

Family Connections Newsletter

Have a Fun and Safe Summer

Now that the school year is coming to an end, it's important to remember a few summer safety tips. The American Academy of Pediatrics offers the following suggestions:

- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside, reapply every 2 hours, use sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or greater, and use sunscreen even on cloudy days.
- Physical activities in the heat should be shortened and you should take frequent water/hydration breaks.



- Never leave children alone in or near a pool, even for a moment. An adult should always be within an arm's length providing "touch supervision".
- Make sure metal slides are cool to prevent children's legs from getting burned.
- A helmet protects your child from serious injury and should always be worn.

Dad's Playbook

Ever wonder where you can go to find games and ideas of ways you can help your child to become a good reader? Dad's Playbook: Coaching Kids to Read is a colorful booklet designed by the National Institute for Literacy just for fathers. It explains how dads can help their kids get the skills they need to become good readers. You can call 1-800-228-8813 for a free copy or go to www.nifl.gov/partnershipforreading/publications/pdf/Dads_Playbook.pdf to download a copy.



40 Ways To Change a Life

Why do some kids grow up with ease, while others struggle? Why do some youth "beat the odds" in difficult situations, while others get trapped?

Many factors influence why some young people have successes in life and why others have a harder time. Research by the Search Institute has identified 40 positive qualities that have a tremendous influence on young people's lives. And they are things that everyone can do or say. One of the 40 things you can do is, "dwelling on what children do right instead of what they do wrong."

New Booster Seat Law

Effective April 6, 2009 Substitute House Bill 320 was signed into law. **This law requires children ages 4 years through 7 years and shorter than 4 feet 9 inches tall to be in a federally approved booster seat.** Warnings will be issued for violations during the first six months, with citations being issued starting November 6, 2009. Law enforcement officials can cite drivers for a violation only if they are pulled over for another reason. Statistics from the Ohio Department of Public Safety show that in 2007, car crashes killed 36 children up to age 10, and injured an additional 6,197 children in the same age range.

Please see your Family Service Worker if you have any questions or need assistance getting a booster seat.



Community Jesters

Thank you to the Community Jesters for hosting an Easter Egg Hunt in Trenton, on Saturday, April 4, 2009. A good time was had by all. They also received clothing donations that they gave to the Head Start Program for families that may be in need of them.

In the Community

The Middletown Kiwanis and National City Bank-Middletown are sponsoring a Health & Safety Expo Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 10:00am-1:00pm at the Towne Mall Parking Lot. The cost is FREE! Featured guests include: Middletown Police, Middletown Fire and K-9, the State Farm Good Neighbor, and P.A.W.S. They will also have a bicycle obstacle course, health clinic, food, inflatable jumpee, raffles, music, and more.

Upcoming Head Start Events

Policy Council

Tuesday, May 5, 2009 6:00pm
Educational Service Center (Hamilton)

Supermarket Tour

Thursday, May 7, 2009 8:30am-11:00am
Meijer's Grocery Store (Middletown)

Muffins with Mom

Friday, May 8, 2009 9:00am-11:00am
Butler Tech Public Safety Education Center
(St. Rt. 747 and St. Rt. 4) Multi-Purpose Rm.

Fatherhood Picnic

Friday, May 15, 2009 11:00am-1:00pm
Rentschler Forest (Walsh Shelter)

End-of-the-Year Events

Friday, May 22, 2009 In your child's
classroom during classtime

From the Lane Libraries

By Gratia Banta, Coordinator of Youth Services

Narrative skill is the ability to describe things and to talk about events and tell stories. Researchers have noted this skill as one of the six early literacy skills that will help your child be ready to read. To develop narrative skills tell stories together, encourage pretend play, and let your child be a storyteller.