

Center for Early Childhood Education

Newsletter

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

Issue 63, March 15, 2009

Reading and YOU

I've been "preaching" to you the importance of reading to your child and doing other activities that will build a good foundation for your child's reading success. A recent report from the National Early Literacy Panel also suggests that the years before kindergarten are critical, and YOU can help your children to read and learn by teaching them essential literacy skills. This report validates what many reading educators have already known; that a good foundation of language and literacy predicts success in school. Young children love to play, and the needed skills can be taught through play. Alphabet knowledge – knowing the names and sounds of the printed letters – can be taught by bowling at home! Save your empty quart-size milk bottles. Cut out letters and tape one on each bottle (learning 10 at a time) and use them for the bowling pins. Have your child roll a ball and knock down the pins. Ask, "Which letters did you knock down?" "Which letters are still standing?" When you believe your child knows those 10 letters, place 10 new ones on the pins. Also, play cooking and talk about following directions. Show your child the words on the recipe and say, "Add butter."



Story reading allows you to teach words and sounds. After reading part of the story, ask your child to tell you what you've read to see if they can remember. This will tell you two things: can they remember spoken information, and can they tell you using appropriate words and grammar?

Playing games by using letters from bingo, scrabble, (or put letters on old cards), can be used to have your child match letters or shapes.

Help your child begin to write his/her name or some of the letters of the name on paintings, drawings, or a card you are sending to a relative.

Reading and writing go hand-in-hand to build a foundation for reading. If you have nothing else in your home to read but this newsletter, please read it to your child. Have him/her "write" even if it looks like this!



Use a large crayon, a paint brush, or whatever your child can handle at his/her age.

Fishing For Letters

Ever see a sign like this hanging on a door knob?



Here is a fun game to play with your children to help them learn letters. Cut out 26 fish-shaped pieces of paper or cardboard. Have your child decorate one side and you write a letter of the alphabet on the other side. Place a paper clip on each fish. Tie a string to a stick and tie a magnet to the other end.

Place the fish on the table, floor, or in a box. Have your child try to "catch" a fish and then tell you what letter was caught. You can use this same game teaching colors, shapes, and numbers.



Don't Forget Activity Day

Activity Day is Thursday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We'll be making shamrock mobiles and painting Blarney stones!

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.



Do You Know The Number For Poison Control?



Kids are naturally curious. This curiosity can lead to them putting things in their mouths that they shouldn't. This can cause an accidental poisoning.

Did you know that most poisonings occur before lunch and dinner because kids are hungry and thirsty? Your house is full of things that a child can be poisoned with like medicine, household cleaners, hairspray, certain plants, and many other items.

One way to prevent an accidental poisoning is to keep items out of the reach of children. Do not keep items on your bathroom or kitchen counter.

What do you do if your child is poisoned? Call Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222. If your child is having trouble breathing, won't wake up, or is having seizures, call 9-1-1 immediately. For more information:

American Association of Poison Control Centers at www.aapcc.org

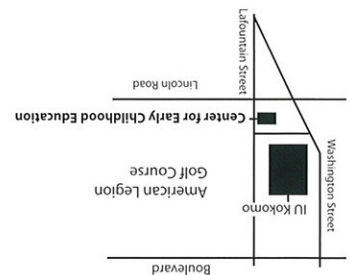
Indiana Poison Control at www.clarian.org/poisoncontrol



Center for Early Childhood Education

on the Indiana University
Kokomo campus

www.iuk.edu/ecec
ecec@iuk.edu
(765) 455-9427



CENTER FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
2300 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box 9003
Kokomo, IN 46904-9003

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
KOKOMO

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 112
Kokomo, IN