

Family Matters

A Newsletter for Family Service Staff!

Welcome to Family Matters, a newsletter designed for Head Start program staff that provides comprehensive services with an emphasis on families.

January 2009

Fifth Edition

Child Development and Parenting

Looking for a way to keep Parents Informed about the current research and trends in Parenting and Child Development, look no further, http://childdevelopmentinfo.com/parenting/parent_behavior.shtml the Child Development Institute was founded by Robert Myers, Ph.D. Dr. Myers is a Clinical Child Psychologist with 25 years of experience working with children, adolescents, families and parents. Realizing the unlimited potential of the internet to provide useful information to parents, he decided to utilize this method to provide parent education that is current, relevant and easy to attain. Also, the amount of materials such as books, tapes, games and computer software available to parents for parent education and to provide self-help for their children and teenagers has grown exponentially. The Child Development Institute Store "ParentsMart" provides a select set of materials that have been found to be beneficial.

Health and Safety Information

Whether winter brings severe storms, light dustings or just cold temperatures, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has some valuable tips on how to keep your children safe and warm. <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/decwintertips.cfm> will provide you with Winter Safety Tips to share with your families. Also, feel free to include any of these tips in your articles or tip sheets to parents with the AAP as the source.

Early Language and Literacy Development

Many people believe that children learn to read and write in kindergarten or first grade. But developing literacy skills begins at birth through everyday loving interactions—sharing books, telling stories, singing songs, talking to one another, or pointing out and naming objects. Even painting, drawing or picking up things serve a purpose. These activities help develop hand muscles and coordination—skills necessary for learning how to write.

Adults—parents, grandparents and teachers—play a powerful role in preparing young children for future school success and in becoming self-confident and motivated learners. For more evidence-based research on how parents can support their child's language and literacy development view

http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_language

[ERIC Digest Parent Support of Early Literacy Development](#)

This Digest is intended to help parents support young children's literacy learning. It begins with definitions of literacy, and then follows with suggestions for parent involvement in children's early literacy development. Additional resources for supporting young literacy learners are included. View

<http://www.indiana.edu/~reading/ieo/digests/d164.html>

[Children's Media](#)

Find information about your child's development from birth through. See samples of how children's writing develops from early childhood through school years. Find DVDs and more from your child's favorite PBS KIDS programs and sign up for the PBS Parents Newsletter. View <http://www.pbs.org/parents/> for more information on this website.

[Community Resources and Services to Share with Families](#)

The Ohio Valley Educational Foundation, in partnership with school districts in Kentucky established a statewide Parent Information and Resource Center Program. The goal of the Kentucky Parent Information and Resource Center (KYPIRC) is to provide research – based curriculum materials and a trainer of trainer program for Kentucky collaborative partners and parent involvement leaders and to provide local, regional, and statewide support for parents to enhance their involvement in their children's education by implementing effective parental involvement policies, programs and activities that will improve children's academic achievement. To explore more opportunities about training sites and resources view the following website

<http://www.ovpirc.org/AboutKYPIRC.htm>

To gain more information about additional state, national and community information to share with your families, then view this website:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Instructional+Resources/Preschool/General+Information/Early+Childhood+Resources.htm> This website will provide you with valuable information to share with parents who feel the need to reach out for help/ advice and resources.

Attention: If you would like to contribute articles or share information regarding *Family Matters* from your personal or professional experiences; please send it to tony.kirk@STGInternational.com

Have a Great New Year!