

The Excellent Child Care Adventure

During the months of September, October and November, three IdahoSTARS team members toured the state visiting child care providers, touring child care facilities, and meeting with community leaders. Brenda Breidinger (IdahoSTARS Director), Julaine Ziegert (Directors of the Mentor/Coaches Program) and Jane Zink (Quality Rating System Specialist) enjoyed outstanding hospitality while learning something new with each visit.

What follows a short photo journal of our travels. We have included many of the good ideas and innovative practices at work around the state. Congratulations to our hard working child care professionals who are dedicating their lives to Idaho's young children.



Circle of Care, Post Falls
Director, Pascale Cafferty

Those frames in the entryway contain quotes from the children, changed frequently. One says "Dad, look it's a rainbow. That's Uncle Pat."

This is Perfect the Pig who accompanied us on all our adventures. She prefers Julaine's company but occasionally settled for Brenda or me.



The Cottage, Post Falls. Dana and Jim Hill, Directors.

These are baby hammocks constructed by the facility. They can be lowered onto the ground. They meet the criteria of the ITERS.

Close up
All in a row!

Using shower rods to pull quilts across and open hallway between two rooms. The hallway contains the changing station which serves both rooms.

Garden wagon filled with soft things to take little ones on walks and for use in fire drills.

IdahoSTARS wall of fame and Dana with Brenda and Martha.





Region 1 providers welcome us for a pizza party. Trevor kept Perfect the Pig company.

Stepped sinks at Prairie Children's Center. Kristine hays, Director.

Kristine (L) and Juliane looking radiant.

Close-up of the auto soap dispenser.



Christ the King Child Development Center. Barbi Harrison, center, with megawatt smile. Beth Atkinson, Assistant Director (R). Me on the left, looking not quite ready for the photo, as usual.

That parent bulletin board says "Parent Playground Volunteer Day Sign-Up" just right for Strengthening Families.



Teacher photos and bios outside classroom doors.



Food & Allergy alert with photo, description and classroom of each child, posted in staff room (left)



We talked a lot about softening ceilings and lighting. Left is a close up of filtering florescent light through fabric, and the full view is on the right.



Using lattice, lights, silk flowers and doodads to bring the ceiling down in the infant room.



Above: All that free stuff from Children's Home Society posted in pockets made from manila folders. You too can have this on your wall!

Baby Buggy/shopping cart, Costco sized, filled with soft things and used in fire drills.



On the left, art at eye level, ala ECERS at Angel Academy. Tanya Lilly, Director.



On the right, Tanya and Julaine looking radiant. Also notice the gauzy filters over the lights.