

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 1
SPRING 2014

EARLY
INTERVENTION
COORDINATOR
814-451-6827

“When children are young, every moment is a learning experience. Your child learns through play, exploration, by asking questions and trying new things. And your child loves to learn with their family!”

-from Pennsylvania's Promise for Children's website:
www.papromiseforchildren.com

For more information about Early Intervention please contact Erie County Care Management at 814-878-1640.



E.I. Times

Early Intervention Parent Newsletter
Erie County, Pennsylvania



Classes at ExpERIENCE Children's Museum



The ExpERIENCE Children's Museum is now offering Tiny Tots classes for babies ages 6-24 months! Pre-registration for the classes is required. To register please call 814-453-3743. Classes are \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. Programs are designed for an adult to attend with the child. Additional adults will be charged admission fees.

- Upcoming classes include:

Wonderful Wonders of Water: Sink or float, funnel and squeeze, water play is sure to please. During this program your little ones will practice eye hand coordination and problem solving skills. A change of clothing is recommended! April 16th from 9:15-10 am.

You and Me, We're Opposites

Up, down, open, shut. Come see how many opposites you can fit in your pockets. We will practice opposites through play and repetition in this fun class of learning by doing! Offered on two dates: May 19th or May 24th. The time for both dates is 9:15-10 am.

Beautiful Butterfly:

Puppets will help us explore the transformation of a hungry caterpillar into a beautiful butterfly. Offered on 3 dates: June 21st, June 23rd and June 24th. The time on all three dates is 9:15-10 am.



Early Learning Expo

On April 26th from 11am until 3 pm Success by 6 will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child with an Early Learning Expo at the Millcreek Mall in Center Court and Widget Kidz Zone. This event will feature hands-on activities,

games, arts and crafts, local community exhibits and live entertainment.

The Early Learning Expo also offers parents an opportunity to learn what current early care and education programs look like and to talk with early childhood directors and teachers.





The GREAT Outdoors



Research continues to identify amazing and different ways that playing in nature benefits children! Some examples of the benefits are:

- *children with ADHD concentrate better after walking in a park.
- *nearby nature reduces children's stress.
- *preschool children who experience weekly outdoor lessons have improved early reading skills and improved belief in their ability to succeed.
- *daily exposure to nature increases children's intellectual functioning.
- *play in natural settings increases kindergarten children's motor development.
- *more time spent outdoors is related to reduced rates of nearsightedness in children.



Little Woods: Nature Play Area for Children

In 2011 Asbury Woods built an outdoor nature play area called "Little Woods" to encourage more opportunities for creative, unstructured nature play for children. Little Woods offers young children a safe place to explore paths, water features and "loose parts" that encourage creative building opportunities.

Little Woods is open seven days a week, during daylight hours and is free of charge. Asbury Woods is located at: 4105 Asbury Road in Erie. For more information about Little Woods please call Asbury Woods. The phone number is (814) 835-5356.

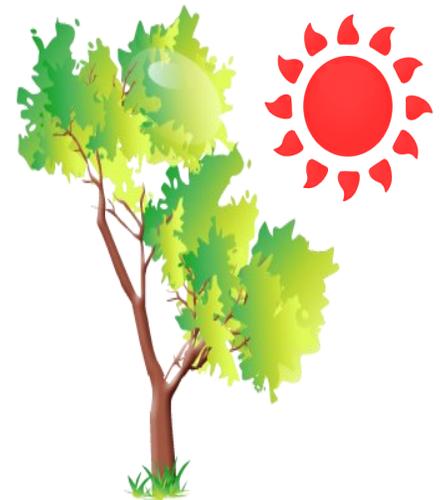
Ideas to Encourage Your Child's Interaction with Nature:

- **Watch Me Grow:** To witness a bean seed germinate, get a large glass jar and fill it with damp paper towels. Wedge bean seeds against the glass and paper towels, place in a warm location and watch what happens over two weeks. Let your child check the jar daily to see what is developing. Then, allow your child to plant it outdoors once it is big enough!
- ♦ **Grow Their Name:** Get a small box, line it with plastic and fill it with potting soil. Help your child scratch out their name in the soil with a pencil or their finger. Then lightly sprinkle grass seeds into the name. Gently cover the box with potting soil and soon they will see their name growing in the box.

Easy Ideas for Nature Play in Your Own Back Yard:



- **Logs, Sticks and Pine Cones:** Children can use small logs, large wooden logs, boards, branches, sticks and pine cones to build objects. Bigger logs can also be used as a balance beam or arranged to create a sitting area for plays.
- **Rocks and Boulders:** Let your children build with rocks that are small enough to carry around, but too large to throw. Larger, smooth boulders can be great for climbing and pretend play. Rocks can also be painted to look like monsters!
- **Dirt:** Children can build mountains with dirt or use it to create a digging pit. Just be forewarned: if it rains your dirt mountain may turn into a dirt puddle...which your child just might love!



What is the LICC?

The Erie County LICC (Local Interagency Coordinating Council) is a collaborative partnership whose mission is to promote a coordinated effort to enhance the Early Intervention system in Erie County.

What does the LICC do?

- Provides a place and a time for families and service providers to meet, talk and develop partnerships.
- Voices local concerns and viewpoints regarding state laws, policies and procedures relating to Early Intervention.
- Improves delivery of services through coordination and advocacy.
- Offers information and training to families and providers.

Who is part of the LICC?

- Parents, Preschools, Social Service Agencies and community members
 - Early Intervention Service Providers
 - Public Agencies, Erie School District, Intermediate Unit, County MH/ID and PA Department of Health
 - Representatives from the medical community
 - United Way Success
- By 6

The LICC needs INPUT from families. You are your child's best advocate & teacher. Help the system work for you and others!

- Join the LICC and become an active member.
- Participate in specific goal areas that interest you.
- Advocate for your child at specific events and functions.

LICC meetings are held the second Tuesday of every other month. Summer meetings are scheduled for June 9th and Aug 12th. Meetings are at 1:30 PM at Erie County Care Management, 1601 Sassafras Street, Erie, PA.

Parents are encouraged to call/email whether or not they can attend meetings. For more information contact: Tammy Blount, Professional Co-Chair, 814-528-0724 .



**ERIE COUNTY
LICC**

Parenting: There's an App for That

Zero to Three, a national, nonprofit organization focused specifically on the healthy development of babies and toddlers, has created a free parenting app called *Let's Play*.

Let's Play provides parents and grandparents with fun ideas for keeping babies and toddlers entertained and learning, especially during daily routines like commuting, chores, bedtime and bath time, mealtime and shopping. There are also "boredom busters" for any time.

Parents can search activities by age (0-18 months, 18-36 months and 3-5 years), tag favorites and share activities via social media. All of the activities reflect children's typical skills at each age and are designed to support development in the context of play and family routines.

You can download this app from iTunes or Google Play Store.

For more information about the app or for additional fun ideas please visit: www.zerotothree.org/tips-for-play





Signing Circle Time and Parent Play Group

The following groups are available to any child with a documented permanent hearing loss in Erie County and their families:

- **Signing Circle Time:** Children ages birth to 4 years old, along with their caregivers, will learn basic signs through songs, stories and play. There will also be weekly handouts and home projects. Upcoming dates for Signing Circle time are: April 17th, April 24th, May 1st and May 8th from 10 am until 10:45 am. This event is free; however, registration is required. To register your child please call the Achievement Center at 814-459-2755.
- **Parent Play Group:** Parents of children with hearing loss gather monthly to talk, commiserate, advise and celebrate. Children are welcome to come and play but they are not required to attend. The Parent Play Group occurs the third Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at Chick fil A on Peach Street; however, the location might change. Please check Achievement Center's Facebook page before going to the Play Group to verify the event's location.

For more information on either program please contact Casie Lucas at: MissCasie.SLP@gmail.com

Opportunities
for Your Child
to
Interact with
Other
Children



Baby Bounce and Other Fun at the Library!

Blasco Memorial Library has Baby Bounce on Wednesday April 16th at 1 p.m. Baby Bounce is 20 minutes of songs, stories and play for babies ages 6-18 months.

Blasco also hosts: Ask Annie the Golden Retriever, which offers children the opportunity to read to this special therapy dog, on select Wednesdays from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Upcoming dates for Ask Annie are: April 23rd, May 14th and June 18th. This event is appropriate for all ages and no registration is required.

The Edinboro Branch library hosts Read to Therapy Dogs every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 and 6 pm to 7 pm while the Lincoln Community Center Branch has their Read to Therapy Dogs every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 4:30-5:30. Finally, the Millcreek Branch hosts this same event every 2nd Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30.

For children ages 18-36 months the library holds a sing-along with Lori Burke. These are from 10 am - 10:30 am. Upcoming dates and locations are: Edinboro: May 5th and June 9th. Iroquois: June 11th. Lincoln: June 12th.

For more information about these events or to view the library's full calendar of events please visit the library's website at: <http://www.erialibrary.org> or call the library at 814-451-6936.

