



in Macomb

September/October 2006

Volume V, Issue 1

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.

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.

Infant Massage

Calling all non-walking babies and toddlers, 18 months and younger!!!

Would you like to come to Infant Massage Class? It's very relaxing! Please have your parent call Carmen at (586)28-3526 for more information.

Early On Activities

- **Parents Night Out – Let's Talk About Early On 101**– Join us to learn more about the Early On system of services in Macomb County on October 16th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the MISD Building. Pizza, pop, great discussion. Reimbursement up to \$20 for childcare.
- **Family Fun Event – Sports Spectacular** – October 19th from 10:00 – 11:30 am at Joe Dumars Field House. See flyer for more details. Please RSVP to (586)226-4579.
- **Family Fun Event – Coney Island Night** – November 5th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- **Parents Night Out – Let's Talk About Behaviors, Temperament and Siblings**– Join us on November 13th from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the MISD Building. Pizza, pop, great discussion. Reimbursement up to \$20 for childcare.

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

Early edition

A parent-to-parent newsletter

Parent to Parent

Last issue, a parent asked: *“Help! My three boys (ages 2, 3, and 5) will be getting out of school soon and are constantly fighting with each other. Does anyone have any tips for getting them to play together instead of beating each other up?”*

- Believe it or not, if you have a playmate come over they will all play together-given that all three boys like the same friend. We have a friend that comes over who is the same age as my oldest and all three boys like to play with him. Just make sure you like the playmate, too. If he's a handful himself or wants to teach your boys bad behaviors, then it's not worth it.
- For me it helped if I took my kids to the park down the street to burn off some energy later in the morning. I also came to the realization that 2 and 3 year olds don't know how to share yet. If they're fighting over a toy truck—try having two.

For the next issue, we have a parent who asks: *“My son is in Early On. He likes the playgroup once we get there, but he will often give me a hard time when we are leaving the house to go. Any ideas?”*

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

Michele Kraski
35139 Kensington
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

Or, e-mail your comments to:

jwilliams@misd.net

Hot Dog Mummies

Take a Pillsbury croissant roll, lay it out flat and cut it into strips. Let your child roll the strips around the hot dog and tell them you are "mummifying" it.

Cook them in the oven until the croissant rolls are cooked.

Parent Exchange

The Parent Exchange is a place for parents to share with other parents. If you have or need advice, are looking for play dates, you cleaned out your basement and have some stuff that could benefit someone else, found a great new kid-friendly spot, GIVE US A SHOUT! Pretty much anything goes! Parents are one, if not THE, best resource around, and here is the place to share those resources!

To submit to the "Parent Exchange" call Julie at (586) 228-3524, e-mail jwilliams@mysd.net, or send your request to Early On, Attn: Julie Lagos - Parent Exchange, 44001 Garfield, Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

Nature Prints

Take clay and help your child mold it into a flat circle (or any other shape). Then, let your child press a pinecone, or anything with an interesting texture that you may find on a nature walk, into the clay.

Take a pencil and poke a small hole through the top of the clay and let it harden.

After it dries, they can paint the print and you can thread a string or decorative ribbon through the hole to display your child's creation.

Fall Family Fun

OktoberFest at the Detroit Zoo – October 7th & 8th from noon until 5:00 pm. The children's activity area will feature a straw maze, pumpkin decorating, arts & crafts, a giant inflatable obstacle course and face painting. \$5/child.

Zoo Boo at the Detroit Zoo – The Detroit Zoo's "merry-not-scary" family event. Runs October 19th -22nd and 26th -31st. Tickets are available for 6pm, 6:30pm, 7pm, 7:30pm and 8pm. Advance tickets only-available at Ticketmaster.

Houdini Halloween Celebration at the New Detroit Science Center – October 28th from 9am – 9pm. Halloween themed science activities and games for the entire family. Kids 2-12 wearing a costume will receive FREE general admission and a goody bag while supplies last.

Ford FunDay: Spooky Science at the New Detroit Science Center – October 29th – get into the Halloween spirit with live bat presentations and Halloween-themed science activities. Visitors receive complimentary General Admission on Ford FREE FunDays.

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. Three classes at various locations are beginning first week of October. Call CARE for more information at (586)541-0033.
- **Moms and Kids – Cooking and Communication** – Meets for four Thursdays beginning October 18th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm at the YMCA in Warren. Children should be between the ages of four and twelve. \$10/family for food, supplies and parenting workbook. Call MSUE at (586)469-5180 for more information or to register.
- **Howlin' Halloween Health Fair for Families and Children** – October 28, 2006 from 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the Macomb Community College South Campus. Presented by the Macomb County Board of Commissioners and Macomb Community College.

Halloween Safety

It's that time of year again when our little ghosts and goblins let their fantasies come to life through costume.

Some planning before your child's big night out can help prevent injuries that could ruin the fun.

1. Make sure your child's costume fits properly. It's okay to go a little large in order to be able to layer clothes underneath for warmth- as long as it doesn't impede your child's ability to move freely. Proper length is especially important to prevent tripping.
2. Masks should not block vision or interfere with airflow. Makeup should be non-toxic and hypoallergenic.
3. Materials should be flame resistant and children should be taught to be careful of lit jack-o-lanterns.
4. All costumes should be made of a material that is easily visible to others. If the fabric is a dark color or absorbs light, reflective tape can be applied to increase visibility.
5. Props should NOT look too real. You don't want to alarm police or fire officials. Also, they should be soft and flexible in case of a fall.
6. Have a separation plan. If you become separated from your child, which neighbors is it safe for them to go to? Or should they stay where they are? You can pin or sew contact information inside of an outfit for emergencies.
7. Carry a flashlight with strong batteries. A cell phone may also come in handy.
8. Only cross streets at the corner. Holding hands helps.
9. Do not cut across yards. There could be trip hazards that you can't see in the dark.
10. Make sure there is an adult present at all times.
11. NO TASTING!!! Do not allow children to snack while trick-or-treating. Eating a good dinner before leaving home can help prevent the urge to sneak a bite. Bringing a snack from home also helps. All candy should be inspected before consumption. Many police stations and hospitals offer free candy x-rays.
12. No running at any time!! It only increases the chance of a fall.