

Network News

e-Newsletter of the VA Infant & Toddler Specialist Network

VIRGINIA

INFANT & TODDLER SPECIALIST

NETWORK

“Achieving Excellence in Early Care”

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Free Tools and Resources to Help Monitor and Encourage Infant and Toddler Development!

Deana McGuire Buck, Contributing Author
Project Director/Program Group Leader, Early Childhood and Education
Partnership for People with Disabilities
Virginia Commonwealth University

As an early care and education provider, you play a critical role in the health and well-being of

children in your care and offer important support to their families. It is amazing how quickly young children develop and change, and how fun it is to observe these changes in a child's ability to talk, interact with other children, move around to play with things that interest them, and learn how to calm themselves and solve problems.

As you care for infants and toddlers, it's important to pay attention to how each child is growing and learning. All children grow and learn at their own pace, but it's important to know about developmental milestones - the things that most children can do by a certain age such as how they play, learn, speak, act, and move. Developmental milestones give us important clues about how a child is developing for his or her age.

Children display their milestones every day through learning, interacting with their peers, and playing with toys. You have unique insights into a child's development that can be shared with parents. Unlike you, parents may see only one or two children at a time, most often at home, so often they don't know if their child is on target with other children their age or not. You can help parents recognize milestones their children show them at home and help them learn about the milestones seen at school.

Paying attention to the development of young children and acting early, if there is a concern, is the purpose of the Centers for Disease Control's "Learn the Signs. Act Early" campaign. You can also use information about child development as you partner with families to learn more about what they see their children doing at home and to alert you if a child's development is not progressing as expected. Families may also learn more about important developmental milestones and about how to help their children progress.

Here are several specific resources from the "Learn the Signs. Act Early" campaign that you can use right away:

"Learn the Signs. Act Early" www.cdc.gov/actearly

This website provides information, resources, and materials that can be downloaded on developmental milestones, developmental monitoring, and acting early on concerns.

Milestones Checklists <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones/index.html>

There are a total of 10 separate checklists for young children from 2 months of age to 5 years. Each checklist includes developmental milestones for a child that age, developmental items that the child will acquire in the near future, and areas of concern that should be discussed with the child's physician.

Milestone Moments booklet

http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/checklists/all_checklists.pdf

This booklet has all 10 checklists in one book! You can use the booklet as a reference about typical development, and as a tool to use with the family to monitor and track the development of each child. You can print out a copy of the booklet to use as a tool to track changes in development and can also give one to the child's family. That way you can review development tips and changes with the family regularly and talk about red flags, if needed.

Amazing Me! It's Busy Being 3! <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/amazingme.html>

Meet Joey, an amazing 3-year-old kangaroo who is very excited about all that he can do now that he is three. Joey doesn't know it, but these amazing things are called developmental milestones, and they're a very important part of each child's growth. This book will show you what to look for as a child grows and develops. Happy Reading!

Go Outside and Play Kit http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/pdf/ccp_pdfs/gop_kit.pdf

The kit contains information about monitoring developmental milestones, suggestions for a safe and successful active day, and a special pullout section with activities to share with parents for at-home play.

If there is a concern about a child's development, use these resources to guide your next steps with the child's family: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/concerned.html>

Next Steps

To order materials or download them for your use, please visit

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/freematerials.html>. Supplies are limited but ALL materials

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT ON: Watch Me! Celebrating Milestones and Sharing Concerns

This NEW 1-hour online CEU course, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, helps early care and education providers better identify and monitor developmental milestones, recognize signs of potential delays, and share observations with parents. This training offers tools and best practices to support professionals and help children reach their full potential. *This course, once completed, has been approved to count toward your ongoing professional development licensure hours!*

[Click here](#)

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunity:

Creating Connections to Shining Stars:

JULY 8-10, 2015
THE WYNDHAM OCEANFRONT
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

Virginia's Collaborative Early Childhood
Birth through Five Conference

This statewide conference will focus on evidence-based quality early childhood practices, birth through 5. Sessions will include hot topics in the field of early intervention and early childhood/early childhood special education, such as:

- Adult Learning Principles
- Assistive Technology
- Autism
- Behavior
- Children with Special Needs
- Coaching
- Collaboration
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Dual-Language Learners
- Evidence-Based Practices
- Prematurity
- Regulations and Requirements
- Social-Emotional Development
- Transition
- Universal Design for Learning

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Early Childhood Educators
- Early Childhood Special Educators
- Early Intervention Providers
- Paraprofessionals
- Related Service Providers
- Administrators/Supervisors
- Parents and Family Members

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER,

<http://www.cvent.com/d/drqmp8>

SPONSORED BY:



WOW (Working on Wonderful)

Congratulations to the following programs that have completed Level 1 services with the VA ITSN during the current year, July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015:

Adrain Moorer-Miller

Northern Region

Apple Tree Preschool and Academy

North Central Region

Bright Eyes Community Child Care Center

Valley Region

Cecily Salvador

North Central Region

Creative Learners Educational Center

Eastern Region

Crissy Sharon

North Central Region

Cynthia Burton

Eastern Region

Discovery time Learning Center

Northern Region

Elizabeth B. Sherman Child Care Center

Valley Region

First Presbyterian Preschool

Eastern Region

Ghazala Shah

North Central Region

Hillsville Head Start Center

Western Region

Hopkins House Innovative Preschool

Northern Region

Irma Puza

Northern Region

Janet Osei

North Central Region

Kindercare Learning Center at Reston

Northern Region

Learning Tree Academy

North Central Region

Liddle Adventures

Western Region

Little Acorn Patch

Northern Region

Maria Camargo

Northern Region

Mariela Marin

Northern Region

Mary Gray

Northern Region

Merit School at Park Ridge

North Central

Michelle Thomas

Western Region

Minnieland at Belmont Ridge

Northern Region

Minnieland at Rutland

North Central Region

Minnieland at the Glen

North Central Region

Minnieland at Wellesley

Central Region

Minnieland England Run

North Central Region

Morning Star Child Development Center

North Central Region

Nasrin Zahary

Northern Region

Rainbow Station Three Chopt

Central Region

Randee Holmes

Eastern Region

Reconciliation Outreach Church

Eastern Region

Rise and Shine Day Care

Northern Region

Shirley Davis

North Central Region
Sidney Ortiz Aparicio
North Central Region
Simon Family JCC Beginnings
Eastern Region
Silvia Villarruel
Northern Region
Suzanne Potts
Western Region

Working on Wonderful WOW

We are striving to achieve excellence in
early care for infants and toddlers!

DID YOU KNOW . . .

. . . that there is a tuition assistance program offered to current and future child care providers?

Please [click here](#) to learn more about the scholarship program funded by the federal Child Care and Development Fund.

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For more information contact Amy Stutt, VA ITSN Statewide Director at (757)566-3300.