

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL EXPERTS
AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS KINDERGARTEN READINESS ISSUES

CONTACT: Director, SDA information
(555) 555-5555

August 11, 2006 – August is Get Ready for Kindergarten Month, created by award-winning author/illustrator Katie Davis after her experience writing the book, “*Kindergarten Rocks!*” This recognition supports children’s happy entry into kindergarten and kindergarten’s life-changing effect on children and their parents.

As you write back-to-school news stories, please consider the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (INCCRRA) and your local Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Agency as resources. These 16 local CCR&R organizations serve 102 counties statewide and exist to increase the supply of quality, affordable child care; to prepare individuals to enter the child care field; and to assist families in finding child care to meet their specific needs.

To help you think outside the box as you cover the annual rite of passage that is the first day of school for some and the return to school for older children, here are some unique story ideas to consider:

- We know the kinds of things parents do to get their children ready for school: shop for school supplies, buy new clothes, have their annual physical exam and adjust their sleep schedules. But what do early childhood teachers do to prepare? Interview someone from INCCRRA or your local CCR&R about professional development for child care providers. They can speak knowledgeably about what training opportunities are available and recommended, about what subject areas are covered, about opportunities available for teachers and child care providers to earn professional credentials and about children transitioning from child care to kindergarten.

- Many children get a head start on kindergarten by attending preschool – in some cases, they will have attended preschool for 3 or 4 years by the time they “officially” start school. Talk with one of our experts about what parents should look for when choosing a child care provider or child care center to ensure the best early childhood experience for their child. Our experts can also share with you information on how they link parents to local child care programs and how Preschool for All will affect those involved with early care and education.

If you are interested in pursuing any of these stories, please contact Marina Rolbin at INCCRRA at (309) 829-5327 or contact (name) from your area CCR&R at (xxx) xxx-xxxx.