



International Family Day Care Organisation
Newsletter
October 2001

Hello to all IFDCO Members,
My apologies for the delay in getting this newsletter out but a few other important things have been occurring so my mind has been elsewhere. I am now a very happy and of course eccentric grandmother to the most beautiful baby in the world (naturally). I shall try not to bore you too often with my granny news but there will be times I can't help it. Of course others belonging to the grandparents club will understand fully. This exclusive club is very special. Sorry no inclusion here (and I work in community services!!!). On another note the news of the world is quite overwhelming. When we try and provide quality care and teach our children to value diversity it is hard to come to terms with firstly the terrorists attack on September 11 as well as what is going to happen in the future. I can only hope that we can in our own small way provide positive modelling of acceptance of diversity so that the children we care for may grow to value and respect each other. Once again in this IFDCO news there are a number of items from around the globe giving us differing views of Family Day Care.

Many have been asking about the next International conference to be held in Wellington, New Zealand in 2003. Information is available in this Newsletter as well as call for papers. I do have quite a number of email addresses but if you think that I may not have you on my list email me so I can add your name. My address is tina@carata.com. This way I can send a special bulletin out regarding conference news.

So now on with the newsletter!!!!!!

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Opinions expressed or inferred from articles in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of IFDCO.

Message from the Chair - Kay Jackson



Greetings to everyone from Scotland

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of the IFDCO Newsletter. It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2001, time passes so quickly. Since the last newsletter, we have been working hard at communication problems within IFDCO. I wish I could tell you things are improving, but no-one ever replies to my emails!!! (Apart from Tina of course).

I have contacted a website ([Childcare Exchange.com](http://ChildcareExchange.com)) and inquired about the cost and the possibility of having an IFDCO page on their website or designing a website for IFDCO. They offered to design us a page on their website for our members for \$US1000.00. Tina Millar (secretary and acting newsletter editor for IFDCO) also knows someone who has skills to improve and update our current homepage on the carata website. (carata.org.au)

I encourage all members to look at these websites and contact Tina or myself and let us know your thoughts. It is very important to be able to get up to date information out to our members and also for members to be able to contact us quickly.

One of the good things about having a website is that IFDCO will have a point of contact that will remain the same even when committee members change.

Please let us know your thoughts and comments. Many childcare organisations use the internet and I think IFDCO can become one of them.

IFDCO has also been invited to become a member of the World Forum Alliance. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on that as well. It is very important to keep in contact with each other and look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Kay Jackson
Kay.Jackson@talk21.com



Children in Europe

By Jan Peeters (Belguim)

VBJK (training and Resource Centre for Childcare and Education) is involved in the publication of a new European magazine in seven languages: 'Children in Europe'. Chief redactor of this magazine is Prof Peter Moss of the Thomas Coran Institute London and it is a collaboration between seven magazines in different European countries. Children in Europe is published twice a year as a supplement of this seven existing magazines in Europe and can through this co-operation be distributed on 46.000 copies. The languages in which 'Children in Europe' is published are: Catalan, Spanish, Dutch, English, French and Italian. In October our Danish colleagues will start with a Danish magazine on the internet and we hope to start with a German version in the beginning of 2001. The theme of the first issue is 'Listening to children'. The next issue will be on 'Diversity'. If you did not received a free copy through the magazine of your country, please contact me I will send you one. Please mention the preferred language. For more information about this initiative, please contact me .

Jan Peeters

Member of the editorial board of 'Children in Europe'

Jan.Peeters@rug.ac.be



What's happening in the Americas?

UPDATE ON FAMILY CHILD CARE IN THE USA

By Deborah Eaton

In the past, family child care was largely invisible, woven in the fabric of every community. While most providers begin this work somewhat casually as an extension of their own parenting, those who choose to make an intentional career choice tend to offer higher quality care. Today, a professional development movement has emerged across the country as many family child care providers reject the role of an unprofessional and instead embrace the role of an intentional caregiver. Approximately 1,000,000 family child care providers in the United States care for and educate about 4,000,000 children.

Confusion still exists about what family child care is and is not, and this confusion perpetuates myths and misinformation about this profession. One such myth concerns the offering of quality care. Children can and do experience desirable outcomes in family child care as well as center-based environments.

It was not so long ago that the profession of early care and education was reluctant to define quality. This is no longer the case. We are at a juncture in our profession where we know more about best practice as it relates to brain development, developmentally appropriate practice, and being socially competent than ever before. We have systems of accreditation that not only define quality care, but ones that do so in homes as well as centers.

Program accreditation is a relatively new aspect in early childhood programs, compared with public education, higher education, and health care, with only a small percentage of family child care homes accredited at this time. Homes are accredited by The National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC). There are currently 1000 nationally accredited providers with 850 in the process. However, many state policy makers are promoting child care accreditation as one strategy to improve the level of learning for children of all ages and to hold agencies and providers accountable for providing quality care.

NAFCC Accreditation was designed to promote and recognize high quality, professional practice in this special form of child care. Accreditation standards cover the following areas: Relationships, Environment, Activities, Developmental Learning Goals, Safety and Health, and Profession and Business Practices. A 1995 study of accredited providers by the Families and Work Institute confirmed that accreditation increases providers' professionalism and self-esteem, improved quality of care, and facilitated the development of leadership skills.

Family child care is an integral part of the early care and education system in the United States. Issues such as quality care, inclusion, equity, compensation, retention, and training continued to be discussed and researched. I look forward to working with parents, researchers, community leaders and administrators at all



levels of government in order to facilitate growth in this profession and increase the demand for quality care.

News from Ireland

Patricia Murray



Note about Europe and Africa from Patricia Murray.

Dear Eurafrican colleagues,

My e-mail is murray@indigo.ie and we made great promises to keep in contact between international conferences. I have been really happy to welcome Mary from Nigeria to my home in Ireland and to share our common concerns about children. Please make contact - we could still have a Eurafrican gettogether before NZ.

Fond regards in Childminding
Patricia Murray
Ireland

(Editor's note: would love to hear the stories that you shared.)

IFDCO Conference update



The planning for the next International Family Day Care Organisation Conference is well under way and we are looking forward with great excitement to welcoming you to Wellington. We are hoping to meet lots of new people, share ideas, thoughts and knowledge. We know we will have a wonderful time.

Wellington is a vibrant, compact city situated on a natural harbour surrounded by hills. The weather in February should be lovely! generally sunny with temperatures in the early 20's (but we hasten to add that we cannot guarantee this and be prepared for cold weather and rain too!).

International flights generally fly either to Auckland in the North Island or Christchurch in the South Island. The pre conference study tours will start from these cities and look at New Zealand Family Day Care in various settings. The tours will finish in Wellington for the start of the Conference having taken in some wonderful New Zealand scenery on the way. Places on these tours will be strictly limited.

For people coming directly to the conference, the connecting flights to Wellington take about an hour. There are some international flights from Australia direct to Wellington.

The Preliminary Notice and Call for Papers is now available in this newsletter as well as from your International Delegate or on the web

<http://communities.msn.co.nz/hfdc/conference.msnw>

Or by post to PO Box 33 191 Petone Wellington New Zealand

As well as being the call for papers this document also has information about the Conference themes, timetable and social events.

We are pleased to say that we have some fantastic Keynote speakers already confirmed, including Phillip Gammage (Australia, U.K.), Peter Heaslip (New Zealand UK), Susan Kontos(U.S.A. and Anne Stonehouse (Australia)

There are several others in the pipeline. As well as the keynote speakers and workshops, we have some other exciting events happening! We are really looking forward to hosting you in our beautiful city.

Jane Couch and Jane Firth (Conference Convenors)

Call for papers

International Family Day Care Organisation Conference

19th - 23rd February 2003

Venue

Wellington Convention
Centre
[Wellington](#), New Zealand

Co-ordinators

[New Zealand Family Day
Care Association](#)

Contact

HFDC@xtra.co.nz

Programme

Wed	Registration in morning Powhiri and official welcome 1:00pm onwards
Thurs	Keynotes and workshops
Fri	Keynotes and workshops After lunch optional tours
Sat	Keynotes and workshops Conference Dinner
Sun	Finish at lunchtime

Conference Theme

Choices, Challenges and Collaboration

calling for papers now

Accommodation

There is a range of hotel accommodation available within walking distance of the Convention Centre. Details will be posted as soon as arrangements have been made.

Study Tours

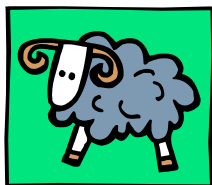
Pre-Conference Study Tours will be organised from Auckland (in the North Island) and Queenstown (in the South Island)



KIWI Titbits



- We are literally at the ends of the earth - our closest neighbour is Oz.
- We don't mind being called Kiwi's after our national symbol, a flightless nocturnal bird that eats worms which it sniffs out with its nose which is on the end of its beak
- We are all a nation of immigrants including the Tangata Whenua and our ancestors arrived by sea.
- The furthest you can be from the sea in NZ is about 40 miles.
- The middle of the North Island is made up of three active volcanoes which still erupt from time to time which spoils the ski-ing. Mind you the wonderful natural hot pools make up for it.
- We produce great white wine, and the red is not far behind.
- There are more sheep in New Zealand than people – approximately 15 sheep to one person. (Now that's a woolly thought!!)



Please note:

Delegates attending the conference in New Zealand will need to remember the titbits published in the IFDCO newsletter. You will be tested on them!!!!



Goings on in the Land of the Long White Cloud (New Zealand)

How to be ERO'd - A New Zealand Experience

Monday morning and four anxious people gathered in our office chocolate biscuits and fresh made coffee at hand waiting for ERO to arrive.

Every New Zealander involved in education would know exactly what we were feeling, but I think this is an experience unique to Kiwi's.

Every Educational Institution is regularly visited by The Education Review Office, which is a government department charged with looking at those bodies who receive Ministry of Education bulk funding. Early Childhood is no exception to this, and as Family Day Care/ Home Based Care is another ECE service, just like Kindergarten, Playcentre, Childcare Centres and Kohanga Reo, we receive funding and therefore ERO reviews.

As a new service (2 years old) we were not sure what to expect, and as we were the first private provider of Home Based Care that the Auckland ERO office had review, they were uncertain too. However we did know that they were fond of chocolate biscuits and that they were very keen to meet with us.

My Service - Amanda's - is owned by myself, has 33 educators with over 100 children in care (not many are full time). I employ three field officers with either a degree ECE or a Diploma of Teaching ECE. Many Educator have diploma or Childcare Certificate and those who do not are completing a certificate of Home Based Care through the Open Polytechnic.

We are what is know as, a "chartered service", with the Ministry of Education. This means that the service got together with Parents and drew up a charter on what we were going to do and why. We also developed our own set of policies and practices incorporating the National Curriculum - Te Whariki, and the "Statements of Desirable Objectives and Practices" (known to every one as DOPS). Family Day Care also has its own regulations called the "Home Based Care Order" and we have a legal obligation to comply with this . My service has met the higher criteria - mainly to do with training - of Rate 2 or Quality Funding. In turn this means there are more stringent requirements we have to meet.

ERO reviews each service against its Charter and Policies, DOPS, and Home Based Care Order. A Service does not have to use the national curriculum but if does not , it has to provide a copy of the one they have chosen.

About three weeks before ERO visited we had to provide copies of everything - and I mean everything. The printer was running red hot for a couple of days. Our service is highly computerized and we were able to provided ERO with CDroms of all the children's observations and reports which saved a lot of paper, but we had

to show programme plans, resource packages, procedure files, minutes of meetings, and copies of Ministry of Education claims etc.

Finally on Monday the day arrived and we sat down with the review team and explained what we did and why. We then split up into pairs, one Amanda's to one ERO reviewer, and went to visit our Educators and the children. This did not go quite as they had planned. The idea was that they would sit quietly in the background for about an hour watching the educator and they spent an hour talking to the educator while the Amanda's person looked after the children. Unfortunately nobody had told the children about the plan. They saw a Field Officer - who always has new and exciting things to play with - and a stranger who looked exciting - come into their space and thought it was Christmas. Eventually though we managed to get settled down and the review team ended up asking the children a lot of the questions or rather the children giving a lot of the answers.

As we have four reviewers for five days we managed to see most of the 33 educators in our service. One went on her honeymoon and another went into labour 6 weeks early both of which we did accept as excuses for non visits, but otherwise every educator was reviewed. Afterwards they said they had been very nervous before the visit, but they found the ERO team to be open and friendly, and they were proud to be able to show what they did and explain their programmes, and how they had documented children's learning. For many of them it was the first time an Early Childhood professional from outside our service had made comment on their work, and they were thrilled with the feedback.

The ERO team also spent along time with Field Officers talking about our philosophy and how we select Educators, and monitor and train them.

They left us after 5 days exhausted and with the chocolate biscuits untouched, they having joined weight watchers.

Several days later they came back with a verbal report which was turned into a written one that we were able to make comment on. After we all agreed the document was made public.

Was it a worthwhile exercise -Yes, nerve-wracking but Yes. We learnt lots about ourselves. The best thing that was highlighted was that we need to question ourselves more. Lots of things we did were excellent but unless we constantly question why we do them, we run the danger of getting into a rut and not making good things better. We also came away feeling endorsed and empowered to continue along the path we are on. Educators were affirmed and made to feel that ECE experts know that they are doing an excellent worthwhile job, and all the training that they do after-hours pays off for them.

If anyone wants to see our full ERO review its is on the ERO web site and the address is

[http://www.ero.govt.nz/publish\reppub.ns4/Institution/57F36C24B9D02D25CC256A9D0016A687/\\$File/99222.htm?OpenElement](http://www.ero.govt.nz/publish\reppub.ns4/Institution/57F36C24B9D02D25CC256A9D0016A687/$File/99222.htm?OpenElement)

The ministry of Education site is <http://www.minedu.govt.nz/> and they should have copies of Te Whariki, Dops and a sample Charter. I am happy to answer questions at tacitata@clear.net.nz but why not come to the International Conference in 2003 (all enquiries to family@avenues.co.nz) and see for yourself.

ps the office ate all the choccy biccies themselves and now we are all at weight watchers

Amanda



PROGRESS OF A QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM FOR FAMILY DAY CARE IN AUSTRALIA

On Tuesday 3rd July 2001 in Adelaide, the Minister for Family and Community services, senator Amanda Vanstone launched the new quality assurance system for Family Day Care. The new system is a “world first” – providing a national, Government supported and funded system to ensure quality care for children in Family Day Care.

The Family Day Care Quality Assurance system is a national system that will ensure all Family Day Care Services meet quality standards beyond minimum licensing requirements. All Commonwealth approved services providing Family Day Care are required to participate.

The system has been developed with much assistance from peak child care organisations and has been the result of extensive consultation with service providers. It is based on a 1996 commitment to extend quality assurance to the Family Day Care sector.

The system addresses six key areas that have a direct bearing on the quality of care provided.

- Interactio9ns
- Physical environment
- Children’s learning experiences, development and learning
- Health, hygiene, nutrition, safety and well-being
- Carers and staff
- Management and administration

Underpinning the system are the practices of self reflection, self evaluation and continuous improvement- all of which look at how things are done now and how they can be improved for the future.

Validation is a key part of the system. As part of this, schemes will need to demonstrate that they have quality practices in place and that they have a strong commitment to quality improvement. Successful validation will lead to schemes being accredited with providing quality care. The accreditation period for schemes is two and a half years.

The National Childcare Accreditation Council administers quality assurance for Family Day Care. The National Childcare Accreditation Council is an independent body funded by the Commonwealth. They are responsible for the administration of the Quality Improvement and Accreditation System for Long Day Care.

Gossips about the Executive



This section of the Newsletter is to provide information on the Executives of IFDCO.

The profile in this newsletter is:
Patricia Murray – European Rep

Executive Profile: **Patricia Murray European Regional Rep**



Married to John Murray (that lovely man who paid the Childminding Association's phone bills and endured office stationery going missing all those years before state funding arrived!) has three adult children, Fergal, marrying HollyLynn Sullivan from California this November, Dervla, who works as PA to Sales Manager, and Clara who is in Human Resource department of Guinness - yes the pints of black stuff. Childminding in the early '80s, Patricia with a small group of childminders realised that recognition would only be achieved through training and professionalism, established PEACH - the Professional Education Association for Child Home Care - designed training to suit their needs and attracted enough support from childminding colleagues to evolve into the National Childminding Association of Ireland.

Small funding was achieved in 1997 - what a long time for that day to arrive - and proving our worth in promoting quality, getting a group insurance scheme and introducing a Registered Childminder status - and major funding enabling staff employment and an office happened in 1999. Staff complement in Childminding Ireland now 13 and funding set to continue.

Patricia is now Chief Executive and has retired some time for 20 years of active childminding. She holds a degree in Psychology, English and Linguistics and has published 'Choosing Childcare' a guide for parents in 1993, and 'The Childminding Handbook' in 2000.

She loves to scubadive - particularly in warm clear water - and so the Conference in NZ, followed by a trip to Aus is the current financial objective!

Members of the Executive Committee

Chair: Kay Jackson email: kay.jackson@talk21.com

Treasurer: Jan Sahler email: janetsahler@hotmail.com

Secretary: Tina Millar email: tina@carata.com

Regional Reps:

European Region

Irmtraut Rhein email: isgard-rhein@web.de

Patricia Murray email: murray@indigo.ie

Australasian Reps:

Grace McDonald email: bbfdc@powerup.com.au

Amanda McIntosh email: tacita@clear.net.nz

Americas Rep:

Deborah Eaton email: debeaton@cts.com

Lee Dunster email: dunster@sympatico.ca

To access IFDCO home page do either of the following:

www.carata.org.au and click to organisations. IFDCO has a page of its own there.

To by pass CARATA

www.caratta.com/org/ifdco1.htm

**INTERNATIONAL FAMILY DAY CARE ORGANIZATION
(IFDCO)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

IFDCO membership is of two main classes - INDIVIDUAL and GROUP. Within these classes are the sub-classes listed below.

A. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- i) Full Membership For practicing Family Day Care Providers (Childminders)
- ii) Associate Membership For people who work with, or are closely associated with FDC providers/childminders.

B. GROUP MEMBERSHIP

- i) Full Group Membership For a group or organisation, most of whose members qualify for Class Ai or Aii.

Membership dues, valid for 12, 24 or 36 months from date of joining, are (please select one):

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Individual Membership:	40.00 U.S. Dollars	70.00 U.S. Dollars	80.00 U.S. Dollars
Group Membership:	120.00 U.S. Dollars	210.00 U.S. Dollars	240.00 U.S. Dollars

FORM OF PAYMENT:

Check enclosed, payable to IFDCO in US Dollars

VISA

MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Country _____

Please send the membership dues, in American Dollars, or by VISA or MasterCard charge, to:

Janet Sahler, Treasurer
4315 No. 34th
Tacoma, Washington 98407 U S A