolina serving more than 130 children.



Hester Haynes graduated with her A.A. in Early Care and Education from Trident Technical College. She has been a T.E.A.C.H. South Carolina scholarship recipient since spring 2002. Hester is the owner and director of a child care center in North Charleston, SC serving more than 200 children.



Kathleen Gordon graduated with her A.A. in Early Care and Education from Spartanburg Community College. She has been a T.E.A.C.H. South Carolina scholarship recipient since fall 2016. Kathleen is teacher at a child care facility in Pacolet, South Carolina serving more than 80 children.

The Center for Child Care Career Development is extremely proud of these ladies. We wish them the best of luck in the future and hope that they will continue to make a difference in the lives of young children in our state.

### National Children's Health Month



Since 1992, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has designated October as Child Health Month to increase public awareness of the value of preventive health care for children. This year's theme is "Protecting Children Where They Live, Learn, and Play." During this month, you are encouraged to challenge yourself by thinking of changes you can make to protect children from environmental risks. See how many of these tips you can follow in the 31 days of this month: [Children's Health Month Tip Calendar](#). For more ideas, visit [What You Can Do to Protect Children from Environmental Risks](#).