



Helping Hands

We are offering a *helping hand* to Providers in Putnam & St. Johns County
A publication from Childcare Resources & Referral

Transitions by Jennifer Agnew & Maria Rodriguez Literacy Coaches

Transition times are often described as difficult times for preschool children and their teachers. Each month this section will be devoted to providing teachers with songs and activities that can make this time a fun learning opportunity for everyone!

If you have a great song or activity that you would like to share, please fax it to Kirsten McCrimon at (904) 726-1516.



Two Little Feet

Two little feet go stamp,
stamp, stamp (*stamp*)

Two little hands go clap,
clap, clap (*clap*)

One little body stands up
straight (*stand
straight up*)

One little body goes round
and round (*turn around*)

One little body sits quietly
down. (*Sit*)

If You're Wearing Red Today

(Tune: *Muffin Man*)

If you're wearing red to-
day,
Red today, red today,
If you're wearing red to-
day,
Stand up and say "Hoo-ray!"

Repeat: for other colors

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Inclusion

Please visit this site for great inclusion resources. This is a great support site for teachers that have autistic children. However, it also has a lot of resources for board maker pictures, social stories, and visual aid ideas.

[http://
www.angelfire.com/pa5/
as/asteachersites.html](http://www.angelfire.com/pa5/as/asteachersites.html)

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Resources Available for Check-out

One of the many services ECS offers providers in the SunkidZ network is an opportunity to check-out teaching resources. Providers in St. Johns County may check-out provider resources via the ECS resource van. Materials on the van include books,



videos, thematic centers and toys for the children. If you would like the van to come by your center call Kirsten at 726-1500 ext. 228. Providers in Putnam County may use materials and check-out resources in the Putnam Provider Resource Room located at their

WorkSource location in Palatka. The hours for the resource room are Tuesday-Friday 11:30 am—4:30 pm.

Please be sure to come and check us

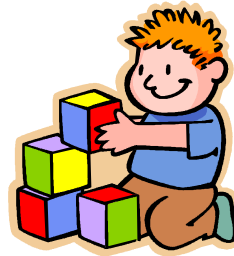


Stages of Block Play by: Carla McGarva Environmental Specialist

When children are in the block area, often one wonders if the children are playing with blocks correctly. I have listed the stages of block play to help ease your concerns.

- Blocks are carried around but not used for construction.
- Children make mostly rows, either horizontal (on the floor) or vertical (stacked). There is much repetition.
- Bridging: children create a bridge by using two blocks to support a third.
- Enclosures: children place blocks in such a way that they enclose a space.

- Children become more imaginative in their block play. They use more blocks and create more elaborate designs. They also begin including patterns and balance into their constructions.
- Naming structures for dramatic play. Children may now name their structures based on the function of the building: zoo, farm, shopping center and other locations. Children use blocks to represent things they know like cities, cars, airplanes



and houses.

- Group cooperative play is common. Children decide beforehand what they want to build, and they may reproduce structures that are familiar to them. Children may ask to leave their structure standing and may play with it again.

This article was taken from Community Playthings its on-line magazine Collage. To read back issues or subscribe visit

www.communityplaythings.com/c/Resources/index.htm



What is SIDS?

This excerpt was taken from article from the National SIDS/Infant Death Resource Center called, "What is SIDS?"

October is SIDS National Awareness Month.

SIDS is a silent killer, killing more infants between the ages of 1 month and 1 year than any other cause. Studies show that most of the SIDS deaths occur between the ages of 2 and 4 months.

SIDS does not only occur at night, it can occur anytime the baby is

sleeping. Twenty percent of the deaths relating to SIDS occurred while the child was in a Childcare setting.

"In 2001, 2,236 children under the age of 1 died from SIDS and approximately 20% of those deaths occur in a daycare setting"

In 2003, a nationwide campaign began promoting SIDS awareness and prevention called "Back to Sleep." For the past nine years, the "Back to Sleep" campaign has been very effective

in reducing the number of SIDS deaths in daycare centers. For more information and resources on "Back to Sleep" visit www.nichd.nih.gov/sids/sids.cfm or to read this article in its entirety visit www.californiasids.com/universal/MainPage.cfm?p50



The Journey to Accreditation

by: Kirsten McCrimon Manager of School Readiness

Every journey no matter the destination begins with a single step, as well as the journey to accreditation. Four centers in St. Johns County last year decided to begin this journey and have succeeded. Loving Lambs, Hastings Academy, Little Tots and Baby Tots were recently awarded the NAEYC and Gold Seal Accreditation.



centers interested in starting the journey to providing quality educa-

Brandt's was awarded the APPLE accreditation. Congratulations to everyone !!

In the future, this section will be dedicated to

tional services through helpful hints, web resources and articles relating to indicators of quality as addressed in the APPLE portfolio.

If you are interested in learning more about the accreditation process or in starting the journey please contact Kirsten McCrimon at 726-1500 ext. 228 or 329-4878 ext. 2888 .



Spotlight... Look who is shining bright!
by Tiffany Tyson

This section focuses on Teachers & Providers shining brightly! If someone at your center is a shining star — share their accomplishments with an ECS team member.

I recently visited Angela's toddler room at Brighton Day. Angela is shining brightly these days. She has been at Brighton Day since May and is obtaining her CDA. I observed her during a transition time. Although transition times are sometimes tricky, she did it with ease. I watched them enjoy their transition time, laughing and singing songs until their lunch was prepared. What a great way to have fun and experience language-Way to go, Angela!

In St. Augustine, we have two family home providers who are shining brightly as well. Regina McGlocking and Yolanda Moore are currently seeking their NAFCC accreditation! We are so excited about this and we look forward to offering them a "helping hand" throughout their journey. Best of Luck, Regina and Yolanda!

In Putnam, Maria Rodriguez reports that when she stopped by A Child's Castle, she noticed the whole center shining brightly as they used the Links to Literacy Curriculum. Maria said that she was very impressed with how the teachers worked to adapt the Links to Literacy Curriculum to every age level.
Great Job Everyone!

Local Professional Development Opportunities (Training Calendar)

Saint Augustine Trainings

- ☺ **October 3** - 6:30-8:30pm Main Library
Extreme Classroom Makeover— Using ECERS to set up your classroom.
- ☺ **October 9** - 6:00-8:00pm Hastings Library
Different But the Same? Cultural Diversity in the Classroom
- ☺ **October 10** - 6:00-8:00pm Bartram Trail Library
Lesson Plans & schedules... means less work for me?
- ☺ **October 25** - 6:30-8:30pm Main Library
Boost your babies' brain with literacy

Putnam Trainings

- ☺ **October 5** - 6:30-8:30pm Palatka Main Library
Taking a bite out of the APPLE— learn about the APPLE accreditation Process.
- ☺ **October 9** - 4:00-6:00pm Putnam WorkSource
ECERS...Huh? An overview of the ECERS rating scale.
- ☺ **October 11** - 3:00-5:00pm Putnam WorkSource
Making your day easier with rituals and routines.
- ☺ **October 12** - 6:30-8:30pm Palatka Main Library
Building Brains—The Sooner the Better

To **register** for one of these great training opportunities please check-out our website. The website also will provide a complete list of trainings and descriptions offered each quarter. <http://www.ecs4kids.org/>. If you have a training need that is not addressed this quarter please call, Kirsten McCrimon at 726-1500 ext. 228 or 329-4878 ext. 2888 and let her know so that it can be scheduled in the future.

Other Professional Development Opportunities

CDA Opportunities

ECS will be offering their own CDA program for more information please contact Kirsten McCrimon at 726-1500 ext 228 or 329-4878 ext. 2888 .

Scholarships

SunkidZ has a variety of scholarships available for more information please contact Mandy Kirk 726-1500 ext 255.

Area Conferences & Workshops

☺ **October 20-21: Melbourne Beach, FL**
It's Time to Sign Fall Conference

Contact Lillian @ 321-259-0976 or email @ lhubler@timetosign.com

☺ **November 8-11: Atlanta, GA**

NAEYC Annual Conference and Expo www.naeyc.org



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Episcopal Children's Services

Better Lives Start With Better Beginnings.



Gather Around: It's Circle Time! Lessons that work by Maria and Jennifer Literacy Coaches

The week of October 8th is fire prevention week and would be a great opportunity to teach the children about fire safety. Here are some activities you may want to try in your classroom.

Please visit <http://www.first-school.ws/theme/commhelpers.htm> for more resources for this unit.

Topic: Fire Safety

Introduce: Explain to the children that this week we are going to learn about a very important group of community helpers. Tell the children that you are going to give them clues to see which community helper we are going to learn about. This community helper wears special clothes to do their job, drives a big red truck, and puts out fires. Who are we going to learn about? Fire Fighters! Display the poster of the Fire Fighter (on the website) and tell them that Fire Fighters start with the letter /F/. Introduce and read to them Fireman Small (or your favorite Fire Fighter book).

Closing: Sing Fire Fighters (to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus")

Fire Fighters

The bell at the station goes
ding, ding, ding

Ding, ding, ding,

Ding, ding, ding

It's time to fight a fire

The wheels on the truck go
round and round

Round and round

Round and round

The wheels on the truck go
round and round

It's time to fight a fire.

The siren on the tuck goes
whew, whew whew

Whew whew whew

Whew whew whew

The siren on the tuck goes
whew whew whew

It's time to fight a fire

The Dog on the truck woof,
woof, woof

Woof, woof, woof

Woof, woof, woof

The dog on the truck goes
woof, woof, woof

It's time to fight a fire

The Hose on the truck goes
squirt, squirt, squirt

Squirt, squirt, squirt

Squirt, squirt, squirt

The Hose on the truck goes
squirt, squirt, squirt

Squirt, squirt, squirt

The Fire Fighters save the
Day! Hooray