



May 4, 2015

Hello ECI Families!

We are nearing the end of our school year for our preschool children. The last day of attendance for students at Ferguson and Mills is June 9th. The last day of service for children in local preschools is also June 9th. If your child attends Head Start or OCDC, please refer to their respective calendars for service days and times. Rest assured, we will have a teacher on staff to serve children at those locations! For families receiving Early Intervention services, ECI has summer closure from July 6th through July 24th.

It is that time of year when our program must prepare to say goodbye to colleagues. I would like to thank **Ms. Lisa Swartz** for her years of service at Early Childhood Intervention. In June, Ms. Swartz will begin enjoying anew journey, retirement. She is certainly going to miss the children, but is excited to spend quality time with her family. ECI will miss Ms. Swartz and the daily contributions she makes to children in their learning, families, and colleagues. We have already requested that she volunteer as much as she'd like!

In July, we will welcome our new itinerant teacher, **Eric DeVall**. Eric has been a special educator for over 12 years and is excited to work with ECI. Eric has had the opportunity to "job shadow" Ms. Swartz and Ms. Malcolm, so he has already visited some of the locations we serve and children with whom we work. ECI welcomes Eric to the team!

In August, we will welcome our new Speech Language Pathologist (SLP), **Kendra Schmid**. Kendra graduated from Chico State University in May and is looking forward to returning to her home, Klamath Falls! In August, Kendra will begin working with the ECI team and will provide SLP services to pre-school children ages 3-5. Fortunately, **Kelly Palya**, SLP-CCC, is going to remain with the ECI program for an additional year. In August, she will begin providing services program-wide, birth-5 years. We are lucky to have these highly qualified SLP's working with us!

Please make note on your calendars that Monday, May 25th, is Memorial Day. ECI staff does not work on that day, so services will not be available.

Enjoy the warmer weather!

Dena Haudenschild



Transition Tips: From Families to Families!

From Oregon Alliance for Early Intervention

1. Take time to celebrate successes – share your child’s strengths!
2. Check in with the teacher frequently to communicate your feelings and needs.
3. IEP goals and objectives are very important; spend time and think them through.
4. Take notes at meetings.
5. Bring family members or friends who are a significant part of your family and child’s lives.
6. Be optimistic and realistic about setting goals.
7. Your service providers want to help and can be your allies.
8. Teachers get to know your children almost as well as you do and love them!
9. Be flexible; it’s not always perfect. Choose your battles; it’s okay to compromise.
10. Have a positive attitude and work TOGETHER as a team.
11. Be informed about the law (IDEA).
12. Don’t be afraid to ask questions.

Language and Literacy: Birth to Three

From Zero to Three:

http://main.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_par_012_langact

Parent-Child Activities to Promote Language and Literacy

- **Make a photo album.** Glue photos of your baby and the important people in her life onto sturdy 4x6 index cards. Punch a hole in the upper left corner of each card and tie them together with a short piece of yarn. Share the book with your baby. She will love seeing pictures of the people she loves and hearing you talk about them (and her!).
- **Touch some new textures.** Gather together small squares of different fabrics (lace, cotton, corduroy, nylon, etc.). Snip a small hole through each square and tie them together with a piece of ribbon (they can also be stitched together at the corner as well). Let your baby touch the fabric “book” and talk about how the different textures feel. Does she have a favorite page?
- **Sing some “finger play” songs.** These are songs that have hand movements to go with them. “Finger plays” help children develop muscle strength and coordination in their fingers, which helps them learn to write and draw later on. A baby favorite is

Pat-a-Cake: Pat-a-cake, Pat-a-cake, Baker's Man (clap hands together), Bake me a cake as fast as you can (pretend to stir the batter), Roll it (roll your hands over one another, as if you are rolling dough), Pat it (pat your thighs), And mark it with a B for Baby and me (draw a B in the air with your finger). Other favorites are Where is Thumbkin and The Wheels on the Bus.

Remember: If your child is interested and involved in an activity—and having fun—she is learning! So treasure these days of playing, exploring, and cuddling with your little one—it is exactly what she needs to grow and learn.

Parent Liaison Corner

From Valerie Smith

This will be our last meeting of the year. So come on out and join us!

May 12th at 6:30pm

At the Early Childhood Intervention Office
3125 Crosby Avenue Klamath Falls, OR 97603

If you will need **child care** please let me know by May 7th so I can make sure that we have enough coverage for all the children. For more information, please contact Valerie Smith at klamathspecialfamilies@gmail.com

Reminder

If your child will be absent from school and they are transported by school bus, please contact the **Classroom** to notify the teacher of your child's absence and the **Bus Shop** providing transportation for your child (County 541.883.5013 or City 541.883.4716) so that they may adjust their route. When your child is ready to return to school, please contact the Bus Shop to resume bus pickup.

If your child will be missing a scheduled appointment, please let us know as soon as possible so that our staff can make appropriate adjustments to their schedule. Our number is 541.883.4748.