

ECC Times

February 2010

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER AT THE ROCHESTER SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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Dear Parents,

January was a busy month here at RSD and February has been filled with events as well. In January many of the children learned about Martin Luther King and the reason people celebrate his life. Classroom instruction has also included units on Transportation, Fairy Tales, Holiday celebrations and traditions including Valentine's Day and cards passed out as part of that celebration. Playing outside in the snow has also been an important part of your child's day.

Thank you for contributing to RSD's Coins for Cancer fundraiser. ECC alone raised \$1,066.68. Look for the pictures of that celebration in this Newsletter.

We have been receiving many inquiries into our program and have been adding new children. We always look forward to serving more families! Parents of our "older" children (age 3 and beyond) should have received Progress Reports by now. If you have any questions about these, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Don't forget that Winter Break begins on Monday, February 15th and school resumes on Monday, the 22nd. Also there will be no school for our ECC children on Monday, March 1st. That is the day our teachers begin writing IEP's (Individual Education Plans) for next school year. The next Shared Reading parent training is scheduled for Thursday, February 25th. Don't forget to RSVP for this (give us a call or email us if you don't have the paper work to send back) and please consider this important program if you haven't already been trained. Remember too to visit the RSD website for other important events and dates.

Included in this packet home is an activity calendar for March. This may be helpful as you plan home activities for your child. Also, please take the time to read the attached articles and the magazines recently sent to your homes by this office, Parent & Child, Genesee Valley Parent and the 2010 Family Resource Directory sponsored by the Genesee Valley Parent publication.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Curley, Director

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



WOW...ECC raised \$1, 066.68 !!!



**All of the departments at RSD raised \$3,008.02.
A check was presented to the American Cancer Society
for \$3, 390.02 during an assembly. WAY TO GO RSD!!!!**



We had a popcorn sale to raise money for Coins for Cancer



**Fun at a pep rally.
Mrs. Curley was a good sport coloring her hair orange.
Thank-you everyone for your support.**



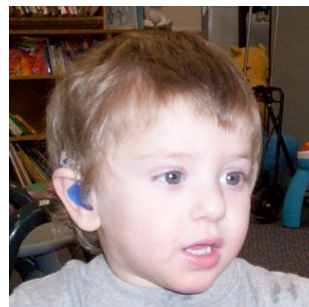
Outdoor play!



Science at it's best....



A Preschool cooking lesson.



**Welcome to Gary Youngblood –
he joined our FIRST Program.**

Teach your child how to tell time by starting with basics



Of course you want your child to be able to tell time. But he must first understand what time is before he can meaningfully look at a clock and inform you that it's 7:43.

Here are some guidelines for going through the process of telling time with your young child:

1. Begin by talking about the day. Before telling time, your child should understand that today is now, yesterday is what happened until he went to sleep last night, and tomorrow is what it will be after he finishes the next sleep. Say, "Yesterday you went to school. Today we are at home. Tomorrow, after you get out of bed, we'll go to Grandma's."
2. Move on to broader times of day. Morning is the time between waking up and lunch. Afternoon is between lunch and dinner. Evening is dinner and bath. Night is when it's dark. Discussing times of day in these terms will help your child understand them.
3. Use before and after. Say, "Before you brushed your teeth this morning, you ate breakfast. After you got dressed, we went shopping."
4. Introduce the clock when your child is comfortable with the above concepts. Start with teaching your child the names of the hour hand (short hand) and minute hand (long hand). When he knows these, teach him times on the hour only for now. "See how the minute hand is on the 12, and the hour hand is on the 1? That means it's one o'clock."

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Building Math Skills



Teach math, reading with building blocks

Children often have blocks with numbers and letters on them. How can you help your child learn from them? There are lots of ways!

To build skills:

- * Remember that preschoolers often confuse letters and numbers. With your child, sort the blocks, making separate lines of letters and numbers. Point out letters and numbers in other places, too, such as on signs and in books.
- * Build towers by putting numbers and letters in order. Place the "1" and "A" blocks on the bottom. Start with one tower, saying each letter or number out loud. Then build the second tower the same way.
- Try variations when the towers fall down (or your child has fun knocking them down!). Build with all the blocks, and then call out letters or numbers for your child to find. Or make patterns, such as number, letter, letter, number, letter, letter.

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Parent Quiz

Do you know the basics of effective discipline?



Disciplining--or teaching--children is one of parents' toughest jobs. Answer yes or no to the questions below to see if you're focusing on the essentials:

- ___1. Do you choose just a few important rules--and explain them in simple words your child understands?
- ___2. Do you enforce rules consistently so your child always knows what's expected of her?
- ___3. Do you set expectations that are appropriate for your child's age? This prevents rules from being too lenient or too tough.
- ___4. Do you react calmly and carefully when your child misbehaves, providing her with a good behavior role model?
- ___5. Do you celebrate your child's good behavior much more often than you notice her mistakes?

How well are you doing?

Each yes answer means you're using a good discipline method. For each no answer, try that idea from the quiz.

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Building Character



Teach your child the importance of trying to 'do the right thing'

As toddlers and preschoolers, children behave to earn parents' approval and to avoid a negative consequence. As they get older, they slowly learn good behavior for its own sake--simply because it's the right thing to do.

There are many ways parents can help preschoolers develop good character and the desire to do what's right. Here are a few guidelines for seeing your preschooler on this lifelong path:

- * Give your child unconditional love. Children who are secure in their parents' love almost always behave better than those who are not. The reason is quite simple--these children grow to see that this is how everyone should be treated.
- * Be a role model. Your child is watching you all the time. If he overhears you telling lies, he will, too. If you always tell the truth, chances are, he will, too.
- * Correct your child for disrespect. "In our family, we use kind words." And here's the "model" concept again--use those same kind words when you talk to your child and other family members.
- * Cue your child to think of others. Example: Someone in the family sneezes and the tissue box is on the counter. Say to your child, "Look on the counter. Do you see something there that Katie needs?" Praise your child for following through.

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