

Center for Early Childhood Education

Newsletter

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

Issue 70, July 1, 2009

Summer Changes

Totes delivered in May were picked up in June at their regularly scheduled time, but bags will not be delivered until September. We will notify you of your route number and when it will be delivered. As our data base changes, we need to adjust our routes. Those who pick up Totes may do so in August, but we want all our totes back for the month of July to replace items, add items, and clean any bags which have been used and to check our inventory against lost totes. If you find a tote bag in your home, even if you can't find the contents, would you please return it to us so we can use the bag again.

Activity Day will continue through the summer. In July, it is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, and for August it will take place on Thursday, August 13. We will also continue to have the room available from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. each week day, but we suggest if you are making a special trip to call ahead (765) 455-9466 or (765) 455-9427 to make sure we are open. With vacation time and reduced time for the staff, we may have to close for lunch hours and at other times.

Kindergarten Readiness

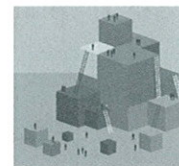
Don't forget – if your child is entering kindergarten this fall to let the school know where the child will be attending, and use the summer to review and practice skills that are important for success. Read to your child every day. A wonderful way to quiet down your child before going to bed is to read a story. Talk about the story you read, ask questions, ask about words you think your child might not know and what they mean. Read the story Little Red Riding Hood and talk about strangers and safety. When you're going someplace and come to a stop light, talk about the different colors and what each color means to do. Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date. Start a routine of getting quieted down and ready for bed at an appropriate time. We know it is still daylight long after your child should be in bed, but it will also be that way in August, so it is



important to start the routine early. A child will do much better with a good night's sleep. Also start the morning routine of getting up, eating a good breakfast, getting dressed, getting school things organized, etc.

Preparation for Math Can Begin at Six Months!

When you bounce your six-month-old child on your knee, chant in a steady beat and your child will begin to notice patterns. Use a large cardboard box and cut both ends off so your two-year-old can run through the box. Your child can learn spatial relationships which will be important for learning about geometry and numbers in school. Keep a growth chart on the wall and mark how tall your child is at each birthday. Your child will learn about size, growth, and measurement.



Buy pattern blocks, or cut patterns from construction paper or cardboard and see how much fun your child will have trying to match different patterns using several shapes. Let your child line up in order and stack your measuring cups. Buy or make puzzles with just a few pieces. Working puzzles helps your child with fine motor skills and they also learn there is only one piece for each space.



Little Learners Child Care

Did you know that the Little Learners Child Care program on the IU Kokomo campus is open to the public? The program serves toddlers (ages 1-2) and preschool children (ages 3-6). Call (765) 455-9306 or e-mail childcare@iuk.edu for more information.



Some fun things to do in the kitchen with your child.

Mini Popsicles: Empty ice cube tray, juice, fruit (grapes, raisins, cherries), toothpicks. Fill an empty ice cube tray with juice and put one or two pieces of fruit and one toothpick inside each compartment. Freeze and let your children enjoy.



Happy-Face Sandwich: Bread, peanut butter, raisins or chocolate chips, knife.

Spread peanut butter or some other sandwich spread on one side of a piece of bread.



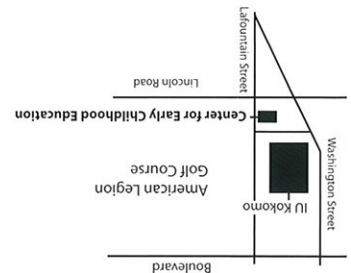
Have your child decorate it with eyes, a nose, and a big, happy smile using the raisins, chocolate chips, or some other small edible pieces.



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