

Macomb Family Services ELC Newsletter

Nature Walks

Nature walks are one of the most inexpensive boredom busters ever created. All you need is energy, and wide-open eyes. Of course, you can make the whole walk a lot more interesting by having something specific to look for. Luckily, for the townsfolk and city people, nature isn't just about being out in the country. Wherever there's grass growing, flowers, weeds, and dandelions growing, etc. Borrow a book about wild flowers, birds, or animals from your local library and refer to it every time the kids see something of interest. Take along a note pad and pencil to write down what they saw on the walk, or collect materials to make a nature collage.

Early Math Learning

Young children begin to move past memorization of numbers when they understand how to match objects to objects, and or objects to numbers. This is called one to one correspondence. Parents and caregivers can help their children by giving them something fun to count. Counting steps: have child stand at one end of the room or yard and ask how many steps it will take to get to the other side. Have the child count aloud as they take the steps.

May/ June 2012

What does ELC mean to you?

ELC is a community that works with me to help prepare my children for kindergarten. Through our play and learns, classes for me, and the lending library, we are learning skills needed for success.

*Pam M.
Parent*

Licensed Providers

Licensed providers, are you looking for a place to meet others in the same profession as you ??? Would you like to discuss topics and issues you have concerns about with your peers ??? Need new ideas ??? Then come join us on Monday, May 14th from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for our network meeting for licensed providers.

Contest Winners

Participants who took 5 classes between Feb. 1- Mar. 31 were entered into our Fling into Spring Contest. The drawing was held on April 5, 2012. The 2 lucky winners are Delores N. and Kim F. They each won a \$20.00 gift card to Lakeshore.

Congratulations!!!!

Create Your Own Trail Mix

Ingredients

4 cups of nuts

2/3 cups of dried fruits

1 cup of chocolate candy pieces

2 cups of pretzels

1 cup of cheese flavored crackers

1 cup of granola cereal

Materials Needed

Mixing Bowl

Rubber Spatula

Stir the trail mix into a large mixing bowl. Mix until well blended.



Did you know?? Now you can get our calendar and newsletter on our website! www.mfsonline.org/community_development.php

Announcements!

CDA Renewal Amnesty Program

Beginning March 1, 2012, the *Council For Professional Recognition* will launch the Renewal Amnesty Program, which will allow anyone who has earned a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential in the last ten years to apply for Renewal, even if their CDA has expired. This means that a CDA with a credential date of January 2002 or later is eligible for Renewal Amnesty. This program will only last until December 31, 2012 so don't delay! Visit this website for more information and to purchase a renewal packet: <http://www.cdacouncil.org/announcements-and-events/221-cda-amnesty-program>

Building Blocks For The Future

If you are finding it difficult to fit training into your busy schedule or would like to know more about early childhood development, please join us for Building Blocks of the Future!

All class sessions will be provided at no charge and pre-registration is required. Childcare providers can earn 6 of their required annual training hours. Call Dale Pitts at 586-226-3440 ext. 241 for more info.

**Macomb Family Services
Early Learning
Community**

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BE A VOICE FOR OUR CHILDREN!

Let legislators know how crucial early childhood development is for the future of Michigan. It's easy and it only takes 3 minutes! Go to

<http://starpower.greatstartforkids.org/> and click Sign Up Now. Enter your zip code, address, choose your legislators, add your viewpoints to the letter if desired, enter your name to sign it and click send.

Macomb
Family Services, Inc.



United Way
for Southeastern Michigan