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# The Provider

## A Message from the President

As I near the end of my second year as your president, I have had the chance to reflect on the strides that we have made at NJFCCPA. I have consistently attended meetings of the New Jersey Council for Young Children in Trenton. I am honored to be among my peers and sit on this council, representing NJFCCPA. The New Jersey Council for Young Children was established by Governor's Executive Order to maintain compliance with federal regulations. The Council's mission is to strengthen state-level coordination and collaboration among all early childhood programs. As family child care providers, we share responsibility, along with parents of the children in our care, as their first "teachers". It is so important that NJFCCPA have a voice and continue to be represented on the front line at state level. Family child care is becoming better known and respected as a profession. As family child care providers, we need to present ourselves as professionals. One way to do this is to continue professional development, with attendance at regular trainings, conferences and seminars.



The NJFCCPA recently held two mini-conferences; one in Central and one in Northern New Jersey. These conferences are a means of providing the opportunity to help all providers gain professional development. Providers can take this information and better improve, change, or re-think their own programs. Conferences are a great way to network and learn from other providers. I realize that I would not have been able to host these conferences without the support of other providers. I would like to thank you all for your support, hard work and dedication to the NJFCCPA. I would also like to thank all of our presenters! The NJFCCPA had two very successful mini conferences thus far. Please keep checking our web site ([www.NJFCCPA.org](http://www.NJFCCPA.org)) for more information about our third mini-conference, to be held in Southern New Jersey.

I am proud to announce our membership is on the rise! If you have not renewed your NJFCCPA membership, please remember to do so now. Because we are now an affiliate of the National Association for Family Child Care, you can become a member of NAFCC in conjunction with NJFCCPA for a discounted rate. Please see our web site for forms and more information.

I would like to end this report by wishing you a happy Provider Appreciation Day, celebrated this year on May 7, 2010! Make it a goal to reach out to another provider in your area or attend a monthly NJFCCPA meeting for support and networking. You just might make another provider's day – and your own! Please know that the work we do may seem daunting and unnoticed by others, but among your peers, you are respected and appreciated!

"The larger our numbers, the greater our voice."

Michelle S. Melgarejo

## A Message from the Editor

My name is Bridget Williamson. I became a child care provider in Gloucester County in 1998 and a member of NJFCCPA in 2009. I am a Nationally Accredited Family Child Care Provider and have also earned my Family Child Care CDA Credential. In addition, I am a Teacher Advisor for Scholastic's *Clifford* magazine. In this issue you will find some new features which I hope will become a regular part of *The Provider*. As the Acting Newsletter Editor, I invite all of our providers to participate in this newsletter by sharing their Child Care Tips or any other ideas they might have. I hope to hear from you soon!

Bridget Williamson

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New Jersey  
Family Child Care  
Providers' Association  
<http://www.njfccpa.org/>



*"Professionals at the Heart"*

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## **NJFCCPA Meeting Schedule, 2010**

**Sat Jun 26, 2010** Southern Region Mini-Conference  
& Quarterly Board Meeting  
BCCAP, Mount Holly, NJ

**Sat Sept 18, 2010** Quarterly Board Meeting & Event, Presentation  
"Family Child Care Fair"  
Central NJ

## **Resource & Referral Trainings**

**Sat June 5, 2010 and Sat Aug. 7, 2010**

**Child Care Connection First Steps FCC Mini-Conference**  
Mercer County, 9:00AM - 3:00PM

Register by calling 609-989-7940; NO FEE This mini-conference is designed to provide family child care providers with basic principles to enhance their programs and improve quality for the children in their care.