



in Macomb

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Volume VI, Issue 5

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.

Summer Scholarship

Enroll your child in his/her favorite summer recreational program and Early On/MIPP will reimburse your child's tuition up to \$50.00! It's easy. . . . find an activity (non-therapeutic), call Carmen at (586)228-3526 for pre-approval, sign your child up and pay the enrollment fee and then mail a reimbursement request form and the original receipt to Carmen. If you have not already received the reimbursement request form, ask your service coordinator about it.

Early edition

A parent-to-parent newsletter

Parent to Parent

Last issue, a parent wrote: *"Just before turning two years old, my son started grinding his teeth. Does anyone have any suggestions on how to get him to stop? It's driving me crazy and I can not get through to him."*

We received the following suggestion: I took my three year old to the dentist because he was grinding his teeth. The dentist told me this was something my son would outgrow. It wasn't to the point where he would recommend a special night guard. The dentist suggested that we may be able to control the teeth grinding by relaxing before bedtime. He suggested giving my son a warm bath, listening to a few minutes of slow music or reading a calm book in the evening. This helped us—hope it helps you too.

For next month's issue of Early Edition, we have a parent who is looking for special dinner recipes that are lactose free and/or gluten free. If you have any, please send them in to the address/e-mail listed below.

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

Families Together Events

Families involved with Early On, including those families in MIPP, are invited to participate in community outings.

These outings are free of charge and are intended to give families the opportunity to take advantage of the wonderful leisure activities and programs in our community, to meet other families in Early On, and to help their children develop and learn.

We hope these activities will provide positive social experiences for children while giving them the opportunity to practice their gross and fine motor skills, communication, cognitive skills, social/emotional and/or self-help skills.

June 25th - Breakfast at Fort Fraser
July 10th - Gemini Music Show
July 22nd - Soccer Tots
August 12th - Story Time & Craft
August 20th - Wolcott Mill

Watch your mail for individual flyers!

Sterling Heights Parks & Recreation Parent & Tot Playgroup

Creative playgroup packed with fun activities with both child (12 months – 3 years) and parent involved. Siblings welcome to attend if space allows. The fee for siblings is \$29.00. Two sessions will be offered over the summer:

Session 1 – July 14-16 and 21-23, 2008

Session 2 – August 11-13 & 18-20, 2008

Various morning sessions available for each session.

Watch your mail for a flyer with registration information.

Look for the “2008 Guide to Family Fun”. It’s filled with great ideas of place to go and things to do for families!

Paper Bag Puppets

Take a lunch size paper bag and let your child decorate it by gluing on feathers, construction paper for a beak and markers for eyes. You can make one also and have a puppet show!

Easy Dirt Cups

You'll need:

- Oreos
- Chocolate pudding
- Cool Whip
- A gummy worm

Place Oreos in a Ziploc bag and let your child crush them. Take chocolate pudding, some cool whip and some of the Oreos and stir together. Put some of your mixture in a clear cup. Sprinkle some more crushed Oreos on the top. Place a gummy worm sticking out of the pudding and enjoy with a spoon.

Infant Massage

Come and join us to learn the art of infant massage for infants (one month to crawling age) and their parents or caregiver. No siblings please, as babysitting is not available. Classes will be taught by Certified Infant Massage Instructors at the Clinton Macomb Public Library in the auditorium.

Classes held on Monday, June 23rd and Wednesday, June 25th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

The benefits of these techniques will be tremendous for you and your infant. Class materials will be provided for all participants upon completion of the two sessions.

Please call Shirley McMellen at (586)412-2685 to register.

Parent Coalition

The Macomb County Parent Coalition is looking for parents of young children (birth – 12 years of age) to join the Parent Coalition.

The Parent Coalition is a branch of the Great Start Collaborative – Macomb which is a network of public and private services and supports, working together to make sure every child in Macomb County has a Great Start and arrives at Kindergarten healthy, safe and ready to succeed.

As a Parent Coalition, they are an advocacy group designed to help spread the word about the importance of early childhood development.

Please call 1-888-4MACOMB or 1-888-462-2662 to join.