workshop evaluation, we can plan the next one for 2011. Our goal is to bring resources to the liaisons, directors and teachers. Professional growth in early childhood education is becoming almost mandatory. We want to lead the way and to give our center directors every opportunity to be on par with other centers in their communities.

Vendor
Mel Sattler is a committed Christian, serving schools, churches, and other organizations by supplying Bible-based materials for teachers and leaders. He graciously offered to come for the second time to our directors' workshop. The attendees had access to many resources for their classrooms. It was a great way for the directors and teachers to see the products first-hand and be able to walk away with the desired help.

First Scenario:
A new family comes to tour the school, trying to decide if this center is the best place for their child. The mom likes the homey look of the classroom. She feels good about the atmosphere and happy voices of the other children. Dad is checking out the security of the premises and the safety precautions the center has in place for emergencies and every day occurrences. Tommy has already found a friend and is playing with a group of children. Seems as if everything is a go. The center will welcome a new addition to the family.

Second Scenario:
Becky has been attending the center since she was three. She is five now and almost ready to graduate to kindergarten. When her parents first enrolled her at the center, mom and dad were very active, attending all the programs and parent/teacher conferences. As time went by, interest started to dwindle. Sometimes only mom would show up to parent/teacher conferences. In fact, no one has seen dad since… who knows when.

Third Scenario:
Davey’s parents came to the center out of sheer desperation. They told the director right away that they did not believe in God. They were not interested in religious programs or curriculum. They were there for only one reason-Davey was difficult to handle. Three other centers had dismissed him. This was the last place within reasonable traveling distance.

Do any of these scenarios sound familiar? What kind of questions are asked of parents when they show interest in attending our centers? Why are they choosing an Adventist preschool/day care center? Do the directors and teachers know the family background-culture, religion, family living arrangements? Do centers accept desperate cases because of numbers or is there an interest to help these families? How can we demonstrate that we care about the family as well as the enrolled child? How can we strengthen our relationships with those we serve? Can we retain clients by showing an active interest in them?

Presenters
The workshop began on Sunday afternoon. After the attendees arrived, registered, and received their packets, Lisa Cluff spent the afternoon giving away her secrets for success: building a good team and developing a professional, organized program. With personal details of her own struggles and triumphs, everyone present was encouraged. The directors are performing a vital work and they are doing it well!

Sharing and Networking
From the buzz in the room, it was apparent that getting the chance to come together to share stories and network with other center directors was the main draw of the workshop. Sometimes leaders feel isolated, like they are alone with the concerns and decisions that way them down. This time together offered them encouragement and knowledge that the challenges they face are not unique.

What better way to describe center directors and their dedication to excellence than to liken them to ants! Ants do not shirk from hard tasks or the every day menial labor that is required to keep their colony running efficiently.

Continued on page 4
Animal Handprints

The feeling of ooey, gooey substances squishing through fingers is much loved by kids of all ages. Take advantage of this in order to create fun memories and keepsakes. For young infants and toddlers who are still taste-testing, allow them to use edible items such as pudding. For older children, mix up some powdered, non-toxic, washable tempera paint to a desired, pudding-like consistency.

After donning smocks, use a paint brush to color the child(ren)’s hand(s). You might have better success if the children are allowed to play with the paint prior to the formal activity.

For special effects, try adding some glitter to the paint or using a glitter pen to outline the artwork, name, date and words. For help with how to add details for animal likenesses, look at a cartoon picture or do a search on the internet for how to draw cartoon animals.

For some really creative handprint ideas, be sure to visit funhandprintart.blogspot.com.

A few ideas for animal prints are:

Peacock, duck and other birds: Use the palm of the hand for the body, a fanned tail by spreading fingers wide, and a head with the first digit of the forefinger.

Four legged animals: Use entire painted hand with fingers slightly apart and thumb spread out from fingers. Once print is made, turn paper upside down so the fingertips are pointed down. Add little fish by painting just the thumb or forefinger and adding detail. When handprint is dry, draw or paint a face and other details including tail. Add bubbles by using white or light blue fingerprint.

Materials: Pre-mixed, bottled paint or Powdered, non-toxic, washable tempera paint or pudding of different colors; paper/paper plates/construction paper; or try fabrics, tile, ceramics, etc.; paint brushes; smocks; rags and running water close by.

Butterfly and dragonfly: Print palms and fingers with different colors. Place both palms close together, with closed fingers facing away from each other to represent the wing span.

Fish: Paint entire hand a bright color. Once print is made, turn the paper so the hand is sideways and the thumb facing down. Add little fish by painting just the thumb or forefinger and adding detail.

Spider or octopus: Paint fingers and palm, excluding the thumb and press one hand on paper. Then place the second palm so as to overlap the print with another one. Add detail to finish.

Central California Conference
Milpitas Discoveryland Preschool in Milpitas, California is looking for a new Director for the fall of 2009. Contact Robin Aaron, Education Associate for the Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 408-691-0956 or e-mail.

Northern California Conference
Discoveryland Preschool in the beautiful city of Pleasant Hill is looking for an outstanding Early Childhood Director/Teacher. This individual must have good leadership, management and communication skills. All interested applicants should submit a resume, application form, and three references. The application and reference forms can be found at Employment Page.

Southeastern California Conference
Loma Linda Children’s Center is looking for fully qualified preschool teachers. Must have 12 ECE units and preferably an Infant/Toddler class. FT long term temporary teacher needed for 1-2yr olds. Possibility of being permanent position. Also hiring substitute teachers for all age groups. Rate of pay depends on experience and level of education. Contact Teddie Hawkins at the Loma Linda Children’s Center for more details. 909-558-4568.

Southern California Conference
Wee Care Child Center in Sylmar, California is looking for a new Director ASAP. Contact Dr. Mario Negrete, Education Associate for the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists at 818-546-8400 or e-mail.