

LEMAY CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER FAMILY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 11
Comedy Night
Doors open 6 p.m.

Feb. 14
Valentine's Day
Everyone wear
red

Feb. 21
Story telling

Feb. 22
Parent Meeting
6 p.m.

March 2
Dr. Seuss Birth-
day Party 10:00
a.m.

March 3
Lions Club vision
screening
2:15 p.m.

March 12
Parent Café
9:30—11:30 a.m.

March 16
Hearing &
Speech screening
9:00 a.m.

March 28-29
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

Please note that
the Center is open
on President's
Day (February 21)

Lemay Child and Family Center Staff learn from Becky Bailey

Each month our teachers meet to discuss upcoming plans, celebrate successes, share teaching ideas and expand our knowledge of early childhood education.

In January, we discussed the book, *I Love You Rituals* by Becky A. Bailey. *I Love You Rituals* teach parents and teachers short games to play one on one with children up to 8 years old. Dr. Bailey describes the four goals of *I Love You Rituals* in the book:

1. To optimize your child's brain for success at school and in life.
2. To increase your child's learning potential and effectiveness through touch.
3. To create loving rituals that hold families together even through rough times.
4. To strengthen the bond between

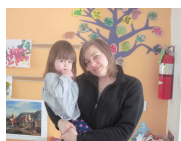
adults and children that insulate children from drugs, violence, and peer pressure, laying the foundation for mental and emotional health.

The teachers have learned one ritual and are using it in the classroom. "I have done the ritual with a child in my classroom. Since then he has come over, sat in my lap, and moved my fingers like I moved his. He not only absorbed the ritual but mimics it," reports Carla Goodwin from the Adventurers classroom. We hope to continue learning more rituals and sharing these with our families.

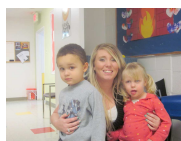
Attached to this newsletter is an "I Love You" ritual for you to try at home with your child.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS: TWO'S AND YOUNG PRESCHOOL TEAM

As part of our efforts to help you get know the teachers and staff throughout the Center, this month we are featuring teachers from the Explorers and Dream Catchers rooms.



AKSANA



BRENNA

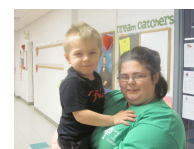


ANGELA W.

MARIA W.



KAREN W.



Heartbeat Health

You may think it's too early to think about heart health for your child. However, if your child is active now it can lower their risk of cardiovascular disease later in life. Being active early in life can also help our children develop a life-long habit of physical activity.

A child that is physically active will...

- Listen and participate actively in school
- Sleep better at night
- Build healthy bones and muscles
- Have better self esteem

Join your child on Monday, February 21 for a great morning of Storytelling!

Storyteller Mama Katambwa will be here to tell stories and entertain the children. We'd love for parents to attend, too!

School Age 9:30 a.m.
Infant/Toddler/Two's 10:00 a.m.
Preschool 10:30 a.m.

Please RSVP with your classroom teacher

IT'S TIME FOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION!

If your child's birthday is between August 1, 2005 and July 31, 2006, it is time to start thinking about registering your child for kindergarten. If you are unsure about which kindergarten your child will attend, please talk with one of the preschool teachers. Here is information that we have collected so far, on the public schools closest to the Center

Hancock Place offers free full-day kindergarten, and the Center serves as a bus stop for the elementary school for children attending our before and after-school program. Registration dates are February 11 and March 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parents should call Bridgett at 544-1300, ext. 198, to set up an appointment.

Mehlville offers half-day kindergarten. Full-day kindergarten is available for \$2,275 per year. Each school is managing their own registration process, and parents can call any time to set up an appointment. The phone number for Forder Elementary is 467-5600. The Center may be able to provide van transportation to and from Forder in the fall, depending on the number of children who enroll.

Bayless offers tuition free full-day kindergarten. Registration is April 7 from 9:00 – 10:00 am, 1:00–2:30 pm, and 4:00–7:00 p.m. Call 314-631-2244 for more information. The Center may be able to provide can transportation to and from Forder in the fall, depending on the number of children who enroll.

St. Louis Public Schools—Call and make an appointment 314-633-5200.

There are also several charter schools in the City of St. Louis. Here is contact information for some of the schools where former Lemay Child & Family Center preschoolers now attend.

St. Louis Language Immersion Schools—Registration is on-going, but ends on March 8. Call 533-2001 for more information.

St. Louis Charter School - Registration is on-going and spaces are filled based on a lottery. Call 645-9600 for more information.

STAND UP FOR KIDS COMEDY NIGHT FRIDAY, FEB. 11, 2011

It's not too late to purchase tickets for the Stand Up for Kids fund-raising event on February 11. The event features comedians Johnny Kavanaugh and Brian Hicks, with music by the Facts O Life band. Sports radio announcer Jim Holder is our emcee. All proceeds from the event will benefit our scholarship program. Tickets cost \$40 each.

We are also still accepting donations for the chocolate and Valentine's baskets for the silent auction. Please bring your donations to the front desk by February 7th.