



in Macomb

January/February 2008

Volume VI, Issue 3

Early On sheds light on issues of infants and toddlers with special needs

This publication is for families with infants and toddlers up to 36 months of age who have special needs including:

- ❖ An established condition (a diagnosed physical or mental condition with a high probability of a developmental delay); or
- ❖ A developmental delay in at least one of the following skill areas: physical, motor, thinking, communication, social/emotional or self-help.

Local agencies representing education, health care, and community services have banded together through a federal program called Early On. The purpose of Early On Macomb is to put families in touch with the local agencies best suited to assist the family with its specific needs.

Early Edition is published by Early On families for Early On families and to shine a little light on the many services and resources available in the county.

Conference Reimbursement

Did you know that families may be reimbursed for attending a local conference that relates to your family? Our Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) has a policy in place to reimburse families for registration, mileage, meals, etc. up to \$150.00. Families must have prior approval and must attend the LICC meeting following the conference to give a brief summary of what you learned or found useful. For more information, please call Julie at (586)228-3524.

Early edition

A parent-to-parent newsletter

Parent to Parent

Last issue, a parent wrote: *"My daughter doesn't like to leave my side or participate when it is time to go to her MIPP class. How can I give her the confidence without thinking I'm pushing her away?"*

We received the following response:

Sometimes, just the comfort of knowing exactly what to expect helps children to face a new or different situation. Talk about going to her MIPP group. Recall with her some other children's names. Talk about what she might do there: sing a song, share a book, or climb over, under, around and through. Stay by her side while she is at MIPP, moving further away (but still in her sight) as she grows more comfortable. If she needs you to be by her side for the security of having momma close, then respect that need she has. She has lots of weeks and years ahead of her to separate from you. Don't force the issue when it is not really necessary. If you do leave her, make your absence very short and say to her when you return, "See, Momma always comes back!"

For the next issue, we had a parent ask: *"My child is a preemie that was sent home on an apnea monitor. She hasn't had any problems and the doctor is going to take her off the monitor soon. I am very nervous about this, even though she hasn't needed it. Any suggestions to help me still be able to sleep at night?"* If you have any suggestions or ideas, please send them to:

MISD-Early On
Attn: Julie Lagos
44001 Garfield Rd
Clinton Twp, MI 48038

Or, e-mail your comments to:

Jwilliams@misd.net

Early On Activities

All Early On activities are free to families enrolled in Early On/MIPP!

- **Parent's Night Out – Sleep Issues** – Wednesday, February 13th from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at the MISD. Adults are invited to a pizza dinner where we will discuss children and sleep issues. Childcare reimbursement will be available.
- **Families Together Event – Sports Spectacular** – Wednesday, January 16th from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Join us for a morning of an introduction to “sports.” Children will move around from station to station and throw, kick, dribble and shoot!
- **Families Together Event – Bumper Bowling** – Wednesday, February 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Imperial Lanes. Children will enjoy one free game of bowling. Please have children wear white soled tennis shoes, if possible.

Call Julie at (586)228-3524 if you have any questions.

Snow Play

This is a good activity when there is snow outside, but for whatever reason, you and your child cannot go outside and play in it...bring it inside! Get a large Rubbermaid container that is flat enough to allow your child to slide on the floor and still be able to reach into it. Fill it with snow from outside. Place toys in it like measuring cups, trucks, toy sand rake and shovel or anything else that sounds fun.

Banana Pudding

Ingredients:

- 3 medium ripe bananas, sliced
- 2 tsp peanut butter
- ¼ cup unsweetened applesauce
- ¼ cup orange juice

Combine all ingredients in a blender. Process until smooth. Your child can help smash the bananas before putting them into the blender. Place the bananas in a Ziploc bag and let them squish it. Also, you could let your child taste and smell each ingredient before adding it for another sensory experience.

The Rainbow Connection

(Conferences, Websites, Places of Interest around Macomb County)

Conferences/Workshops:

- **Parenting Young Children Classes** – CARE offers parenting classes for families of children ages five and under at several locations around Macomb County. Classes are FREE, funded through Great Parents-Macomb. Call CARE at (586)541-0033 for a class nearby class and start dates or visit their website at www.careofmacomb.com.
- **Teaching and Leading Children** – Series of classes for childcare providers working with young children under six years old. Designed to help participants understand young children and gain skills for relating effectively to them. \$28 workshop fee. Call CARE at (586)541-0033.
- **Abilities Center Workshop Series** – The Abilities Center is offering a series of workshops including: Tummy Time, Strategies for Parents to Promote Their Child's Development, Strategies for Picky Eaters and Problem Feeders, and more. Call (248)926-0909 for more information or visit their website at www.abilitescenter.com.

Places to Go:

- **Museum Adventure Pass** – Call or visit your local library and use your library card to receive a Museum Adventure Pass, presented by Macy's, and get a free admission for two or four, depending on location, at many area museums.

Birthday Club Freebies!

Free food on birthdays or after a certain time of day. Some you need to sign up for on web or at restaurant:

- **Bob Evans** – 12 & under only
- **Texas Roadhouse** – whole family can join
- **Famous Dave's** – whole family can join
- **Red Robin** – whole family can join
- **Rain Forest Café** – sign up for card and get coupons on Birthdays and Anniversaries and get preferred seating. Plus kids eat for only 99 cents after 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays
- **Denny's** – 12 & under only
- **IHOP** – Kids 12 & under eat free on Fridays
- **Lone Star** – 2 kids eat free when an adult orders and entrée. Free sundae on birthday.
- **Burger King** – 12 & under only (must fill out card at restaurant)
- **McDonalds** – 12 & under only (must fill out card at restaurant)