

ECC Times

November 2006

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT THE ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Dear Parents and Families,

Dear Parents,

As many of you know, we have a new staff member this year in ECC. He is our ASL Teacher, Ron Rood. We are happy to have Ron with us and have been exploring ways in which he can best support ASL development and use at our school.

Ron has been getting to know our students and is now beginning to actively engage them in activities that will directly stimulate growth in ASL. He is working with whole classes, as well as smaller groups, pairs and individual students. We certainly appreciate his support and are happy that he is part of our ECC team. Ours is not the only department to benefit from Ron's expertise. He is also working with older RSD students.

In addition to the extra ASL support that Ron is providing for our program in general, he is also working individually with a few students who have been specifically identified as needing more intensive 1:1 ASL support. We are also fortunate to have teachers providing 1:1 tutoring (Resource support) for those who need this service, and for our Speech/Communication Teachers who have re-established "Talking Teams" for some of our students. With the availability of these services, we are enriching our program here in ECC. We have been taking a long hard look at the IEPs, Evaluation Reports and our own data based on the day to day functioning of our students to better gauge individual strengths and weaknesses, then establishing appropriate programming based on these findings. I'm certain this year will be a great one for your children.

I appreciate the response from many of you regarding the Shared Reading Program. As soon as the tutors are trained and ready to go, we'll let you know more. Please feel free to contact Peggy Jennings, Lisa DeWindt-Sommer, or myself with any questions you may have or any updates you would like as we move along in this process.

We had a wonderful October and are enclosing some pictures for your enjoyment. Please take a look at those, as well as the articles I've selected for this edition of our newsletter.

(Continued on page 2)

Rochester School for the Deaf 1545 St. Paul Street, Rochester, NY 14621

*The Preeminent Provider of Educational, Developmental and Evaluation Services to Deaf
and Hard-of-Hearing Children and Their Families*

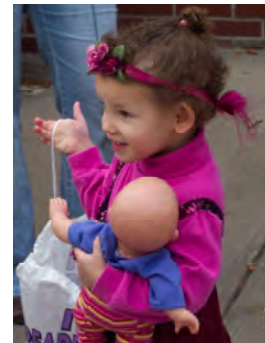
To learn more, please contact us today at 585-336-5807 (Voice) or 585-336-5808 (TTY) or visit our website at www.RSDeaf.org



Before we go further in scheduling Parent Informational Gatherings here in ECC, I'd like to have an idea of topics that may be of interest to you and your families. In the past presentations were done to explain the programs we use here. Sessions have included discussions with our Behavior Specialist, Jen Cranch and our School Psychologist, Joe Yonda, as well as evenings with our Speech/Communication teachers as they presented on strategies and methods to facilitate language growth. Please take the time to indicate on the attached page, topics you would like to see addressed this year. Also, if you could indicate preferred days and times I'd appreciate it. This will help as we work out the details for these gatherings.

Have a great month! I look forward to your responses.

Sincerely,
Marilyn Curley, Director
Early Childhood Program



- *A teacher plants the seeds of knowledge, sprinkles them with love, and patiently nurtures their growth to produce tomorrow's dreams.*



Using Our Senses



Try activities that will help your child learn through use of vision

Your child's school days will provide many opportunities to learn through the sense of vision. She will read from the blackboard, take in a colorful display, and watch to see what her peers are doing.

Some fun ways to develop this key sense include:

- * **Doing puzzles of all kinds.**
- * **Looking for patterns.** Draw a red square, then a blue circle, then a red square, then a blue circle. See if your child can draw what should come next (another red square). Help her look for patterns everywhere you go.
- * **Using eyes and hands together.** Help your child practice catching a large, colorful beach ball.
- * **Practicing preschool skills** such as cutting, drawing, coloring and playing with play dough.

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Parent Quiz



Are you showing your preschooler how to be a giver?

It's the time of year to think about giving. Giving includes sharing, donating money and helping others. Through giving, children learn to care about others and connect with them. Such skills will take them far in school and in life.

Giving is a habit or tradition you can start at home. Take this quiz to see if you're developing this habit in your child. Answer yes or no.

1. **I set high expectations**, letting my child know that giving to others is the right thing to do.
2. **I show my child that I give.** I take her with me when I volunteer for a charitable group. I tell her why I donate items to various causes.
3. **I encourage my child** to celebrate holidays and birthdays by giving to others.
4. **I make giving a year-round** project, not just something we do during the holidays.
5. **I praise my child** when she gives or shares. I say I'm proud of her charity toward others.

How well are you doing?

Each yes answer means your child is on the way to becoming a giving person. For each no answer, try that idea in the quiz.

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Learning Through Art



Motivate your budding artist by getting involved, having supplies

A childhood without art would be sorely lacking. For preschoolers, art is a crucial tool for helping them learn about their world, their ideas and their feelings.

Research shows that children benefit most from art when parents take a hands-on approach and provide a variety of materials.

Here are some suggestions:

- * **Make paint together.** Mix flour, water and either powdered paint or food coloring. Put each color in a separate pot, available at craft stores.
- * **Get a paintbrush for each color.** Choose brushes of varying thickness. Let your child experiment with thick and thin paint strokes.
- * **Find other paint applicators** around the house. Show your child how to use makeup sponges, cleaning sponges and cotton balls to create different effects. Finger painting is always a favorite application method!
- * **Bring nature into the picture.** Gather leaves and tree bark to make rubbings. Show your child how to put a leaf underneath a sheet of paper and rub a crayon over it. You can also have your child dip leaves in paint and press them between two sheets of paper.

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Questions & Answers



Question: I'm aware that childhood obesity is a real problem today. We have fruits or vegetables at every meal and we limit junk food. I also want to make sure my child gets enough physical activity. Can you offer some suggestions for keeping a preschooler physically active?

Answer: Congratulations to you for emphasizing healthy habits. It sounds like you're off to a great start by practicing good nutrition. Luckily, when it comes to preschoolers, the physical activity part of fitness is the easy part. Most preschoolers have a great deal of energy and love to move. As a parent, you just need to take advantage of that.

Here's what you can do:

- * **Make the time.** An hour or more of physical activity is best, but this doesn't have to happen in one 60-minute block. Five or 10 minutes at a time, throughout the day works fine.
- * **Find a space.** If you have a yard, this is easy. If not, head to your nearest park or playground.
- * **Provide a few things to play with.** Preschoolers will be happy for a time just to run and jump. But having balls to kick and throw will keep them playing longer.
- * **Look for activities you can do together.** Raking leaves and piling them up is fun (and useful!) in the fall. Building a snowman or fort will thrill your child in winter. Garden or fly a kite in spring. And walk, walk, walk, all year round.
- * **Consider a class.** Recreation and community centers often offer movement classes for young children at little or no cost. This can be a great way to keep your child active in the colder months.

—Maria Koklanaris, The Parent Institute. Reprinted with permission from the November 2006 issue of Parents make the difference!® (Early Childhood Edition) newsletter. Copyright © 2006 The Parent Institute®, a division of NIS, Inc.



Please Respond by Monday, November 13th.
Return to Brenda Jamalkowski.

Parent Informational Gathering Topics that would interest me:

- The Creative Curriculum
- Ideas for what to do at home in supporting your child's development
- The role of the ASL Teacher
- The role of the Speech/Communication Teachers
- The role of the Classroom Teachers – What does your child's day look like and Why?
- Oral-Motor Development and how to support this at home
- Other. Please list topics/ideas:

- I prefer during the school day (morning/afternoon – circle one)
- I prefer evenings (_____ list best time frame)

Name

