



Positive Parenting

By The Guidance Center's *Family Resource Center* and



Romulus Resource Center Opening



The Family Resource Center is proud to announce the opening of our new Romulus center. Our center is within the Burton Center Head Start building, located at 35408 Beverly Road in Romulus. The center is staffed by a parent support worker and an AmeriCorps member, who are happy to assist parents with any resources they need. Infant, toddler, and preschool playgroups will be held at the center along

with some evening events for families. A lending library will be available to families free of charge. The library will contain books, toys, games, and educational resources. The Family Resource Center's line of literacy bags will also be available for checkout. These bags contain books, educational cards, and activities to reinforce the ideas in the book. They are a fun way for children to learn. The Romulus Family Resource Center will be opening in late November. The official grand opening will be on December 15

from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Get out of the cold and stop by at any time throughout the day for the open house! Call (734) 785-7705 ext. 7053 with any questions. Look for our River Rouge center coming next year. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the date.



Volume 2, Issue 11
November 2004

Special Points of Interest:

- ☺ Resource Centers Opening
- ☺ National Reading Month
- ☺ Let's Talk Language
- ☺ Playgroups
- ☺ Outside and inside fall fun
- ☺ Books for children of all ages

Celebrate Reading



November is the national month to celebrate reading. Reading is the most important predictor of later school success. There are a lot of things parents can do to

encourage their young child to read. Let your child see you reading - anything. Books, magazines, newspapers - anything with the printed word so your child understands how critical reading is and can see you enjoying it. Read stories to your child everyday. Make a routine out of it. Bedtime is a great time to read a book, but you can read frequently throughout the day. Read stories your child picks out, even if it means reading the same

one a few times in a row! Point out how we use reading in almost everything we do - driving, working, shopping, all throughout our lives. Help your child become a reader!



Great Parents, Great Start Playgroups

Baby/Toddler Playgroup (Ages zero to three)

Mondays: 10:30 AM to 12:00 AM

November 1, 15, 22, 29

Preschool Playgroup (Ages three to five)

Tuesdays: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Preschool Playgroup (Ages three to five)

Wednesdays: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

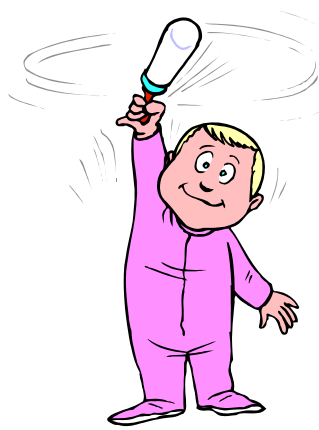
November 3, 10, 24

Preschool Playgroup (Ages three to five)

Thursdays: 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

November 4, 11, 18, 25

For more information or to register, call Andrea at (734)785-7705 ext. 7159.



Baby/Toddler Playgroups (Ages zero to three)

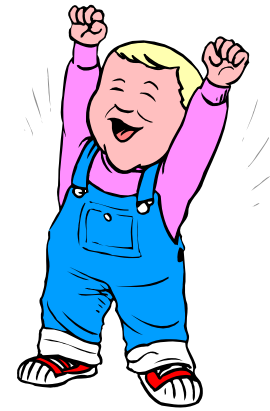
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Thursdays from 10:30 AM to 12:00 PM

November 4, 11, 18, 25

For more information or to register, call Sarah at (734)785-7705 ext. 7159



After Baby Comes is a support program that offers a home visit, weekly playgroup, and infant massage. In order to qualify for this program, you must be a first time parent with a child under the age of one year.

Playgroups are offered on Tuesdays from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM at the Family Resource Center. Playgroup dates for November: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

For more information about ABC, call Rachel Rosin at (734) 785-7705 ext. 7215. To register for playgroup, call Lisa at (734) 785-7705 ext. 7159.

Great Books for Kids



We often wonder why children get restless during stories or seem to be uninterested.

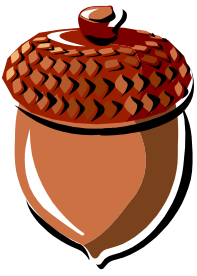
The key is to find books kids will be involved in. Even very young infants will like to look at books if it interests them. The best books for the littlest babies are simply black and white picture books such as White on Black or Black on White by Tana Hoban. These are sturdy, wordless board books that help stimulate vision development and help babies begin to understand that pictures go along with words and that shapes have meanings. For older babies, board books are still the best bet. Simple books with one word on each page

are ideal for this age. Books with pictures of other babies in them are fascinating to babies. Some examples are Peek-A-Boo by Roberta Grobel Intrater or Faces: A Baby and Blue book by Jenny Miglis. As babies get older and become toddlers, their attention span increases a little bit for longer books. Interactive books are fun for young toddlers. The Touch and Feel Farm book by DK Publishing is a wonderful book for including tactile senses as well as increasing vocabulary. Rhyming books are fun for kids of all ages. Dr. Seuss books are good for older children as they can be a bit much for toddlers to sit through. A good rhyming book for toddlers is Chicka Chicka abc by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. Clap Your Hands by Lorinda Bryan Cauley is a fun book for preschoolers. It

incorporates the use of large muscles through the directions in the book and helps increase coordination while the rhyming text is fun to listen to. Predictable books such as Brown Bear, Brown Bear by Bill Martin Jr. and The Little Red Hen by Byron Barton are good for involving preschoolers. They can predict the next page or set of words, which is an important early reading skill. Keep books simple, interactive, and available for young children and it will foster a lifetime love of reading.



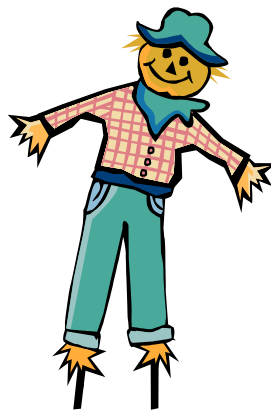
Fun Fall Activities



Autumn is a wonderful time of year to go outside and have fun. With all the different trees changing colors, going outside is a

perfect way to observe nature up close. Go for a walk in the woods or in a park and bring along some snacks, jackets, and water. Kids can collect leaves and make leaf rubbings at home using copy paper and crayons. Have a treasure hunt. Bring along some small paper bags and children can collect acorns, seeds, leaves, and other findings along the way. Make autumn placemats out of collected leaves. Glue them to construction paper and cover with contact paper. These should last for about two weeks. It is always fun to go to an apple orchard as well. Apples make great craft projects - just cut them in half, dip in some paint, and stamp onto paper or bags to make decorations. Drawing trees with empty branches is another fun, creative, inexpensive project. Kids can glue on leaves they find on their nature walks. If there are a lot of leaves in your yard to be raked, rake a twisting path through them and then follow it around your yard. Hide a wrapped

lollipop under a pile of leaves - whoever finds it first gets to keep it. Stuff a scarecrow with leaves raked from the yard. Use old clothing -



jeans and a flannel shirt are great. Iron pretty leaves you find between two pieces of wax paper with an iron on a low setting. Put a

piece of regular paper over the wax paper before you iron it to make sure it does not melt. These make great sun catchers when you are finished. Hang them in the window for your family to enjoy. It's always fun to rake the leaves into a huge pile and jump in! Make leaf people out of leaves you find. Glue onto a piece of construction paper, and then let your child draw arms, legs, and whatever else onto it. Make a torn paper tree. Rip up pieces of brown construction paper for the trunk and yellow, red, and orange for the leaves. Let your child help you rip up the paper. They can then glue on the pieces in the shape of a tree. This is a fun hands-on activity for kids - they love ripping up the

paper. Attach leaves to a hanger with different lengths of string to make mobiles and then hang up



around your house. Kids can paint using leaves as their paintbrushes. This creates a different effect on their paper. Older children can collect a bag of leaves outside and then sort them by type, color, or shape inside. This is an important math skill, along with counting the leaves that they find. For younger children, set out two of each kind of leaf and have them find the matches. This is also a math activity. Sing this fun fall song with your children as you collect leaves. Sing to the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".

Leaves are falling on the ground
Falling down, falling down.
Red, yellow, orange and brown,
All the leaves are coming down.
Now it's time to rake them all
I can't wait for next year's fall!
Have a wonderful autumn season!

Let's Talk Language Tip



"Let's Talk" Language Infant Tip:

Sing as often as you can to your baby. Sing familiar songs or make up your own about things in the room, things you see when you're in the car, or what you are doing. The words do not have to rhyme as long as you sing about everyday things with a positive attitude. This will help baby start to recognize patterns and words.



Mission Statements

Everybody Ready

Our Vision: All children will be physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially and spiritually prepared to enter kindergarten “Ready to Learn, Ready to Succeed, Ready for Life” through the love, nurture and support of their families, their caregivers and their communities.

Our Mission: Everybody Ready engages the community to support families and caregivers as they meet the needs of children 0-5.

Please check out our website www.everybodyready.com. On it you will find upcoming events for children 0-5, and information telling you all about Everybody Ready. Look for our open quarterly meetings. We always have a keynote speaker talking about issues of young children.

Please call 734 282-5497 with any questions.

Family Resource Center

The Guidance Center’s Family Resource Center’s mission is to provide comprehensive, research-based family support services to enhance families’ capacity to support the growth and development of all family members — adults, youth, and children, as well as the community.

Infant Massage

The Family Resource Center is pleased to offer a free infant massage class to parents of babies ages one month to crawling. Learn to nurture your baby with infant massage. The many benefits of infant massage include:

- ◆ Bonding – enhances communication and encourages positive interaction.
- ◆ Relief for baby from discomforts such as teething, colic, congestion, gas, and emotional distress.
- ◆ Relaxation – helps baby sleep deeper and longer.
- ◆ Helps parents feel more competent and confident in their parenting role.

Our qualified instructor will guide you through the infant massage process with demonstrations and handouts for you to keep. For more information, please call the Family Resource Center at (734) 785-7705, ext. 7053.



Family Resource Center
15601 Northline
Southgate, MI 48195
(734)785-7705 ext. 7053

Everybody Ready
One Heritage Place
Suite 230
Southgate, MI 48195
everybodyready@yahoo.com
(734)282-5497

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