



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

---

**Administration for Children and Families**  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
330 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20447

November 14, 2002

Dear Participant,

On behalf of the Child Care Bureau and my colleagues at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, we welcome you to the Early Childhood Educator Academies. We are pleased with this opportunity to partner with Assistant Secretary Susan Neuman and her colleagues at the U.S. Department of Education in implementing President Bush's *Good Start, Grow Smart* Early Childhood Initiative. The Department of Health and Human Services has a lead role in working with States and communities to implement key features of *Good Start, Grow Smart*.

- The Head Start Bureau is launching a major initiative to train 50,000 teachers and to implement new systems of child assessment as part of a strategy to strengthen Head Start.
- The Child Care Bureau will be working in collaboration with States to set quality criteria to improve early childhood education using Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) resources. We will focus our efforts on:
  - 1) Early Learning Guidelines;
  - 2) Professional Development; and
  - 3) Program Coordination among CCDF, Head Start, public preschool and TANF resources.
- The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) will focus its efforts on research that identifies effective language and literacy curricula and teaching strategies.

In an effort to provide you with useful information as you work with your partners on this initiative, the following materials are included in this packet:

- ✓ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Programs
- ✓ Early Care and Education Technical Assistance Resources funded by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
- ✓ Overviews on early learning guidelines, program coordination, and professional development
- ✓ NCCIC State Technical Assistance Specialist directory
- ✓ NCCIC Online Library flyer
- ✓ QUILT Early Education Partnerships fact sheet

I look forward to working with you and your colleagues as we move towards implementing this important initiative for children and families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shannon Christian".

Shannon Christian