



Parents as Teachers Family News

November 2011

Parents as Teachers
Grace Early Childhood Center
614 W Mill St
Belton, MO 64012
816-348-1029



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Events

Parenting
Workshop 11/12

Breakfast with
Santa 12/10

SB6 Resource Center

Open every Tuesday
evening
until 7:00 p.m.
for the benefit of working
parents
and childcare providers.
Come browse the **free**
educational materials
available for checkout.



Money Wise

Theorists believe that you shouldn't buy your children something every time you take them with you to the store. It's not a matter of being able to afford to buy them something, but rather an opportunity to teach financial restraint. Buying toys and gifts for your children should be reserved for special occasions or unexpected treats. If you simply buy everything your children wants, you are not only taking away the "specialness" of gifts, you are setting up your child for financial issues. Studies show that children who get everything they want when they're young end up struggling with debt the rest of their lives -- simply because they were never taught moderation and living within one's means.

Cooking with Kids!

Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients for one serving:

Mini graham cracker crust
3 spoonfuls of vanilla pudding
1 spoonful of canned pumpkin
1 spoonful of whipped topping

Directions: Stir the vanilla pudding and canned pumpkin together.
Spoon the mixture into the mini pie crust.

Top with whipped topping.





Toys!



First 'shape sorters'

Toddlers will most likely go through a phase where they enjoy taking objects in and out of boxes. It's only after lots of practice of this that they are ready to fit the shapes through snug holes. This type of toy would be good for children with Autism since they love repetition and order. Here are some ways to make your own Shape Sorter:

- Find a container and some smaller objects so your toddler can fill it with things.
- Get an empty tissue box and some small food package boxes or lids from jars that will fit through the hole in the top. This is brilliant for making this game slightly more challenging.
- Wash out fabric conditioner bottles or other wide neck containers and use them to fill and empty blocks. Make sure the blocks can be easily removed, or it will be too frustrating.
- Wash out large coffee or infant formula cans, cut a long slot in the plastic lid and cover any sharp edges with duck tape. Coasters posted through this slot make a very satisfying 'clung' noise.
- Bring out a pack of playing cards and cut a slot for them in the lid of a shoe box.
- Put thin scarves into empty wipe, tissue boxes or shape sorters for your toddler to pull them out. This is a perfect activity for distracting them from emptying a whole box of tissues. That's a way of turning no's into yes's - a good example of playful parenting

FREE Developmental Screenings!!!

Belton Parents as Teachers offers FREE developmental screenings for children between the ages of 6 months old and 3 years old who live in the Belton School District. Screenings are valuable for families because they help to give parents a clear picture of the strengths and weaknesses of their children. The screenings will showcase each child's current skills and give the screeners and parents a chance to discuss the child's development and emerging skills. These screenings will assess the children in the areas of concepts, language, motor development, social-emotional and self-help skills. Annual developmental screenings are an easy and effective way to see how your child is developing.



Five Popular Marketing Messages That Are Really Myths

MYTH #1: Classical music makes smarter babies.

FACT: Classical music is just one of the many kinds of music that babies and toddlers enjoy listening and moving to. Research shows that passive listening does nothing for brain development.

MYTH #2: Baby videos will make a baby/toddler achieve more.

FACT: Babies and toddlers don't learn from passive watching. Children learn best from active interactions with real people and things they can investigate with all their senses.

MYTH #3: High tech "interactive" toys are better than classics.

FACT: Babies need to interact with people and open-ended toys that they can take charge of more than bossy toys that direct their play. Watch a baby pick up a simple rattle, bang it, taste it, and pass it from one hand to the other and you'll almost be able to see those all important neural connections being made.

MYTH #4: Motorized wheel toys are superior to old fashioned foot power.

FACT: Traditional ride-on toys allow kids to develop their big muscles and coordination. Going 2.5 mph on a motor-drive vehicle has no developmental value and can be dangerous.

MYTH #5: Sooner is better.

FACT: Toy makers are compressing the age range on toys, changing the curriculum of play with themes and skills that have little to do with where babies and toddlers are developmentally. Toddlers are working on understanding the real world, and early role play. They need to center on their world of home and the family — not the cartoon world of aliens and pirates.

In the end parents should know that there isn't one magic toy or video that will guarantee an Ivy League acceptance. Parents should slow down, play with their child and provide a safe and secure play environment that invites exploration.



"Parents teach in the toughest school in the world-The School for Making People. You are the Board of Education, the Principal, the classroom Teacher and the Janitor."

Virginia Satir,
Family Therapist



Ways to Encourage Good Behavior

- Read your child's cues to know when he's hungry, tired, sick or over-stimulated. He has trouble controlling himself when he doesn't feel well or rested.
- Give your child lots of your time, especially if you think he is losing control. Your love and attention will help him feel important and he wants to please you.
- Put away tempting, unsafe objects. At this age, your child really can't use good judgment.
- Choose a few important rules and stick to them. Too many rules at once will confuse your child.



- Make sure everyone who takes care of your child knows your rules and uses them. It is easier for him to use good behavior when the same rules apply everywhere and all the time.
- Guide your child away from misbehavior. Physically moving him can shift his attention from things that are off-limits.
- When your child begins to lose control, distract him with an interesting activity. It's less stressful for both of you to help him change activities than correct his behavior.
- Tell your child what to do instead of what not to do. You'll be teaching good behavior and it won't make him so mad.
 - REMEMBER, POSITIVE, POSITIVE, POSITIVE. Children's behavior will mirror your behavior so the more positive you are the more positive they will be.

Adopt A Family Program

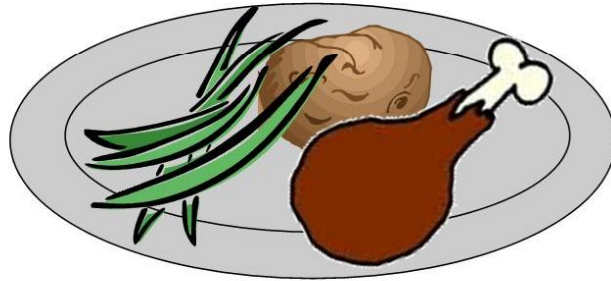


Grace ECCE Center participates in "Adopt A Family" each year during the holiday season. If you are experiencing hardship and need assistance or know of another family in need, please contact our PAT office at 348-1029 to speak with someone about this program.





Lord of Love Community Meal



Every Wednesday, 6:00 — 7:30 pm

At Lord of Love Lutheran Church

8306 E. 171st St.

Belton, MO 64012

(across from Wal-Mart)

816-331-5465

www.lordoflove.com

Beginning
October 5,
2011

There is no charge for this meal; join us for food and fellowship

Everyone is Welcome!