



Early edition

January/February 2007

Volume V, Issue 3

A parent-to-parent newsletter

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.

Parent to Parent

Last month's "Parent to Parent" concern was:

"My daughter is twenty months old and for discipline at home I use time outs. This has been very effective in working with tantrums with her in our home. When we are out shopping and she has a tantrum, without the ability to put her in time out, it is sometimes difficult to calm her down. Any suggestions?"

Parents replied:

- *"I am writing in regards to the 20 month old daughter. A suggestion I have is, while shopping or at a doctor's appointment, take along a blanket, a sippy cup, snacks and/or toys. It works for me all the time. I have a son who is in the Early On program that turned 2 ½ years old on December 30th and this works very well for him.*
- *Try not doing errands with your toddler during nap and meal times. If they are hungry or tired it will be harder for your toddler to be patient. I have learned to always pack some special toys and snacks in the diaper bag that they don't always get. Toys could be a small notebook and crayon, travel size magna-doodle or a toy figure like a dinosaur. Food snacks could be cheerios, fruit snacks or even a lollipop when they are older.*

For the next issue, a parent asks: *"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?"*

If you have any suggestions or ideas, please send them to:

Early Edition
C/O Michele Kraski
35139 Kensington
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Or, e-mail your comments to:

Jwilliams@misd.net

Help!!!

If you are interested in giving us a hand putting together this parent-to-parent newsletter, please call Julie Williams at (586)228-3524 or send an e-mail to jwilliams@misd.net. The Early Edition would also like to hear your suggestions for future articles or you can submit an article.

Simon Special

They say my brother Simon,
Is a special little boy.
But, he's not especially special
When he's hoggin' all the toys.

A broken Lasertronic gun,
Comic books all torn in half.
Who ate all the Hoo Hoo Pies?
Simon special? That's a laugh!

They say his facial features,
Make him different from the rest.
He's just like any other
Little brother who's a pest.

Bent my brand new baseball bat,
Smashed that wind-up car I got,
Always yelling, "Look at me!"
Simon Special? I think not.

They say my little brothers
Going to need more surgery.
But when we're playin' in the yard,
He seems just fine to me.

Climin' trees and monkey bars,
Up and down and 'round we go,
Laughin' 'til it's hard to breathe.
Simon Special? I don't know...

"A special boy, with special needs,"
Is what the doctors say.
But I don't find him special,
In a different/special way.

I hope that one day
They will see my ordinary bro.
Mean and ornery, sweet and funny,
Simon Special? Maybe so.

(Taken from "Fearless" by Bradley Harding and the Children's Craniofacial Association)



Play with Play Dough. . . .

Cloud Dough

6 cups flour
powdered tempera paint
1 ½ cups vegetable oil
1 cup water

Mix flour with the desired amount of powdered tempera paint in a large mixing bowl. Add oil and water and knead well. If necessary, add more water in small amounts, until the dough is soft and fluffy. More flour can be added if the dough becomes too sticky.

The Rainbow Connection

A listing of conferences, workshops, classes and events happening in and around Macomb County along with useful web-sites.

Conferences/Workshops/Classes:

- **Early Childhood Parenting Classes** – are being offered through CARE and are free of charge. Call CARE for more information at (586)541-0033.
- CARE's **"Parents on Parade"** 12th Annual Parenting Conference is on March 3rd. Keynote speaker is Ms. Pat Crum, Grand Rapids Children's Center. Please register with CARE at (586)541-0033.
- **5th Annual Fatherhood Conference**, Crown Plaza in Romulus, February 6, 2007. "A confence for those committed to fatherhood." Call (517)374-6472 for more information.
- **Siblings: I Can't Live with Them: I Can't Live Without Them!** Presenters Janice & Emma Fialka. February 15, 2007, 6-8 pm at the Monroe County Intermediate School District. Call (734)24205799 ext 1338 for more information.

Websites:

- www.fathersnetwork.org – Father's network celebrates and supports fathers and families raising children with special health care needs and developmental disabilities.

Early On Activities

- ❖ **"Do You Need A Hug?"** parent/sibling classes begin on February 1st at Rockwell. Call CARE at 541-0033 to register.
- ❖ **Parent's Night Out – Record Keeping** – February 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm at the MISD.
- ❖ **Mommy & Me Making Memories** – February 12th from 6:30 – 7:30 pm at the MISD
For more information about any of these events, call Julie Lagos at (586)228-3524.