



in Macomb

November/December 2007

Volume VI, Issue 2

### *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.

### *“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.

# Early edition

*A parent-to-parent newsletter*

## Parent to Parent

Last issue, a parent wrote: *“I have three children who seem to always find their way into my husband’s and my bed during the night. How can I get them to stop so we all can get a good night sleep?”* We received the following suggestions:

- Find out why they are coming into your bed. It may be a fear that you can help eliminate. My son was afraid of monsters. Just telling him that there is no such thing as monsters did not comfort him. I suggested to him that we find a monster chaser. We found a flashlight of his that spins around. I showed him how to wave it around in the air and say “go away monsters.” For about a week I had to remind him of it. He slept with his monster chaser every night for about a month and he has not brought up the monsters since. (If they are having bad dreams, you can either purchase or make a dream catcher. Hang it in their room and explain that it catches all of the bad dreams in the room.)
- My children are older and I told them that they could sleep in our room if it makes them feel better, but they have to bring a pillow and a blanket and sleep on the floor. This way it usually didn’t last for that long, and when it did, at least I could still sleep well.

For the next issue, we had a parent ask: *“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:

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

Or, e-mail your comments to:

[Jwilliams@misd.net](mailto:Jwilliams@misd.net)

Visit [www.misd.net](http://www.misd.net)

## SAND ART BROWNIES

(great for holiday give-aways)

Place in a jar in number order:

1. 2/3 tsp. salt
2. 1/2 of 1 1/8 cup flour
3. 1/3 cup cocoa
4. other 1/2 of flour
5. 2/3 cup brown sugar
6. 2/3 cup white sugar
7. 1/2 cup chocolate chips
8. 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
9. 1/2 cup chopped walnuts

Pack ingredients down after the sugars.

When ready to use, pout all ingredients into a mixing bowl and add:

- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2/3 cup oil
- 3 eggs

Bake in greased 9 x 13 pan at 350 degrees for 30 – 35 minutes. Enjoy!

## Make your own Wrapping Paper

First, make your own stamps by hot gluing wooden shapes onto empty film canisters. This makes stampers that are easy for little ones to hold onto. Then, wrap a gift using brown paper bags or brown roll paper used for shipping. Let the children stamp the packages with one color or many using the stamps. Add a pretty ribbon. These are especially appreciated by grandparents and teachers. Have fun!

## Recommended Books for Children

All Little Critter Books  
Brown Bear, Brown Bear  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom  
Corduroy  
Is Your Mama a Llama?  
Bear Hunt  
The Mitten  
The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and the Big Hungry Bear  
Runaway Bunny  
The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
If you Give a Mouse a Cookie  
Big Red Barn  
The Very Quiet Cricket  
PJ Funny Bunny Books

Happy reading!

## The Rainbow Connection

Conferences/Workshops:

- **P.L.A.Y. Project High Functioning Autism Workshop** – November 3, 2007 at Oakland Schools. Lecture and videotape case examples to help participants learn techniques for teaching social skills and improving behavior for children with high functioning autism. Call (248)926-0909 to register.
- **Home Ownership Seminar** – MSU Extension – November 27 & December 4, 2007 – Free two part program that provides basic information needed to effectively shop for and finance a home. Call (586)469-6430.
- **Alternative to Anger** – MSU Extension – January 5, 2008 at the MacDonald Public Library. Call (586)469-5180 to register.

Family Activities:

- **Read to Me, Rosco?** Will appear November 10, 2007 at the Fraser Library. Call (586)293-2055 for location, time and reservation information. Free program sponsored by Great Parents, Macomb.

Web Sites

- [www.migreatparents.org](http://www.migreatparents.org) - Click on Macomb County and find a variety of local supports and services for parents.
- [www.letsplay.buffalo.edu](http://www.letsplay.buffalo.edu) – Looks to provide families with ways to play through the use of assistive technology.
- [www.babyparenting.about.com/cs/activities](http://www.babyparenting.about.com/cs/activities) – activities and games to play with children.
- [www.disabilityisnatural.com](http://www.disabilityisnatural.com) – Thought provoking articles, products to promote new ways of thinking.

## Early On Activities

- **Parent's Night Out – Let's Talk about Record Keeping** – November 13, 2007 at the MISD from 6:30 – 8:30. Pizza and pop served. Reimbursement for childcare expenses.
- **"Families Together" Event** – Coney Island Dinner Night – November 28 2007. Watch the mail for more details.
- **Parent's Night Out – Let's Talk about Behavior Issues** – December 12, 2007 at the MISD from 6:30 – 8:30. Pizza and pop served. Reimbursement for childcare expenses.

*For more information about any of these events, call Julie Lagos at (586)228-3524.*