



Butler Kids

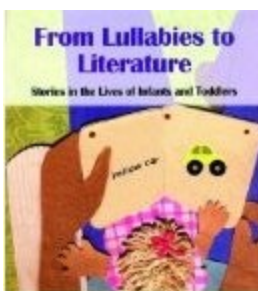
Tell that Story!

The public focus on literacy has made many families anxious about their children's progress in this area. They may be unsure about what they and their children's caregivers should be doing to support literacy development and learning. Caregivers can reassure families that sharing stories and talking with their child as part of everyday life is the best way to nurture literacy and provide the foundation for future literacy development.

Often family members will ask caregivers about some of their practices. In the case of literacy learning, a parent in a group of older toddlers may ask, for example, "Why aren't you teaching children to recognize letters of the alphabet?" [Or, "Why aren't you doing alphabet work sheets?"] When caregivers have a good understanding of the reasons for the experiences they

offer (and don't offer!) and the many ways those experiences support literacy learning, they can answer such questions convincingly and to families' satisfaction.

In high-quality early childhood care and education programs, families and caregivers always work in partnership or collaboration, communicating openly and sharing information and perspectives about the child and the child's care [and learning] experience.



This excerpt was taken from a the book *From Lullabies to Literature: Stories in the Lives of Infants and Toddlers*, which can be found in the Smart Start Library.

New Incredible Years Class Scheduled

Smart Start of Butler County is pleased to offer another session of free parenting classes to residents of Butler County. *The Incredible Years Parent Training Series* is designed to promote social competence and prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and related conduct problems in young children.

The 12-week long class will begin on Monday, September 19 in Andover, KS. A free family meal will be served and free child care will be provided.

Goals of the class are to: strengthen children's social skills and promote children's use of self-control strategies; increase emotional awareness, and school readiness; reduce defiance, aggressive behavior, and related conduct problems; enhance conflict management approaches; and increase self-esteem and self confidence.

Fast Facts

When: September 19

Where: Andover

Meal Time: 5:30

Class Time: 6:00—8:00

Who Can Register: Any resident of Butler County who currently have children in the home

Cost: Free

How to Register: Contact Audra at 320.1342

**MUST BE REGISTERED
TO ATTEND**

A Community-Based Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

Friday, September 2, 2011

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Try Popeye Ice Cream!

6 oz. (3/4 c) Half & Half

1/3 c Sugar

1 1/2 Tbsp Vanilla

2/3 c Nonfat Dry Milk

2-3 c Raw Spinach

2 1/2—3 c Ice

Place all ingredients in blender jar in order as listed & secure lid. Blend/chop. You won't believe it has spinach!

Upcoming KDHE Approved Trainings for Providers

Please note: some of our training dates have changed.

To register, contact Audra at 320.1342 or akenneson@rui.org

Signs & Symptoms Abuse & Neglect

When: Thursday, September 8

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Audra Kenneson, LMSW

Safe Slumber

When: Saturday, September 24

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Where: 1600 State Street; Augusta (New Generations Christian Learning Center)

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Jamie Downs, LBSW & Audra Kenneson, LMSW

Safe Slumber trainers in Butler County: Audra Kenneson, Sue Barrientos, Brooke Wolf, and Jamie Downs

Heart Saver CPR

When: Saturday, October 8

Time: 8 am to Noon

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Heart Saver Pediatric First Aid

When: Saturday, October 8

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Safe Slumber

When: Saturday, November 5

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Where: TBA

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Jamie Downs, LBSW & Audra Kenneson, LMSW

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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 of Orientation are: September 19, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

In automobile terms, the child supplies the power but the parents have to do the steering.

~ Dr. Benjamin Spock

Child Start Trainings in Butler

When: Monday, September 19

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Daily Experiences—Understanding the Whole Child

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

When: Monday, October 3

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Daily Experiences—Planning Experiences for Children

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

When: Monday, November 21

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Guiding Children: Interactions with Children

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$30

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

For more information about Child Start trainings contact **682.1853** or visit **www.childstart.org**. The website allows you to update vacancy and profile information, register for trainings, search the resource library, and learn more about Child Start Services.

KAEYC Professional Development Event

On October 1, there will be a flood of people heading to Manhattan for the annual KAEYC Professional Development Event.

The Preconference Session on Friday, September 30 begins at 7 pm. Kelly Matthews, the keynote speaker for the event, will be presenting "Conflict, Power Struggles, & That Darn Chair." Kelly Matthews is from Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

The day-long conference on Saturday will have a wide variety of presentations presented in three different sessions. The keynote

addresses paying attention to the mixing of rituals and relationships. Ms. Matthews will be providing featured presentations throughout the training day.

Content tracks are available at the event in the following areas: Family Childcare, Infant/Toddler, Standards/Assessments, Curriculum, Social-Emotional Development, Nature/Outdoors, Literacy Development, and Leadership/Administration.

Fees vary, depending on membership in KAEYC and whether or not the

participant is a student. **Check out registration information online at www.kaeyc.net.**

Smart Start is offering a limited amount of reimbursement scholarships for this event. If you are interested in learning more, contact Audra at akenneson@rui.org or call her at 320.1342.

All of us have moments in our lives that test our courage. Taking children into a house with a white carpet is one of them. ~ Erma Bombeck

Strategies for Developing Classroom Friendships

From: Sandbox Learning

Children spend a significant amount of time in the classroom which is a wonderful environment to build lasting friendships.

1. Activities: Create situations where children collaborate. Small group projects like creating a collage where children have roles such as writer, picture locater, materials cutter, help them focus on a task and interact on completing it.

2. Direct Instruction: Role play and have group discussions about meeting someone new, having a

conversation, sharing, and being a good sport can illustrate aspects of the skills children need. Rehearse scenarios to practice real-world situations.

3. Bridge Home & School: Include information about friends in notes home. "Alex played cars with his friend Sarah in the sandbox." Parents, ask your child about who she played with or worked with at school.

4. Activities Outside the Classroom: Joining a new activity with a classmate is a way to encourage

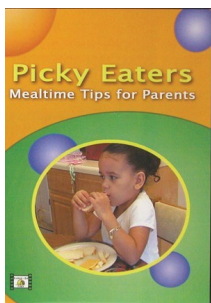
friendship outside of school and have the support of an existing friend at the new event. Participating with someone the child knows is a way for them to have additional common interests.

5. Don't Pressure Children: Teaching children the basics of being good to peers is important. Sometimes children develop close friendships, other times they will remain classmates. Do not force a friendship, but encourage children to share, say kind things and be good to their classmates.

Smart Start Lending Library

Have you ever checked an item out from the Smart Start Library? It's easy! Call Audra at 320.1342 or send her an email: akenneson@rui.org.

[Picky Eaters: Mealtime Tips for Parents](#) This 9 minute video is designed to



offer strategies for parents who feel they are struggling with picky eaters. Real moms share their frustrations. Key steps toward preventing mealtime battles are discussed, along with suggestions on how to prepare foods in fun and enticing ways.

[So Much!](#) In this book, a baby boy is showered with love from his

relatives as the clan gathers for a celebration in this exuberant picture book. The baby waits at the window with Mom, not "doing anything...nothing really," when, one by one, family members ring the doorbell and make a grand entrance.



Meet a Butler Early Childhood Professional from Rose Hill

Wee Rockets Child Development Center and Preschool promotes the United Methodist philosophy by modeling and teaching the values of Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Honesty. Mandy Swaney became the director of Wee Rockets in June 2008 and it is her job to encourage her staff to follow this philosophy.

Mandy grew up in Yates Center and after graduating high school in 1988, she moved to Rose Hill where she got her first taste of early childhood by babysitting a couple of her friends' kids. A few months later, she became a registered provider. The lure of a 'real' job took her away for a few years but she returned as a licensed provider. However the corporate world came calling again and kept her busy until May 2006 when she joined Wee Rockets. Her first year at the center, she was the office assistant.

Her second year she was the Pre-K teacher and started taking classes at Butler Community College to pursue a nursing degree. When the director position became available, Mandy felt God nudge her to apply. When she



Mandy Swaney, Director of Wee Rockets CDC and her family of Jayhawk fans.

was hired as the director in 2008, she changed her major to Early Childhood Education and graduated from BCC in December 2009.

Wee Rockets is housed in the old United Methodist Church at 109 S. Main in Rose Hill. Mandy currently has 12 full and part time employees who have been with her a minimum of 2 years. She assisted in getting their infant room licensed and opened. She was instrumental in Wee Rocket's participation in KQRIS where they are currently a 3 star provider.

Mandy is the mother of Sasha, 20, who works at Wee Rockets; Garrett, 17; Trevor, 6; and step-mom of Christian, 16. She is also the proud Nana of Amari, who was born the end of April. Mandy will be getting married on 09/10/11.

Meet a Smart Start Advisory Committee Member

The Butler County Health Department is committed to protecting the public's health and environment, preventing disease, and promoting an optimum level of health for all persons. The Health Department offers most services to the public at free or reduced rates. They offer immunizations, WIC (Women, Infants & Children Supplemental Nutrition Program), Maternal Child Health Program, Women's Clinic, STD Clinic, Healthy Start Home Visitor Program, Kan-Be-Healthy Screenings and Cities Readiness Initiative to name a few.

The Butler County Health Department is located at 206 N. Griffith in El Dorado. Although Jamie is involved with many programs at the Health Department, Child Care Licensing is one of her priorities. Ensuring the safety of children is vital as is being a

resource for the providers. The responsibility of a Child Care Surveyor includes providing orientation to prospective providers; inspecting all Licensed Home Child Care Facilities; investigating complaints; provide training and support to providers and refer parents seeking child care to the proper agency. In the last year Lexie's Law went into effect which brought about major changes. By the end of this year, there will be more changes and Jamie will spend time reviewing those changes with providers.

Jamie grew up in El Dorado and graduated from El Dorado High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Social Work from Bethany College in 1985. Jamie worked for SRS in Adult and Family Services as

well as Child Protective Services for several years before moving onto a Correctional Work Release Center, which at one time had been her



passion until she was employed at a Child Care Center then Group Boarding Home. She eventually found a home at the Butler County Health Department where she has been since March 8, 1993. Jamie is married and the mother of a 19 year old son, Greg, who is attending Butler and majoring in Farm and Ranch Management, and occasionally can be found in Jamie's office with his hand out.