

## MEDIA ADVISORY: IMMIGRANT CHILD CARE PROVIDERS RECEIVE COLLEGE EDUCATION THANKS TO LOCAL NONPROFIT

### CONTACT:

Ileene Hoffman, 703-352-3449

Wynne Busman, 703-352-3449

[www.infanttoddler.com](http://www.infanttoddler.com)

Scholarships and Workplace English for Speakers of Other Languages Benefit Childcare Providers and Children in Their Care

**WHO:** Child Care Providers from Infant/Toddler Family Day Care:

Ethiopian Refugee, Sewusen Abdela  
Afghan Refugee, Saida Sultany  
Indian Immigrant, Nafisa Rawoot  
Pakistani Immigrant, Nighat Basravi  
Indian Immigrant Nishat Khan  
Sri Lankan Immigrant, Menike Rama

**WHAT:** Northern Virginia Community College Graduation

**WHY:** To receive their Infant and Toddler Certificate from Northern Virginia Community College, which allows them to provide quality child care and train new providers entering the child care field

**HOW:** These six women are graduating this year due to the support of Infant/Toddler Family Care and by completing a two-year, course of study in child development, observation techniques, infant/toddler programs, inclusion, and international communication. They serve as mentors for new Infant/Toddler childcare providers. Virginia scholarships and Infant/Toddler paid 100 percent of their tuition, fees, and books.

**WHEN:** May 9, 2006, 7:00 pm

**WHERE:** George Mason University Patriot Center

Interview Availability:

*Child Care Providers and Northern Virginia Community College Graduates, Nafisa Rawoot, Saida Sultany, Nishat Khan, Sewusen Abdela*

*Ileene Hoffman, early childcare expert, Founder and Executive Director*

- Hoffman can draw connections between early childhood development and success later in life; she can discuss how the combination of small, family-based settings and trained providers make a difference.

**GRADUATE BIOS:**

Sewusen Abdela lives in Arlington and is originally from Ethiopia. She left Ethiopia and came to the United States in 1997 under political asylum from Dubai. She did not have the opportunity to go to college in Ethiopia and is thrilled to attend NVCC. This experience has helped her get a better job and learn more about child care and communicating with parents. Sewusen wants to go on for her Associate's Degree when her husband returns from Iraq. Her husband is originally from Iraq and is working as a translator for the American military. He will return briefly in August for the birth of their second child.

**Saida Sultany, an Alexandria resident**, came to the United States in October 1997 for an arranged marriage. Saida is originally from Afghanistan and went to Pakistan in 1996 as a refugee. She states "Before the Communists came to Afghanistan, women had a lot of freedom and I completed a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from Kabul University." Saida spoke very little English when she arrived in America and English classes offered by Infant/Toddler Family Day Care have helped her prepare for college courses. She states that she loves to study and learn more. Getting her Infant and Toddler certificate at NVCC has helped her work with the children and helped her in communicating with the parents and she plans to continue studying for an Associate's Degree.

**Nafisa Rawoot lives in Arlington** and came to the United States from India in 1989. She did not speak English when she arrived here and attended ESOL classes. She completed the tenth grade in India and completed her GED here in the United States. Nafisa began caring for children with Infant/Toddler Family Day Care in 1991 and earned enough money to purchase her own home. Nafisa states that "Going to college has always been my dream. I had no access to college in my country, and Infant/Toddler gave me the opportunity by helping me apply to NVCC and obtain scholarships and by paying for books. Without this help I would not be able to go to college." Nafisa has completed two classes toward her Associate's Degree.

**Nishat Khan, a Kingstowne resident**, originally came from India in 1998. Nishat started preparing to be a child care provider with Infant/Toddler's beginning ESOL class and mentoring program due to the generosity of local funders supportive of our mission. She spoke very little English and is now a successful child care provider, an American citizen, and a college student. In India she earned a Bachelor's degree in Arabic and a Master's degree in Urdu. Nishat also is fluent in Hindi and speaks a little Persian. Attending NVCC has helped her improve her skills as a child care provider and caring for children has provided her with a viable income.

#### RECENT RECOGNITIONS

Infant/Toddler Family Day Care was recently recognized by the Community Foundation for the National Capital Region for its capacity, strong leadership and demonstrated outcomes in the area of workforce development. Infant/Toddler is among just 15 other nonprofit organizations to receive this prestigious award, which is featured in the Foundation's 2005-2006 *Spirit of Giving* Guide.

#### MISSION

Infant/Toddler Family Day Care has been bringing families together with our network of experienced and professionally trained child care providers since 1983. Our nurturing program provides care and early childhood development to children beginning at six weeks of age and beyond. With Infant/Toddler, children benefit from the special experience of forming lasting relationships with their provider in a small, mixed age group setting where children learn and grow through play.