



Butler Kids

Smart Start Continues in 2012

The 2012 Smart Start and Early Childhood Block Grants have been approved. These two grants provide the funding for the programs offered by Smart Start of Butler County. The purpose of these grants are to enhance early learning opportunities for children in Butler County who are birth through age 5 so that they can enter school ready to succeed. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund provides the funding for these grants. Smart Start of Butler County will offer the following programs and services in 2012:

- ♥ Mental Health Specialists
- ♥ Incredible Years Parent Training Classes
- ♥ Butler Dads "Dad & Me" Events
- ♥ WAGE\$ Program for Providers
- ♥ Child Care Provider Trainings
- ♥ Scholarships for State/Local Trainings
- ♥ BCC Early Childhood Scholarships
- ♥ Start Up Grants for Child Care Providers
- ♥ Grants to Existing Child Care Providers
- ♥ Infant Care Supplements for Providers

- ♥ Community Partnership Resources
- ♥ Child Care Scholarships for Families
- ♥ Special Needs Supplements for Providers

If you are currently receiving a scholarship or mini-grant from Smart Start, that funding will end with the 2011 calendar year and you will need to reapply if you would like funding for 2012.

Audra has been working on updating the applications with new requirements for 2012. The updated application process will be posted on our website ButlerKids.org by the end of December.

We encourage families who are interested in applying for the 2012 Child Care Scholarship to keep an eye on the website starting in mid December.

We want to thank each of our community partners for signing our grant in support of the work we do; and we want to thank the many child care providers and families who have used our services and recommended us to others.

Here's to a GREAT 2012!!

A Community-Based Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 8

Friday, December 2, 2011

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EduCare Remains a 5-Star Center

Smart Start of Butler County has paid for the Kansas Quality Rating & Improvement System (KQRIS) program since the first year of our grant. KQRIS provides coaching in licensed child care homes and early childhood learning centers, and the participating programs go through a rating process where they can earn from 1 to 5 stars.

In 2011, six programs participated in the KQRIS program: EduCare (5 stars), in El Dorado; Bluestem Head Start (3 Stars), in Leon; the YMCA Early Learning Center (No results yet) and Diane Blick's licensed child care home (4 Stars), in Andover; and Wee Rockets Child Care (3 Stars) and Michele Donaldson's licensed child care home (1 Star), in Rose Hill.

Due to Smart Start budget reduction, KQRIS will no longer be paid for by Smart Start of Butler County. We would like to thank the early childhood professionals who participated in the program. To learn more about KQRIS, contact Child Care Aware of Kansas at 877.678.2548.

Bradford Memorial Library

Ages 3 to 5:

Preschool Story Time at 10 am:
December 8 & December 15

All Ages:

December 13, 4:00 to 6:00 pm
Make and Take Christmas Ornaments
December 29; 1 pm
Special Shrek Interactive Movie Experience

Note: The library will be closed Saturday, December 24 and will reopen Tuesday, December 27.

Be a Friend of Rainbows

You can support the work of Rainbows and allow the wonderful services you have received to continue. If you want to designate that your donation be used for services in Butler County, you can. Visit www.rucfoundation.org or give us a call in the Butler County office (320.1342) to learn more about being a Friend.



Upcoming KDHE Approved Trainings for Providers

Smart Start trainings are free to people who work with young children in Butler County. Trainings are also available for free to parents who live in Butler County. If you are interested in scheduling a particular training for your center, contact Audra!

Mandated Reporting/Signs & Symptoms

When: Tuesday, January 24

Time: 6:30 to 8:30

Where: TBA

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Audra Kenneson, LMSW



Foster parent and Mayor of Douglass, Jason Cathey, and his wife Monica practice using the AED.

Safe Slumber

When: Saturday, February 4

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Where: El Dorado Health Department

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Jamie Downs, LBSW & Audra Kenneson, LMSW

Heart Saver CPR

When: Saturday, February 18

Time: 8 am to Noon

Where: BCC Welcome Center

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Heart Saver Pediatric First Aid

When: Saturday, February 18

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm

Where: BCC Welcome Center

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Participants must pre-register to ensure a space in the class. **To register, contact Audra at akenneson@rui.org or 320.1342.**

BCCAEECE

Butler Community College Association of Early Childhood Educators invites you to attend a meeting and join their organization. You do not have to be a student at BCC to be a member; all early childhood professionals in Butler County are encouraged to participate.

The monthly meetings allow you to network with other early childhood professionals. KDHE approved inservice hours can be obtained at some of the meetings. The cost of joining the group is only \$5.00!

Upcoming Meetings

When: Sunday, February 12

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: South YMCA; 3405 S. Meridian; Wichita, KS

Speaker: Glenda Higbee

Topic: Infant/Toddler activities for the classroom

When: Sunday, March 11

Time: 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Where: TOP Northwest; 2665 N. Arkansas; Wichita

Speaker: Cathy Gray

Topic: Environmental Health

Upcoming Trainings by Community Partners

Day Care Orientation Training

Information about KDHE 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 621.4521.

Upcoming dates of Orientation are: December 9, January 20, February 17, and March 16.

One thing they never tell you about child raising is that for the rest of your life, at the drop of a hat, you are expected to know your child's name and how old he or she is.

- Erma Bombeck

Child Start Trainings in Butler County

When: January 7; 9 am—4 pm

Title: PCAN MI: Building Collaborative Relationships with Families

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$60 Members; \$30 Non-Members

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

When: February 27; 6:30—9:30 pm

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Routine Care: Sleeping, Hand Washing, and Diapering

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$30 Members; \$18 Non-Members

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

SAVE THE DATE:

Growing with Children Conference
MARCH 3, 2012



When: March 10; 9 am—Noon

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Routine Care: Sleeping, Hand Washing, and Diapering

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$30 Members; \$18 Non-Members

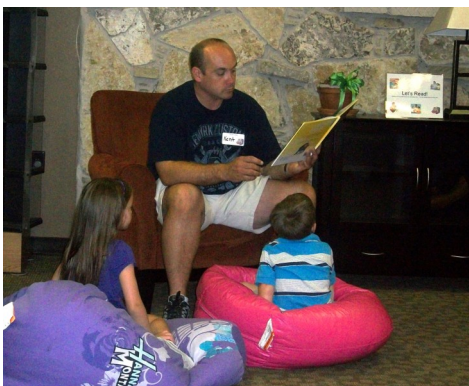
Instructor: Amber Ives

For more information about Child Start trainings contact **682.1853** or visit **www.childstart.org**.

Read to Your Child

Whether your child is one week or six years old, it is important to read to her. Reading builds a bond between a parent and child, and hearing stories benefit a child's language and social emotional development.

In the beginning, an infant may only be interested in exploring a book with his hands or his mouth, and he may only listen to a few words before he gets antsy. You can read to your child while he plays; he doesn't have to sit still to be listening. Young children enjoy reading a book many times. Repeated readings help preschool-aged children as they master the story lines, ideas, and language of favorite stories.



Let your preschooler choose the book that you read and explore the book together before you begin reading. Talk about the pictures and point out connections between the book and your child's experiences. Let your child describe the pictures and tell the story

to you. Point to the pictures as you talk about them. Discuss shapes, colors, emotions, and letters.

Before your child can begin to learn to read or spell, she must learn letters of the alphabet and sounds. Learning sound matches helps to prepare your preschooler for reading. Read a familiar story, but leave out words or parts of sentences for your child to fill in.

Reading to your child can help in the development of social skills. Reading books, like those in the Smart Start Lending Library, that address various social skills like sharing, being kind, and using manners describe age appropriate behaviors for children. When you read a book, talk about the feelings of the characters. "How do you think she felt when...?"

When you read to your child, show delight and enthusiasm, even if you are reading the book for the 100th time. Never turn reading into a chore. Read-aloud sessions are much more than saying words and turning pages. When you express your own excitement about the pictures, story, setting, and characters, your child will be excited, too. Find time when you and your child are relaxed and interested in reading, such as bedtime or after a nap. Tell your child how much you enjoy reading books with her.

Talk about the picture on the cover of the book; talk about the author and the



illustrator. Ask your child to predict what the story might be about. Briefly talk about what is happening in the story as you read. Say, "I wonder what will happen." or "What do you suppose that means?" Discuss how accurate your child's and your own predictions were.

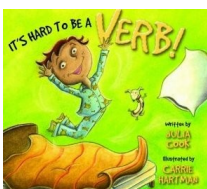
Have your child tell you a story. Write the words for them and ask them to illustrate the story. When riding in the car, start a story and ask your child to finish it. Take turns talking about what will happen next in your made-up tale.

Play with alphabet toys. When your child hands you a block with a letter on it, talk about the letter. "That is an M! M sounds like MMM." Then work together to come up with a list of words that start with M: Milk, Mad, and Monkey.

There are countless benefits to reading to your child. Welcome the opportunity to sit and read with your child every day. You will be glad that you did.

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.



Its Hard to be a Verb!

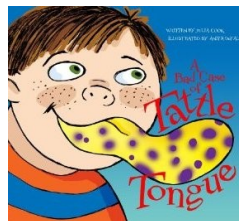
Louis is a verb! He has a trouble focusing and he is always doing something, but the problem is usually it's the wrong something.

"It's hard to be a verb! My knees start itching, my toes start twitching, my skin gets jumpy, others get grumpy. When it comes to sitting still it's just not my deal. Haven't you heard...I am a verb!" Louis'

mom teaches him how to focus by showing him a few hands on ideas that anyone can try. A good book to borrow for all who struggle with paying attention!

A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue 4):

Josh the Tattler doesn't have any friends. He tattles on his classmates, on his brother, and even on his dog! He tattles so much that he wakes up one night to find that his tongue is yellow, unusually long, and covered in bright purple spots! Will a bad case of Tattle Tongue teach him a lesson? A Bad Case of Tattle Tongue gives teachers and a humorous, cleverly creative way to address the time-consuming tattling-



related issues that often sap classroom energy. Parents who "battle the tattle" at home, on the playground, in the grocery store, or anywhere else, can use this book to both entertain and enlighten their children about "The Tattle Rules." Every adult that desires to help children understand the differences between unnecessary tattling and the necessity of warning others about important matters needs to borrow this book!

Meet a Butler Early Childhood Professional from Augusta

My name is Tricia Bassingthwaighe, I am currently the director of the New Generation Christian Learning Center in Augusta, where I also teach the three year old classroom. I am a member of The First Christian Church. I was raised in Augusta, with my other five siblings. My parents both came from large families and any gatherings we had were always big. I remember keeping an eye on the little people from an early age which may have sparked my passion for children that became a lifelong gift. I also think having a wonderful mother who was not afraid to show love and expected it to be shown to others, was a huge benefit.

I attended and graduated from Augusta High School. I received my Associates of Science degree in Early Childhood Education from LaMar University in Beaumont, TX and Butler Community College in El Dorado. With thirty plus years of early childhood experience and

raising my own two children Dirk, age 23, and Tara, age 18, I have a considerable amount of hands on experience. I am still learning new skills every day in the classroom. By taking new trainings and reading, I am keeping updated on developments in the early childhood field.

My formal education has given me the tools I need to make my passion a career. I belong to the Butler Community College Association for Early Childhood Educators, recently joined the Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force, and am a member of KAEYC.

I am so thankful for the partnership I have with Rainbows United, Smart Start of Butler County and the support and encouragement they have provided to me this first year.

Someone once told me a quote that has

always stuck with me and I try to think about it every day...not just when teaching the children but in all I do:

"They may forget what you said but they will never forget how you made them feel." - Carol Buchner



Tricia Bassingthwaighe with her Husband (Bob), daughter (Tara) & granddaughter (Audryana).

Meet a Smart Start Advisory Committee Member

I am Sue Sommers Barrientos, better known at the Butler Community College EduCare Laboratory Center as "Ms. Sue." I administrate the center and am Coordinator of Early Childhood for the college program. I have been in early childhood for over 40 years.

After attending Kansas State University for three years, I completed my



Sue Barrientos, aka "Ms Sue"

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology at Southwestern College. I completed my Master of Sciences Degree in Early Childhood at Emporia State University before teaching Early Childhood Special Education in Emporia. I came to BCC in 1981 and was a Behavior Sciences instructor and the Coordinator Early Childhood Education. In 1996, when EduCare was built, I became the EduCare Center Lab Administrator.

When I step into my office building early each morning, unlike most faculty, I have a five pound Chihuahua in one hand a bag of books, papers, and recyclables in the other; and I have babies, young children, and parents all around.

As I greet the little glowing faces, I am once again inspired to do whatever it takes to provide the highest quality child care in our state-of-the-art teaching lab. I remind myself that the excellence of my teaching, encouraging, and motivating of our future early childhood teachers determines the level of success for our children and ourselves in the future. I am energized and sustained by the universal support

continually voiced by my peers, my community, and my institution. This is my 30th year at Butler and there is no place I would rather be!

I am a member of NAEYC and KAEYC. I assist Teresa Thompson as advisor for BCC Association of Early Childhood Educators. I serve as the chair of the Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force and am a member of the Smart Start of Butler County Advisory Committee and, along with Miss Audra, represent Butler County at the Visioneering Wichita Birth – Kindergarten Alliance for the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area.

My husband's name is John and we live in Towanda. I have three grown, married children (Brody, Ashley and Jamie) and four fun, cute, terrific grandchildren (Gavin, Talyn, Taegan, and Lyla Sue). I enjoy spending time with my grandchildren, discovering new apps for my iPad, taking long walks on the beach, flamenco dancing with my handsome husband, going on adventurous road trips to Topeka with Miss Audra, and playing with my dogs.