



CHILD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

# Network News

Volume 32 Number 3

July/August/September 2011



## **NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children** **ONE MEMBERSHIP, THREE ORGANIZATIONS, SO MUCH TO BENEFIT FROM...**

*Article provided by: Bridgid Beames, Namaste Montessori School*

NAEYC is the leading membership association for those working with and on behalf of children from birth through age 8. NAEYC convenes thought leaders, teachers and other practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders and sets standards of excellence for programs and teachers in early childhood education. NAEYC members include teachers, para-educators, center directors, trainers, college educators, families of young children, and the public at large. Membership is open to all individuals who share a desire to serve and act on behalf of the needs and rights of all young children.

NYSAEYC is the State level organization of NAEYC. Its mission is to promote excellence in early care and education services for NYS children and families, through education, advocacy and the support of the profession. At the state level, NYSAEYC offers members wonderful professional development opportunities including conferences, resources for all levels through their newsletters and other publications, public information advocacy for early childhood, mini-grants and scholarships, and accreditation support.

**Finger Lakes AEYC** is our local chapter. We have a small group of dedicated professionals who bring the philosophy, resources, and passion for early childhood to a local level. FLAEYC is currently assessing how it can better meet its members' needs. If you would like to become more involved on a local level, please contact Bridgid Beames at [www.NamasteMontessoriSchool@yahoo.com](mailto:www.NamasteMontessoriSchool@yahoo.com) **Renew your membership or join today:** [www.NAEYC.org](http://www.NAEYC.org)

### **Local FLAEYC News**

Our local FLAEYC Chapter would like to congratulate the Cornell Child Care Center for earning NAEYC Accreditation! Other area early childhood programs that are NAEYC Accredited include Ithaca Community Childcare Center (IC3) in Ithaca, FSA Child Care Center at TC3 in Dryden, and the SUNY Cortland Child Care Center.

A major part of NAEYC's efforts to improve early childhood education is through different systems of accreditation for programs that are committed to meeting national standards of quality.

Since 1985, NAEYC's national, voluntary accreditation system has set professional standards for early childhood education programs, and helped families identify high-quality programs for their young children.

### **Congratulations to Cornell Child Care Center**

To attain accreditation, a child care center must undergo a series of inspections from the NAEYC accreditation board, meet strict quality criteria, and comply with all state and local regulations. The Cornell Child Care Center scored an impressive 100 percent on eight of the 10 criteria including Curriculum, Assessment, Health, Teachers, Relationships, Leadership, Community Relationships and Physical Environment. "We are incredibly proud of our teachers and our program and we are proud to be one of only three centers in Ithaca with NAEYC accreditation," said Cornell Child Care Center Director Patty Sinclair.



# Summer Meals For Kids!



The Summer Food Service Program serves free meals to all kids and teens 18 years and younger.

### NORTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

625 Hancock St., Ithaca, NY

BREAKFAST - 8:00am to 10:30am

LUNCH - 11:00am to 1:30pm

### SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER

305 S. Plain St., Ithaca, NY

BREAKFAST - 8:30am to 9:30am

LUNCH - 11:30am to 1:00pm

JUNE 27, 2011-SEPTEMBER 2, 2011

WEEKDAYS

For more information call: SFSP OFFICE AT 274-2234

## SAVE the DATE!

### Tuberculosis (TB) Testing & Skin Read Clinic for School Age Child Care Staff

Cost: The cost is \$15 per person.

Dates: The test will be administered on Monday, August 22, from 10am to noon. The tests will be read on Wednesday, August 24, from noon to 1pm.

You must attend BOTH dates. Failing to get the results read will invalidate the test. We will schedule programs on first-come, first-serve basis.

Where: Child Development Council in the Training Room.

Registration is required by no later than Monday, August 7.

### SACC Conference

The Key to Quality Care

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

Saturday October 15, 2011

3 sessions – 2 courses per session  
For both new and experienced staff  
Light breakfast and lunch included

Registration from 9:00 to 9:30am

Watch for registration form!



### Nursery School Network

Second Wednesdays

1 - 2:30 p.m.

**No Meetings**

**July**

**August**

September 21 - East Ithaca  
Preschool

### SACC Forums

Second Tuesdays

10:30 - Noon

at Child Development Council

**No Meetings**

**July**

**August**

**September**

### Center Directors' Group

Second Thursdays

1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

at Child Development Council

**July TBA**

August 11

September 8



## Cool Down on a Hot Day with a Sprinkler



A great way to keep kids active and cool during summer days is to set up a sprinkler outside. Please remember, wading pools are prohibited in all child care programs. There are many sprinklers on the market that come in fun and interesting shapes like the Beach Ball Sprinkler, Banzai Wigglin Water Sprinkler or the Fisher Price Splash Dome. You can also buy a traditional Oscillating Sprinkler. The cost ranges from \$7-\$20 and sprinklers can be found at most discount department stores such as Kmart, Walmart or Target.

Kids will enjoy running through the spraying water that moves back and forth. You can even incorporate some games like Duck Duck Goose, Simon Says or do Hokey Pokey around the sprinkler. You might even make up your own version of musical sprinkler or a water obstacle course.



## Playground Requirements Update

We continue to get many calls regarding the requirements for impact resistant material under playground equipment. Please be aware that any outdoor play equipment such as swings, slides, and climbing apparatus ***must be installed and used in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and instructions***. If you have outdoor play equipment, it is your responsibility to obtain the manufacturer's specifications (or find the specifications on a comparable piece of equipment) and install the appropriate amount and type of impact resistant material as required by those specifications. This could include small slides, infant swings, etc. Again, consult the manufacturer's specifications.

If you are unable to locate the manufacturer's specifications, you can follow the recommendations for protective surfacing in the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Outdoor Home Playground Safety Handbook ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) or 1-800-638-2772).

Until impact resistant material is installed, children should not be allowed to play on the equipment. Ropes, ties or other barriers **CANNOT** be used to keep children away from equipment as they can cause safety concerns. Children should be directly supervised to ensure they are not using the equipment. If children are using the equipment and impact resistant material has not been installed, a violation will be cited during an inspection and the program will have 30 days to correct the issue.

### Suggestions for impact resistant materials and where to get them:

- Many area towns and cities will provide mulch free of charge to residents (and a minimal charge to non-residents). You must check the quality of the mulch to ensure there are no sharp edges, sticks, debris, garbage, etc.
- Tree companies may also have mulch available; you can call around to see if they have quality mulch and if they charge any fees.
- Commercial landscaping suppliers charge approximately \$31/cubic yard for mulch that is picked up and hauled by the buyer (\$45/cubic yard for delivery). A typical swing set would require approximately 6 cubic yards to meet the CPSC requirements. The cost for this would be \$186 for pickup or \$270 for delivery.
- Bags of mulch can be purchased from landscaping or hardware suppliers, but the cost is considerably higher.

If you have questions that have not been answered above, please call our office at 273-0259 and we will do our best to assist you.

## Free Summer Fun

The music is free; bring your children, a snack, a chair and clap along – if you're not dancing. Local communities sponsor weekly concerts throughout the summer. Check the usual places – internet, radio, telephone, word of mouth, websites (see below) or local papers (Ithaca Times, Tompkins Weekly, Ithaca Journal) for specific schedules of performers, or just show up and be surprised! Here's a sampler:

- Tuesday**      **Ellis Hollow** Community Center, Genung Rd., 6:00 - 8:00 pm, July 12 - August 23
- Wednesday**    Montgomery Park, Village of **Dryden**, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, July 13 - August 10  
Gazebo on Conger Boulevard, Village of **Groton**, July 6 - August 17
- Thursday**      Downtown **Ithaca** on the Commons, 7:00 pm, July 1 - September 1  
Myers Park, **Lansing**, 6:30 pm, July 7 - August 18
- Saturday**      Taughannock Falls State Park, Rt. 89, **Trumansburg**, 7:00 pm, July 9 - August 20  
Fee for parking, call 607-387-6739 for information

[www.Dryden.ny.us/music-in-the-park](http://www.Dryden.ny.us/music-in-the-park)

[www.TownofGrotonNY.org](http://www.TownofGrotonNY.org)

In addition to music, there is a wide array of parks, theatre, festivals and fairs - and don't forget fireworks! At least two communities light up the night sky near the Fourth of July:

Friday, July 1 - Tompkins Cortland Community College, **Dryden**

Saturday, July 2 - Myers Park, **Lansing**

## Free Summer at Cornell

Another local resource, Cornell University, offers free summer entertainment to families. Choose indoors or outside, depending on your interests, ages of children, day of the week, and the weather - Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information go to [www.summer.cornell.edu/events](http://www.summer.cornell.edu/events).

Tuesday - **Performances** at Schwartz Center in Collegetown, 7:30 pm, July 5 - August 2

Wednesday - **Lectures** at Call Auditorium, Kennedy Hall, 7:30 pm, July 6 - July 27

Friday - **Concerts** on the Arts Quad, 7:00 pm, July 1 - August 5

## What is the new standard for cribs?

Beginning June 28, 2011, all cribs manufactured and sold (including resale) must comply with new and improved federal safety standards. The new rules, which apply to full-size and non full-size cribs, prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing. The details of the rule are available on CPSC's website at [www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/cribfinal.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/frnotices/fr11/cribfinal.pdf).

The new rules also apply to cribs currently in use at child care centers and places of public accommodation. By December 28, 2012, these facilities must use only compliant cribs that meet the new federal safety standards.

For questions and answers on how these rules will affect child care providers please visit: <http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/2011/06/the-new-crib-standard-questions-and-answers/>



# Parenting Playground

brought to you by  
Child Development Council  
609 West Clinton Street, Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 273-0259  
[www.ChildDevelopmentCouncil.org](http://www.ChildDevelopmentCouncil.org)  
July/August/September 2011



## Ready for Kindergarten? Sure!

Is your child going to “big” school in September? After attending nursery school, pre-school, child care center, church school, music class, the neighborhood play group, family day care, gymnastics class, library story hour, and/or Universal Pre-K, many families are old hands at “school” and kindergarten is just the next step - no big deal. For others, it truly is the first time the five-year old will be away from her family for most of the day, every day, five days a week - a monumental lifestyle transition.

In New York State the designated birthday that determines minimum age for entry into public school kindergarten is turning 5 by December 1<sup>st</sup>. It happens in every class - a child just meets the cutoff, and another child is almost 6 when school starts in September. Kindergarten attendance is optional at age 5, but the law states that by age 6 a child must start attending school the following September.

In addition to the child’s birth certificate, local school districts also require documentation of other data. Parents will be asked to provide proof of the family’s address (driver’s license, utility bill, etc.) and the child’s medical history, including required immunizations. The school district office will give you the forms or list of things to gather and bring in for registration; some may offer forms online as well.

Schools often hold a series of events to introduce families to the public school system, starting in May and ending at the first day of school in September. It can involve several short, informal trips to the school building to get familiar with the layout, meet teachers and other new kindergartners. Screenings are short sessions which focus on each individual child – to see where his development is physically, emotionally, cognitively, and socially. This is not a pass or fail situation, just a way for teachers to meet each child and see what the range of resources are among the incoming class.

Families who move into the area during summer need to contact their school district for kindergarten registration. All six school districts in Tompkins County (Dryden, Groton, Ithaca, Lansing, Newfield, Trumansburg) have websites and phone numbers. Find them at [www.tstboces.org](http://www.tstboces.org). It’s best to call early in the day since schools have shorter summer hours. If families arrive in late August, the process is adjusted; registration documents are provided, and screenings can be done after school starts.

Teachers want parents to know that readiness is a broad concept, not an intense summer project to memorize the alphabet for example. An article from [Scholastic Parent & Child](#) states that the following skills are helpful, and experienced kindergarten teachers say they show readiness for school - enthusiasm toward learning, solid oral language skills, the ability to listen, the desire to be independent, the ability to play well with others, strong fine-motor skills, and basic letter and number recognition. Teachers do not expect accomplished 5 year old readers, but will appreciate a kindergartener who can get her own snowsuit and boots on.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC - see p. 1 article) has developed position statements on many topics, including Early Learning Standards, Learning to Read and Write, and School Readiness. All are available at [www.naeyc.org/positionstatements](http://www.naeyc.org/positionstatements). The main points on School Readiness are:

- ⇒ School readiness requires access to opportunities
- ⇒ School readiness must be flexibly and broadly defined
- ⇒ Kindergarten entry should be based on age, not on mastery of skills
- ⇒ Schools must be ready to help children learn.

If kindergarten is in your immediate future, have fun this summer with your child. Relax, enjoy being together, read, play, go places and talk while you’re doing it - you’ll both be ready for kindergarten.

**If you are looking for child care or may be in the future - come to:**  
**Finding Child Care in the Tompkins County Area**

**Topics Include:**

Cost of care  
Kinds of care for ages 0 - 12  
What to look for and where  
NYS child care regulations  
Other Questions?

Free and Open to the Public  
Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30 pm  
Child Development Council 609 W. Clinton St. Ithaca  
[www.ChildDevelopmentCouncil.org](http://www.ChildDevelopmentCouncil.org)

Do you need child care at the workshop? Call 273-0259 by July 20

**Why do you parent the way you do?**  
***Parenting Styles Workshop Series***

**Many factors influence our children and how we parent.  
Every family, every child is different and unique.  
Why do we do what we do?  
Why do we make the decisions we make?**

Come together with others to share information and discuss issues that directly influence parenting and family life in this \*FREE 6-week series, led by Travis Winter and Lisa Pate. Workshop discussion topics include: parenting styles and discipline, child development, cultural influences, and environmental issues.

**Do you have a Spirited Child?**  
***Thriving With Your Spirited Child!***

**Is your child: Sensitive? Energetic? Intense?  
Perceptive? Cautious? Persistent?  
Irregular? Serious?**

Learn about your child's temperament (and yours), how to develop effective strategies for dealing with temper tantrums, power struggles and other challenging behaviors in this \*FREE 7-week series, led by Stephanie Gumaer and Cathy Gee.

**\*Please note the number of weeks in each workshop**

Both Workshops will be held at Cooperative Extension, 615 Willow Ave, Ithaca

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., July 5, 12, 19, 26, August 2, 9, and \*16  
Note: Registration closed after July 12.

Call 272-2292 or email [ams69@cornell.edu](mailto:ams69@cornell.edu) for questions or to register.



# Child Development Council Educational Opportunities

July/August/September 2011

Early registration is suggested for all workshops. We will not be able to consider you registered until we receive payment. Cost is \$15 per workshop. However, if you register and pay for 3 or more workshops in advance, the fee will be \$10 each. Total payment must be made by the early registration date of the first workshop you want to attend. **We cannot refund registration fees or exchange workshops.** You may transfer the workshop to another provider if you cannot attend. We hope this helps with your planning and avoids any last minute cancellations of workshops due to low attendance.

If a workshop is cancelled due to bad weather or low registration, we will make every effort to contact those who preregister and give you credit.

All trainings are held at the Child Development Council, unless otherwise noted.

Emergency Contact phone number during trainings is 607-273-6590 ext. 237.

**September 10, Saturday 10:00 a.m. - Noon Roundtable for Family and Group Family Providers** - includes Assistants - Meet around the coffee table with Laurie. Enjoy conversation with other providers and learn about what an environmental rating scale is, what it is used for, how it can assist you in improving your program, and the tools and ways we can help. (2 hrs. \*P, \*DCR)

**September 13, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Active Play: Fun Physical Activities for Young Children** - Learn fun, inclusive, developmentally appropriate physical activities that use inexpensive equipment, small spaces, and work well in home-based and center-based child care settings. View videos of 2 - 5 year olds playing, and try a few of the fun activities, too. Dress comfortably; weather permitting, part of the workshop will be held outdoors. Presenter is Diane H. Craft, PhD, Professor in the Physical Education Department at SUNY Cortland, who has co-authored books on physical activity for 2-5 year olds. Diane has also given many presentations, including statewide conferences in Utah, Kansas, Massachusetts, and North Carolina. (2 hrs. \*CD, \*N, \*P, \*S)

\*(Requirements: CD=Principles of Child Development, N=Nutrition and Health, P=Program Development, S=Safety and Security, BR=Business Record Maintenance & Management, CAID=Child Abuse & Maltreatment Identification & Prevention, DCR=Statutes & Regulations Pertaining to Child Day Care, CAR=Statutes & Regulations Pertaining to Child Abuse & Maltreatment, SBS=Shaken Baby Syndrome.)

## Child Development Council Workshops

9/10, Sat. 10:00 a.m.-Noon Roundtable	Free_____
9/13, Tues. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Active Play: Fun Physical Activities for Young Children	\$15 by Sept. 6, \$20 after_____
9/19, Mon. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Food Allergies (Free to CACFP Participants)	\$15 by Sept. 12, \$20 after_____
9/27, Tues. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Creative Art for the Developing Child (Free to CACCC Members)	\$5_____

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home (Local if student) Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Name of Program/Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Care \_\_\_\_\_ Facility # \_\_\_\_\_  
(FDC, GFDC, NS, SACC, Center, Legally Exempt, Other)

Home(Cell)Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Five Digit Number : \_\_\_\_\_  
MM/DD/YYYY

Email Address (recommended but not required) : \_\_\_\_\_

\*Your birth date and the five digit number will be used to generate a personal identification number for you in our training database. This information will be kept confidential. You cannot be enrolled in training without being registered and creating a personal ID number. This personal ID number can be used to allow CCR&R staff to access your training records and provide you with a training history/transcript that you can use to document training you have taken to meet OCFS requirements. In the future, you may also be able to access this information and enroll in training directly online.

Please send completed form and payment to: Child Development Council, 609 W. Clinton St., Ithaca, NY 14850

**The Council is developing our first on-line course – Toddlers and Literacy; What Counts and What Works. Look for it in the Oct. – Dec. Network News.**

**September 19, Monday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Food Allergies – Accommodations for Child Care Programs** - This training will help participants understand more about food allergies, and introduce common signs and symptoms. We will discuss ways to create a child care environment that minimizes risks for children with food allergies, including awareness of safety practices in food selection and preparation. Presenter Rose Boynton is a Certified Consultant with Protect Allergic Children. This workshop is **FREE for CACFP participants** from Tompkins and Cortland Counties. Limit 35; preference given to CACFP participants. (2 hrs. \*CD, \*N)

**September 27, Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Creative Art for the Developing Child** - Artistic creation is a natural form of communication. In this workshop we will explore why we do art with children and how to encourage children's artistic development. We will also explore materials to learn the properties of various media, so come prepared for some hands-on learning. Presenter is Anne Withers, Executive Director of the Cortland Area Child Care Council, who has been in the early childhood field for over 30 years. She is a life-long lover of art and the process of its creation. **LOCATION - Cortland Area Child Care Council, 111 Port Watson St., Cortland.** (2 hrs. \*CD, \*P)

**FREE Distance Learning Courses**

These are offered through Professional Development Program's (PDP) Early Childhood Education and Training Program (ECETP) approved by NYS OCFS.

Find them at [www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/learn\\_catalog.shtm](http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu/learn_catalog.shtm).

1. Managing Challenging Behavior: Birth to 18 Months  
1.5 hrs. \*CD
2. Keeping Children Safe: Prevention of Lead Poisoning and Other Dangers to Children  
1.5 hrs. \*CD, \*S, \*PD, \*DCR
3. Preventing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Promoting Safe Sleeping  
1.0 hr. \*CD, \*S, \*PD, \*DCR
4. Preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS)  
1.0 hr. \*SBS, \*CD
5. Mandated Reporter Online Training  
2.0 hr. \*CAR, \*CAID

**SUNY Video Conferences**

***Time and Location: Thursdays - 6:45-9:15 p.m. at the Child Development Council.***

***All video conferences are free. Doors are locked at 7:15 p.m.***

**September 15**

**Topic to be Announced**

***To register for Video Conferences: Send your name, address, phone number, the dates and titles of sessions you'd like to attend and Site #619 (Tompkins/Ithaca) to: Early Childhood Education and Training Program, 22 Corporate Woods Blvd., 3rd floor, Albany, NY 12211. Fax to (518) 443-5941 or register on-line at [www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu](http://www.ecetp.pdp.albany.edu) Note: All registrations must be made through SUNY Albany. To confirm your registration, call 1-888-399-0549.***

## New Ideas for Old Games

When you think of your childhood what do you remember playing? As we hear more about childhood obesity and too much “screen time” we may wish that today’s children could benefit from the good old days.

The Child Development Council staff put our heads together to brainstorm ideas of games or activities that we remember - not that long ago! If you are trying to break the cycle of children sitting, looking at a screen and using only finger (small-motor) motions with pieces of plastic, try some of these:

**Outdoors** - make mud pies, water play - swim, slip and slide, hopscotch, run races, hide and seek, kickball, bike riding, sidewalk chalk, three-legged races, sandboxes, make a fort, climb (tree, special structure), swing, Fairy Houses – make little buildings into towns with natural materials - stone, sticks, leaves, etc.

**Inside** - board games, matchbox cars, card games, dress up, “pretend” - store, post office, school; hide and seek - one child hides something small in plain sight while the rest cover their eyes and count to a specific number. Then the “hider” tells searchers they are “hot” or “cold” as they close in on the object.

**Out or In** (i.e. a garage or covered space) - scavenger hunt, jump rope, ball games - different sizes bounce, roll differently – clapping games with chants, marbles and jacks, pogo stick, *Mother May I?*, *Simon Says*, *Duck Duck Goose*, *Ring Around the Rosie*, *London Bridge*, *Red Rover, Red Rover*.

Do these bring back memories? If you’ve never heard of some of our examples, ask an older person or one who grew up in a different environment (city, country). Everyone has their favorites. Talk with your staff and children’s parents for other ideas. Keep in mind the goals of movement and non-gender specific fun, where children make up their own rules and don’t depend on grown-ups to tell them “how” to play. Watch and listen to see how their social, as well as physical skills develop. Enjoy the summer!

## Play in the Dirt

Summer just wouldn’t be summer without kids mucking about in the dirt. This year, let kids loose for some old-fashioned fun. Better yet, throw on an old T-shirt and shorts and get knee-deep in it with them! (Just keep a supply of soap and water handy for the after-effects.)

### Grow and Nurture in the Garden

Most kids love to garden, especially when worms, weeds and water are involved. Pull out a pair of kid-sized gloves and let them have free rein over a dirt patch. Encourage them to look for bugs, worms, frogs and to make the unthinkable – mud pies!

### Dig for Buried Treasure

To start, go through your house and gather some trinkets or toys you don’t mind burying. Next, put together a treasure-finding toolkit that includes a hand shovel, an old paintbrush (to clean off unearthed treasures), Ziploc bags (to contain what they find) and a map showing where kids should start their search. Then either bury the treasures in your garden (placing them in an area without plants is a good idea) or in a large bucket filled with dirt in your backyard. Give the kids their toolkits and watch them scavenge for treasures! For an extra bit of fun, have kids label their finds with made-up names and place them in a “museum” (or on a serving platter) to share with visitors.

### Build a Soil Castle

Forget drawing castles – encourage your kids to make one! Grab old margarine and yogurt containers and use them to mold soil from the garden into their own version of a sand castle. Make sure the dirt is moist but not overly wet (though you can always add more dirt if it gets too runny) and use leaves, sticks and rocks to add windows, doors, flags, etc. *Article written by [Kaboose.com](http://Kaboose.com).*

## Seen a Ladybug? Almost 11,000 and Still Counting; Help Scientists Solve a Mystery

New York State’s official insect – the nine-spotted ladybug, seems to have disappeared. Once they were plentiful in the Northeast; about 450 species lived in the United States. But in the late 1980s the nine-spotted ladybug virtually disappeared, until 2006 when two children and their families found a nine-spotted ladybug...in Virginia! Scientists at Cornell University have taken the lead in ladybug research since ladybugs play an important role in pest control. The Lost Ladybug Project is a nationwide hunt for all species of the insect, and Citizen Scientists of all ages can help. As of June this year, 10,889 ladybugs have been contributed to the project. To learn more, visit [www.LostLadybug.org](http://www.LostLadybug.org). You may send photographs or the actual ladybugs to Cornell.

For more questions and answers check out [www.ladybuglady.com](http://www.ladybuglady.com). To test your ladybug knowledge, try these questions:



### QUESTIONS:

- A. What do ladybugs eat?
- B. Are they poisonous to humans?
- C. What color is their blood?
- D. How many spots does a ladybug have?
- E. Where do they live?
- F. What are ladybug babies called?
- G. How many kinds of ladybugs are there in the world?
- H. What is the name for a bug scientist?
- I. What colors can ladybugs be?

### ANSWERS:

1. Tree canopies, crop fields, gardens
2. Aphids
3. No
4. Yellow
5. Larva
6. Entomologist
7. 5,000
8. 0-24
9. Red, yellow, orange, gray, black, brown, pink

A - 2   B - 3   C - 4   D - 8   E - 1   F - 5   G - 7   H - 6   I - 9



## Ladybug Games



*Ladybugs help keep your garden healthy by feeding on many common garden pests.*

Here are some fun Ladybug activities:

- ☒ Use a magnifying glass to examine a ladybug.
- ☒ Read The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle.
- ☒ Play “Pin the Ladybug on the Leaf.”
- ☒ Make matching pairs of ladybugs, each with a different number of spots and play a matching game.
- ☒ Using black beanbags, toss the beanbag “spots” on a cut-out paper ladybug.
- ☒ Cut out placemat size leaves to sit on, and play a version of musical chairs to the rhyme “Ladybug, Ladybug, Fly Away Home.”



**New CACFP Participant**  
Jeannette Robinson

## Summer Memories

### **Ann Eggleston's Taco Salad**

*Contributed by Darla Van Ostrand*

My Aunt Ann would often make this for our family reunion. So every time I have it, it brings back wonderful memories of playing games, and acting in family skits at our reunions. We always ended with a hayride, campfire, s'mores and singing.

1 lb ground beef, browned and drained  
1 pkg taco seasoning  
1 (8 oz.) pkg grated cheddar or taco cheese  
4 large tomatoes, cut up  
1 head of lettuce, broken into pieces  
Thousand Island dressing  
Corn chips

Cook beef with taco seasoning. Combine all but last 2 ingredients in a large bowl. Just before serving, toss with Thousand Island dressing and corn chips.

### **Dirt Bike Camping Salad**

*Contributed by Ann Turcsik*

When my son raced dirt bikes, the families of the racers camped together and shared a potluck meal. One of my favorite dishes is this salad.

5 lbs cucumbers, peeled and sliced  
1 lb bell pepper, chopped  
1 lb tomato, chopped  
1 lb onion, sliced

Dressing  
2 tbsp salt  
1 ½ pts water  
1 ½ pts vinegar  
1 C sugar  
½ C vegetable oil

Combine first 4 ingredients and chill. For dressing, mix all ingredients well and blend with vegetables. We often served this salad with marinated grilled vegetables, speedies and sliced watermelon.

# SUMMER FUN

## **Apple Ladybug**

### **What you need:**

Red Apple      Peanut Butter  
Raisins          Grapes  
O-shaped Cereal

### **What you do:**

1. Wash the apple and slice it in half. Cut out the core.
2. Place the apple peel side up onto a plate. Dab small blobs of peanut butter onto raisins and stick as many as you like onto the apple to make spots.
3. Slice a large grape in half lengthwise and use one half to make the head. Slice three smaller grapes in half and arrange them around the apple to make feet.
4. Dab a bit of peanut butter onto two pieces of "O" shaped cereal and stick on the head as shown.
5. Serve with extra peanut butter for dipping.

*Makes two snacks.*





**Child Development Council**  
609 W. Clinton St.  
Ithaca, NY 14850

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