

Center for Early Childhood Education

Newsletter

Our Mission: To help all children in Howard County to be successful when they enter school.

Issue 58, January 1, 2009

Happy New Year! Our office will be open on Monday, January 5, 2009



The Right to Learn

In the words of W.E.B. Dubois: "Of all the civil rights for which the world has struggled and fought for 5,000 years, the right to learn is undoubtedly the most fundamental." You, the parents, grandparents, or caretakers of children, are the children's first teachers, and you are building the very important foundation for your children for this fundamental right—the right to learn. What are the blocks of that foundation?

Let me share with you information from a presentation I have been showing around our community at various clubs and organizations. **Physical needs** such as food, clothing, shelter. **Safe and secure** home where they are not afraid they will be hurt or experience inappropriate behaviors from the adults in the home. **Active participation** means to be able to learn by actually feeling, exploring, using, talking about a toy or item – not just being put in a chair in front of a TV all day. **Literacy experiences** such as looking at books, magazines, and other printed materials, talking about letters and signs they see, and talking about what words mean, or what word is used to name something. **Number experiences** such as counting, looking at numbers on the calendar, the clock, addresses, a ruler or yardstick, talking about money, time, length. **Social interactions** such as taking turns, using manners, listening when others are talking, paying attention when someone is reading to them.

We encourage you as we begin this New Year, 2009, to make time to spend 30 minutes with your children every day reading and talking to them. If you could read for 10 minutes in the morning when they are eating breakfast, and at lunch if you are at home, or when you do get home for 10 minutes, and at dinner or bedtime for 10 minutes. This will help build that literacy block. If you help your child count things, or look for numbers, or talk about

how many of something they have, it will help build the number block. If you bring them to the Activity Day, it will give them a chance to socialize with other children and adults to practice the social skills.

Make Up A New Rhyme

Use a rhyme you know and then see if you and your child can make up a new rhyme using some different words:

Hickory, Dickory, Dock	Hickory, Dickory, Dock
The mouse ran up the clock	I lost my red sock
The clock struck one	The clock struck one
The mouse did run	I had some fun
The clock struck four	The clock struck four
The mouse hit the floor	I ran out the door

One, two, buckle my shoe
Three, four, shut the door
One, two, the cow did moo
Three, four, the cow mooed more!

"A good poem is delicious—as delicious as a chocolate-chip cookie." Jack Prelutsky, poet

Is your child ready for college?

Well maybe not all the classes, but Little Learners Child Care on the IU Kokomo campus is open to toddlers (ages 1-2) and preschool (ages 3-6) children. The center is open to the public. Call (765) 455-9306, or e-mail childcare@iuk.edu for more information.



Make A Puzzle!

Here is a fun activity to do with your child. Make a puzzle! Cut up the front panel of empty food boxes, such as those for muffin mixes, cereals, or crackers. If your child is a toddler, you'll need to make just a few pieces, but four- and five-year-olds could have a lot of pieces. If the picture on the box isn't good for a puzzle, try pasting a picture from a magazine on the box before you cut the pieces.



Children Love Snacks!

Make snack time fun and encourage good eating habits early in life. Here are some healthy snack ideas for your child: Crunchy vegetable sticks with low-fat ranch

dressing, ants on a log (peanut butter on celery with raisins), mud and dirt (low-fat pudding with crushed graham crackers mixed in), fruit with non-fat whipped cream, or yogurt and graham crackers. The best drink to give your child with their snack is low-fat milk, 100% juice, or water.



For more information:

PBS Parents at <http://www.pbs.org/parents/nutritionfitness>

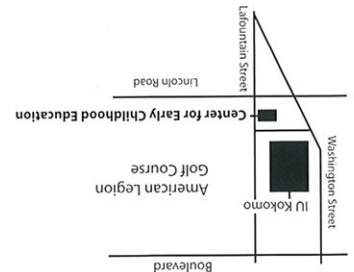
United States Department of Agriculture at www.mypyramid.gov/preschoolers



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