



*Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk*  
*6411 Tidewater Drive, Norfolk, VA 23509*  
*( 757) 441-1186*  
*Aug/ Sep/Oct 2011 Newsletter*



### Program Supervisor's Corner

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I hope that this newsletter finds everyone healthy and enjoying the summer! I wanted to take a few minutes to share with you a few things that are happening in the program.

#### **Parent Input Needed**

We are getting ready to re-organize our local Interagency Coordinating Council. This council provides advice and guidance to the program to help us continue to grow and provide quality services to the children and families enrolled. I would like to have at least 2 parents on this council. We will meet 2x/year with our first meeting in September. Please let me know if you are interested.

Our State Office is in the process of reviewing the forms that we use and is seeking to have parent input regarding your feelings about the forms that we ask you to sign. If you are interested in providing input, being in a focus group or serving on the larger committee, please let me know. This project will last from August through approximately the end of the year. Your input is important to this work!

#### **Medicaid Targeted Case Management - New Program Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, **ALL** children who have Medicaid in our program will be automatically enrolled in Early Intervention Targeted Case Management. This program will increase the options families have for communicating with their Service Coordinator, but otherwise all of the changes will be "behind the scenes." More information will be provided closer to the October 1st start date.

#### **Laptops & Cell Phones**

You may have noticed that your Service Coordinator is now carrying a laptop and a cell phone. As our funding has tightened, we have looked at ways to become more efficient while continuing to provide your family with quality services. We appreciate your understanding while we work the technology into our daily practice.

On a final note, we are excited for this year's graduation. Each year we celebrate the accomplishments of the children and families who have progressed through the infant program. If your child is graduating this year, please join us on August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Murray Center.

Take care,

**Sandi Harrington**

441-1186



## October Field Trip... Pumpkin Patch At The Hunt Club Farm

**Date:** October 5th

**Time:** 10:30 a.m.

**Meet:** Please gather at the Barn area by 10:15 am

**Activities:** Tractor Pulled Hayride, Petting Farm, and a Pumpkin Patch where the children will be able to choose their pumpkin to take home.

This event is free for parents/guardians, infants & siblings of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk.

**\*\*However, there is a limit of 2 adults/child\*\***

Limited Transportation is Available

### Hampton Roads Medical Needs Registry

The Medical Needs Registry is an Emergency preparedness toll that will be used by local emergency managers to communicate with people who have medical needs for emergency preparedness planning.

*For your convenience, we have included the registration form for you in this newsletter.*



### Hurricane / Disaster Preparedness

The Emergency Preparedness for Families of Children with Special Needs tool kit can be downloaded for free by going to [chkd.org/Services/CareConnection](http://chkd.org/Services/CareConnection). Once you reach the Care Connection page, click on the helpful hints on the left, then a picture of the cover of the tool kit will be on the right; click to download.

Here are some other useful “web” resources to assist you and your family:

- [www.hrspecialneeds.org](http://www.hrspecialneeds.org) - special medical needs
- [www.readyvirginia.gov](http://www.readyvirginia.gov) - preparedness info
- [www.vaemergency.com](http://www.vaemergency.com) - planning tools
- [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)— info on current/past disasters
- [www.fema.gov/kids](http://www.fema.gov/kids) - just for kids
- [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) - community info
- [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov) - issues warnings
- [www.accessibleemergencyinfo.com](http://www.accessibleemergencyinfo.com) - emergency topics
- [www.nad.org](http://www.nad.org) - National Assoc. of Deaf
- [www.ncd.gov](http://www.ncd.gov) - National Council on Disability
- [www.ncil.org](http://www.ncil.org) - National Council on Independent Living
- [www.nod.org](http://www.nod.org) - National Organization on Disability
- [www.jik.com/disaster.html](http://www.jik.com/disaster.html) - training manuals on emergency preparedness

## Service Coordinator Corner



*My Child has a service provider (therapist/educator/vision teacher/coach), so what is my role?*

The role of a “service provider” is very important. The provider is a resource for your family that will provide activities, education and modeling. However, they are only with your family for a limited amount of time.

As a parent you are the most important teacher that your child will have. The time that you spend reinforcing the information and activities that were practiced during a session is very important.

A 45 to 60 minute session starts the learning process, but your “follow through” on a daily basis, is what makes the difference. Remember, “you know your child best.” Be encouraged and empowered.

### A Few things to Remember

- *Stay in contact with your Service Provider(s) and Service Coordinator*
- *Keep scheduled visits*
- *Write down questions to discuss at the next visit*
- *Talk with your Service Provider about any difficulties your child is experiencing in their daily routines.*
- *Use the ideas and activities in your daily routine*
- *Follow through with exercise programs that were discussed or modeled for you; be creative*
- *Provide positive reinforcement for your child*
- *Keep track of the newly developed skills/list of words/new movements/ following directions*
- *Review the goal sheet from the IFSP*
- *Discuss your families daily routines, concerns and goals for your child with your provider.*



*JoShirlon Capehart, BS*  
*Service Coordinator*

# Urgent Message

## UPDATE: June 5, 2011: FDA Continues to Investigate Necrotizing Enterocolitis and SimplyThick following Company's Recall

FDA continues to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigating a possible link between SimplyThick and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) in premature infants as early indications have suggested. FDA issued a press release on May 20. On June 4, SimplyThick voluntarily recalled its thickening gel product manufactured at its Stone Mountain, GA plant. Product manufactured at other facilities remains on the market. SimplyThick's recall of this product is a result of the company's failure to ensure that harmful bacteria of possible public health significance were destroyed in the manufacturing process at that manufacturing plant.

Product manufactured at other facilities remains on the market. At this time, there is not a confirmed link between SimplyThick and NEC in premature infants, though the investigation continues.

### For more information

[Simply Thick, LLC Announces The Voluntary Recall Of Products Manufactured By Thermo Pac, LLC At Their Stone Mountain, GA Food Processing Plant](#)

### FDA PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 20, 2011

Media Inquiries: Stephanie Yao, 301-796-0394, [stephanie.yao@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:stephanie.yao@fda.hhs.gov)

Consumer Inquiries: 888-INFO-FDA

**FDA: Do not feed SimplyThick to premature infants**

***The thickening product may cause necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening condition***

The current situation is unusual because NEC most often occurs in babies within the hospital early in their premature course. But among the ill babies of which FDA is aware, some had been discharged from the hospital to home on a feeding regimen that included SimplyThick and then fell ill at home.

### Fast Facts

- FDA is warning parents, caregivers and health care providers not to feed SimplyThick to infants born before 37 weeks gestation who are currently receiving hospital care or have been discharged from the hospital in the past 30 days.
- The product may cause necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening condition characterized by inflammation and death of intestinal tissue.
- Health care providers should stop administering the product to premature infants. Parents and caregivers who have questions or concerns related to the use of the product and/or who have medical concerns should contact their health care provider.

### What is the Problem?

The FDA is advising parents, caregivers and health care providers not to feed SimplyThick, a thickening product, to premature infants. The product may cause necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), a life-threatening condition.

FDA first learned of adverse events possibly linked to the product on May 13, 2011. To date, the agency is aware of 15 cases of NEC, including two deaths, involving premature infants who were fed SimplyThick for varying amounts of time. The product was mixed with mothers' breast milk or infant formula products.

Illnesses have been reported from at least four different medical centers around the country. The illnesses of which FDA is aware involve premature infants who became sick over the past six months. SimplyThick was added to the feeding regimen of those infants who later developed NEC to help with swallowing difficulties stemming from complications of premature birth.

The current situation is unusual because NEC most often occurs in babies within the hospital early in their premature course. But among the ill babies of which FDA is aware, some had been discharged from the hospital to home on a feeding regimen that included SimplyThick and then fell ill at home.



*Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk  
2011 Graduation*

*Join us in celebrating all of our  
wonderful children who are graduating  
from the Infant Program.*

*Our 2011 Graduation will be held  
August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Murray Center.*

Directions: The Murray Center is located at 455 E. Brambleton Avenue, between Posey Lane and St. Paul Boulevard and is connected to First Baptist Church. Parking is in the parking lot across the street from the Scope (St. Paul Boulevard). From St. Paul Boulevard, you will have to turn onto E. Bute Street to get to the parking lot. To get to the Murray Center entrance from the parking lot you must walk down E. Bute Street and turn left on Posey Lane. Look for the signs we will have posted to assist you in finding your way.