

March 2010

## Handprints

Welcome to the Smart Start email newsletter. We are pleased to bring you many wonderful articles and necessary information about children and families in our community. Please enjoy the information and feel free to check out our website at [www.partnershipforchildren.org](http://www.partnershipforchildren.org)!

A Welcome to our Newest Staff Member...

We would like to welcome **Maria Juarez** to Smart Start. Maria serves as preschool services specialist, a resource for all publicly funded preschool services in Davidson County. She is available to answer questions and help families connect with the best resource to meet their preschooler's needs. Maria specializes in the More at Four program by processing applications, monitoring attrition, and making placements year-round. She is able to provide assistance to families who need Spanish interpretation.

Just a reminder:

The Smart Start office will be closed Friday, April 2nd for the Easter Holiday.



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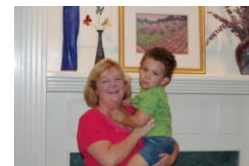
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## Director's Corner

Linda Leonard



Spring is in the air and Smart Start of Davidson County is looking forward to all that comes along with it! We have much in store for this spring; our annual Early Childhood Educator's Conference is coming up on March 20th. We look forward to a great day of trainings and fellowship with our educators in Davidson County. Following the conference, the 11th Annual Itty Bitty Kiddie Festival will take place on April 17th at the Davidson County Fairgrounds; save the date! I also wanted to



A Family Resource Fair for Families with Children Birth to age Five

**DATE:** Saturday, April 17, 2010

**TIME:** 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.  
RAIN OR SHINE!!

**LOCATION:** Davidson County Fairgrounds  
400 Greensboro St. Ext., Lexington

**ADMISSION:** FREE with a canned/boxed good to be  
donated to Fair Grove Family Resource Center

**SPONSORED BY:**



For more information  
call 249-6688

Information for Parents  
FREE Pizza  
Door Prizes  
Games  
Inflatables  
Balloon Art  
& much more!

take the time to remind everyone to continue to spread the word about our Child Care Scholarship program. So far, we have served 175 children and it is our hope to reach out and continue to serve as many children in our county that we can! Stop by or call for an application!

Join Our Mailing List!



## Upcoming Events

**March 18th 2010-**  
Parenting Training: Early Childhood Development 101 @ Smart Start office. Call (336) 249-6688 for more information!

**March 20th 2010-**  
Early Childhood Professional Educator's Conference @ First Baptist in Lexington

**April 17th 2010-**  
Itty Bitty Kiddie Festival @ Davidson County Fairgrounds

[More Information on Smart Start Events!](#)

## Family Corner

### Parent Training at Smart Start office

- What: Basic Early Childhood Development 101: Come and join us for some fun and learning. This training session is designed to help parents understand Child Development!
- Where: Smart Start office, 235 East Center St, Lexington
- When: Thursday, March 18th
- Time: 6:30-7:30PM
- Register: Call Erin at 249-6688

## Having a positive relationship with your child can Reduce **BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS...**

Why is having a positive relationship important?

- Increases a child's self-esteem
- Helps you to know your child better
- Helps children learn to interact with other people
- Encourages children to have good relationships with their own children when they are older
- Creates a more pleasant household

Simple ways to build these relationships:

- Playing with toys together
- Hugs, kisses, thumbs up and smiles whenever possible
- Encouraging statements
- Listening to your children (stories, about their day, about creations...)
- Reading a book together
- Asking your child about their day
- Letting your child be your special helper
- Talking or singing together in the car
- Holding hands, for no specific reason
- Eating dinner together
- Washing the car, baking something or washing dishes together

[For more parenting tips click here](#)

## Early Childhood Corner

### FREE Life Insurance for Child Care Providers

Childcare Services Association and MassMutual are proud to announce the introduction of LifeBridge, MassMutual's free life insurance program. Specifically they are making this available to early educators certified through the NC Institute for Child Development Professionals and participants in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® and Child Care WAGE\$® Projects. Through LifeBridge, MassMutual insures the lives of qualified early care and education professionals for the benefit of their children. A 10-year

term life insurance policy, with a death benefit of \$50,000, is provided.

[More Information](#)

## Reminder from Sanitation: [Cleaning with Bleach Water: Sanitizer vs. Disinfectant](#)

- **Sanitizer:** 1 Tablespoon of bleach added to a gallon of water (50 to 200 parts per million). This solution is used on tables (before and after eating, cleaning toys, and for general cleaning purposes.
- **Disinfectant:** 1/4 cup of bleach added to a gallon of water (500 to 800 parts per million). This solution is used on diaper changing tables, toilets and sinks used for "potty handwashing." This solution must also sit for a minimum of 2 minutes to kill germs.
- **Soap Water:** Add soap and water together. This solution is used before either bleach solutions (listed above). For instance, if the table needs to be cleaned, use the soap water first and then the sanitizer.

## Need to post a job?

On the [smart start website](#) we have created a page that will allow child care centers to [post openings for child care positions](#). Please email or call Erin Hinton @ 249-6688 to post an opening.

## Telephone Seminars for Early Childhood Professionals

Call-In Learning: Early Childhood Learning at your fingertips. This is an opportunity to participate in exciting seminars on issues facing child care providers across the state without leaving your program.

**[Click here for more information](#)**

## Education for the Stars Update

The application deadline for education for the stars has just passed for the spring semester. Grade Reports/Transcripts and Employment Verification Forms are due by May 20th, 2010. Please contact Don Stewart at (336) 249-6688 with any questions.

**[Update: Smart Start Scholarship Program!](#)**

**Child Care Scholarships are still available.** We encourage anyone who is working at least twenty hours a week, a full-time student (or a combination of the two), disabled, or homeless to please apply.

For more information on SSDC Child Care Scholarship Program, please call Mandy Campbell or Lauren Groce at 336-249-6688 or email us at

**[mandyc@partnershipforchildren.org](mailto:mandyc@partnershipforchildren.org)** or  
**[laureng@partnershipforchildren.org](mailto:laureng@partnershipforchildren.org)**.

**5 Feet of Laminating**

**Drop by our office!**

Visit our Resource Room located at:  
235 East Center Street in Lexington  
Call Maria for more information @  
**(336) 249-6688**

**Offer Expires: Friday, March 26th, 2010**

**Please bring coupon!**

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