



A NEW Publication of Smart Start of Butler County

What Will We Name It?

Smart Start was excited to debut our new community-based newsletter in May. Over the past two months, we have asked our community partners, child care providers, and parents who receive our newsletter to offer recommendations for the name. We have been collecting those names in our office.

On Wednesday, July 20, the Smart Start Advisory Committee will meet and discuss the list of recommended names. The advisory committee will choose a new name for the newsletter from that list.

We are excited about this new publication for Butler County Early Childhood Professionals and the families they serve. What should we name it? There is still time to send in suggestions. Email Smart Start Coordinator, Audra: akenneson@rui.org



Rock Concert for Kids at Andover Library

Mix one 6-foot, 6-inch blue eyed tree frog with a singing scientist and you have a recipe for a rock concert for kids. Flumpa (the frog) and Wendy Whitten (the scientist) will perform at **6:30 pm, Monday, July 11 at Andover Public Library & is FREE to the public.**

Flumpa & Friends Live is a fun, unique, one-of-a-kind performance that includes all original music with high energy movement and audience participation!

2011 marks the 17th year of the nation-wide performance of Flumpa & Wendy'. They have entertained more than four million fans with over 6,500 shows at science and children's museums, zoos, aquariums, festivals, schools, libraries, parks and malls across the country.



Flumpa is the childhood invention of Wendy Whitten who has a degree from the University of Maryland in

agriculture and life sciences with additional studies in vocal performance and dance. The show is based in Nashville, TN.

The Los Angeles Daily Times stated: "Flumpa and Friends Live! Educates and entertains young minds through clever lyrics and rockin' beats. They capture youngsters' imaginations and even the parents get into the spirit."

For more information contact the Andover Public Library at 558.3500.

A Community-Based Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Friday, July 8, 2011

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Be a Friend of Rainbows

You can support the work of Rainbows and allow the wonderful services you have received to continue. To find out more visit www.rucfoundation.org or give us a call in the Butler County office: 320.1342.



Upcoming KDHE Approved Trainings for Providers



Troy Jellison's helper, Dylan Woodbridge helps Jeremy Southard in class, as Almedia Southard and Daphne Drake look on.

Heart Saver CPR

When: Saturday, July 23

Time: 8 am—Noon

Where: BCC Welcome Center

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Heart Saver Pediatric First Aid

When: Saturday, June 25

Time: 1 pm—4 pm

Where: BCC Welcome Center

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Sensory Soundoff: Sensory Issues in the Child Care Setting

When: Thursday, July 28

Time: 6 pm to 8 pm

Where: BCC EduCare

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Kara Knight, OT &

Kathy Van Zelfden, LMSW

Signs & Symptoms Abuse & Neglect

When: Thursday, September 8

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: To Be Announced

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Audra Kenneson, LMSW

Upcoming Trainings by Community Partners

Day Care Orientation Training

Information about the licensing regulations and what you need to do to become a licensed child care provider will be given at these free trainings, by the Butler County Health Department. For more information contact Jamie Downs at 320.0365. Upcoming dates: June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16

Child Start Trainings in Butler

When: July 11; 6:30pm -8:30pm

Title: Adventurous Group Games for School Age Students: Active Social Play

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$18

Instructor: Annette Green

Child Start Training

For College Credit

Step One: Attend 10 hours of level 3 instruction within the program year

Step Two: Submit certificates, along with tuition, to be converted into one college credit hour.

For more information about Child Start trainings contact 682.1853.

"Dad and Me" June Events Successful



The Butler Dads and Smart Start of Butler County hosted "Our Time: Dad and Me" events on Saturdays during the month of June. A combined 58 children attended the events throughout the county with their male parents.

Events were held at Whitewater Swiss Church, Augusta Public Library, Bradford Memorial Library, Andover Public Library and Rose Hill Public Library. The Andover and Rose Hill Fire Departments volunteered to bring trucks! Smart Start wishes to thank the MANY people who volunteered in this count wide month of events!



Most importantly, we wish to thank Pastor Mark Wirth, of First Nazarene Church in El Dorado for coordinating the fun events.



Smart Start and Pastor Mark are looking for a volunteer to help us as we prepare plans for next year's June events. **If you are a dad who wants to be involved in the fun, contact Audra at 320.1342.**

Incredible Years Parent Training Series

Smart Start has offered *Incredible Years* parent training classes since 2007. This 12-week class is designed to promote social competence and prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and related conduct problems in babies, toddlers, young children, and school-aged children. The class is offered three times a year and is available to Butler County parents whose children reside in their care.

The current session of this series will end in August and a new session will start in September. A free family meal is served before class begins and quality child care is provided at no cost to the parents. For more

information on how to enroll in this FREE program, contact Audra at 320.1342.

The short-term goals of the series are to:

1. Strengthen children's social skills and appropriate play skills (turn taking, waiting, asking, sharing, helping, etc.).
2. Promote children's use of self control strategies such as effective problem solving steps.
3. Increase emotional awareness by labeling feelings, recognizing the differing views of oneself and others and enhancing perspective taking.

4. Boost academic success, reading and school readiness.
5. Reduce defiance, aggressive behavior, and related conduct problems such as noncompliance, peer aggression and rejection, bullying, stealing and lying.
6. Decrease children's negative cognitive attributions and conflict management approaches.
7. Increase self-confidence and self-esteem.



Teaching Children Manners

Most parents want to teach their child to use appropriate words and behaviors that treat other people with respect. Basic manners can be taught at a very young age and expanded upon as children mature. Take the ideas below and expand upon them as your child's developmental ability allows.

1. **Be a Role Model:** Children do what they see adults do. Use Please, thank you, and excuse me when speaking with friends,

family and strangers. Explain your actions so children can learn from what you model.

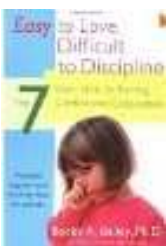
2. **Set Expectations:** When kids are prepared for events, they are more likely to respond appropriately. Discuss manners before a situation arises. When children forget manners, politely remind them but do not embarrass them.
3. **Role Play:** A fun way to prepare children is to practice manners by acting out the situation they will

experience that requires the use of their manners.

4. **Be Consistent:** Mixed messages are confusing. Remind kids to use polite words all the time and treat all people with respect.
5. **Use Visuals:** Use books, pictures, and create art about people using their manners.
6. **Praise Children:** When kids use manners BE SURE TO PRAISE THEM and tell them WHY their behavior was appropriate.

Smart Start Lending Library

Two of the most popular books in our Smart Start library are good, helpful books. Have you ever checked them out?



Easy to Love, Difficult to Discipline You love your children, but if you are like most parents, you do not always love their behavior. This

book focuses on self-control and confidence building for both parent and child to help families move from turmoil to tranquility.

I Love You Rituals offers more than seventy rhymes and games that enhance children's social, emotional, and school success. These positive nursery rhymes, interactive finger

plays, soothing games, and physically active can be played with children from infancy through age eight.

This book is a good compliment to the Easy to Love book. Both are written by Becky Bailey, PhD.

