

February / March / April 2010

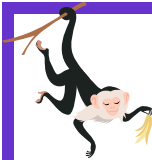
Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk

6411 Tidewater Drive • Norfolk, VA 23509 • (757) 441-1186

February Field Trip

We're going to Larrymore Elementary to learn about Norfolk Public School's Preschool Special Education Services on **2/18/2010 @ 9:30 a.m.**

Please see page 2 for details

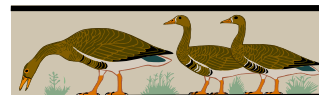


APRIL FIELD TRIP

We're taking a trip to the **Exotic Sanctuary & Petting Zoo at The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)**. The SPCA offers a variety of animals such as goats, monkeys, bobcats, chickens, geese, and more. We will even have the opportunity to feed some of the animals. **Please be sure to bring a bag lunch.** This field trip will take place on **Thursday, April 15th** from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to 441-1186.

► Limited Transportation is available. ◀

Directions: Take 64 West to J. Clyde Morris Blvd – Exit 258A. The SPCA will be about 2 miles down at 523 J. Clyde Morris Blvd.



MARCH FIELD TRIP



Come join us on our field trip to the **Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center**. This event is free for parent/ guardians, infants and siblings of the Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk and will take place on **Thursday, March 18th** from **10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to 441-1186 so we know how many tickets to purchase.



► Limited Transportation is available. ◀

Directions: From I-64 East, take I-264 East towards Virginia Beach to the Birdneck Rd. exit (Exit-22). Turn right onto Birdneck Rd. and continue to General Booth Blvd. Turn left onto General Booth. The main building will be ½ mile on your left, located at 717 General Booth Boulevard, Virginia Beach, VA. 23451



PLAYGROUPS

The Infant and Toddler Connection of Norfolk will be offering playgroups in February, March, and April at **10:30 a.m.** for children ages 1-3 years old.

Playgroups will be on **Thursdays**

February 4, 11, 25.

March 4, 11, 25.

April 1, 8, 22, 29.

Playgroups will include circle time activities, music, movement, and directed play. Please contact Emily at 441-1186 if you plan to attend.

► Limited transportation is available. ◀

Gymboree Music

Who ever thought that music could be so fun? Find out what's going on **every Wednesday** at the Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk. You will see just how much fun it can be to sing and dance. We offer two 30-minute sessions: **9:45 a.m.** and **11:00 a.m.** Friends and siblings are encouraged to come and join in on the fun. Classes are FREE.

► Limited transportation is available. ◀

Transportation for Gymboree & Playgroups

We would like to welcome **Yvonne Bright** as the new Office Assistant and Van Driver. She will be in charge of transporting clients to Gymboree, Playgroups, and Fieldtrips.

If you need transportation from your home to either Gymboree or Playgroup, we are requesting that you call the office by **9:00 a.m.** the morning of the event. We will provide transportation based on a first come – first served basis.

Service Coordinator Corner

A tip from Amanda Lemaster

Transitioning your child to the Norfolk Public Schools

There are several steps in the transition process that may take up to 3-4 months to complete.

Step 1: A referral sent by your Service Coordinator to the Preschool Assessment Team and the School Administration office to initiate the transition process.

Step 2: The initial meeting (SSST) with the Preschool Assessment Team is held approx. 2 weeks after referral is made. Parents and child must both be present. Team will review the current IFSP and complete an observation of the child in their play area. A social history interview will also be completed with the school social worker. Team will determine if any further testing is recommended at this time. ** Parent will be provided with enrollment packet and should begin working on it at this time.

Step 3: Eligibility meeting. The second meeting (eligibility) held with the Preschool Assessment Team. The team reviews IFSP testing along with reports from the social history, team observation of the child, and any other testing that was completed by the Preschool team. This meeting is held to determine if the child meets the eligibility criteria for Preschool Special Education Services. If eligible, IEP meeting will be scheduled during this meeting.

Step 4: The IEP (Individualized Education Program) meeting is held with members of the Preschool Assessment Team to develop a plan for the child's services with Norfolk Public Schools. This plan will include goals, services, and any special accommodations needed for your. Once this meeting is complete and your enrollment packet is turned in, your child will begin school services within 30 days of IEP development.

The school team must follow specific timelines for completing the transition process. The school timelines are as follows...10 administrative school days between referral and SSST meeting, up to 65 administrative school days between SSST meeting and Eligibility meeting, and up to 30 calendar days between Eligibility meeting and IEP meeting.

Parents must complete a school enrollment packet before any services can begin with the public schools. This packet includes registration forms, health forms, and a school physical. The school physical form must be completed by your child's pediatrician and must include a current TB test. Once the entire packet is complete, it must be turned in to your local elementary school and you must present the **original birth certificate** and a proof of residence (ex. utility bill) at that time.

Eligibility determination is made based on your child's individual needs. If any testing is completed by the Preschool Team at the SSST meeting or any time prior to the Eligibility meeting, the team will have copies of their reports available to you 2 days prior to the eligibility meeting for your review, if requested. Eligibility for special education services is determined if the child demonstrates a 25% or greater delay in one or more areas of development that will impact their educational performance. If a child is found eligible for services, they will be placed in an eligibility category at the time of the Eligibility meeting. This category is determined by various factors including areas of delay and medical diagnoses. Examples of Eligibility categories include Developmental Delay, Visual Impairment, Speech/Language Impairment, Autism, Hearing Impairment, or Severe/Profound Disability. If you would like specific information about any of these categories, please let your Service Coordinator know.

School services will look different for each child and will vary depending on their individual needs. Special Education services may include, but are not limited to,...speech therapy services provided 1-2 times per week in the local elementary school, a self-contained classroom for 2-5 days per week for 3 hours each day, a Head Start classroom with speech therapy provided by the closest elementary school, or a 4.5 hour day 5 days per week for children with extensive medical/therapy needs. Transportation may be provided by the school system and will include a car seat on the bus for your child. Only a select number of schools provide self-contained classrooms to 2 and 3 year olds in Norfolk. Your child will be placed in the school that is most appropriate for his/her needs.

Always remember that your team here at the Infant & Toddler Connection is here to support you throughout this process and you can contact your Service Coordinator any time with questions or concerns.

Norfolk Public Schools Special Early

Education Programs & the Infant & Toddler Connection of Norfolk

Transition Meeting

Thursday, February 18, 2009
9:30 a.m.

Larrymore Elementary School

Learn about the transition process

See Classrooms



Come See The Buses

Location of Meeting:
Larrymore Elementary
7600 Halprin Drive
Norfolk, VA 23518
757-531-3070

Directions: Take E. Little Creek towards the Little Creek Naval Base. Turn RIGHT onto HALPRIN DR. End at 7600 Halprin Dr Norfolk, VA 23518-4431

► Limited Transportation is available. ◀

Educator Corner

From the desk of Amy Bridge...

Help Me Talk

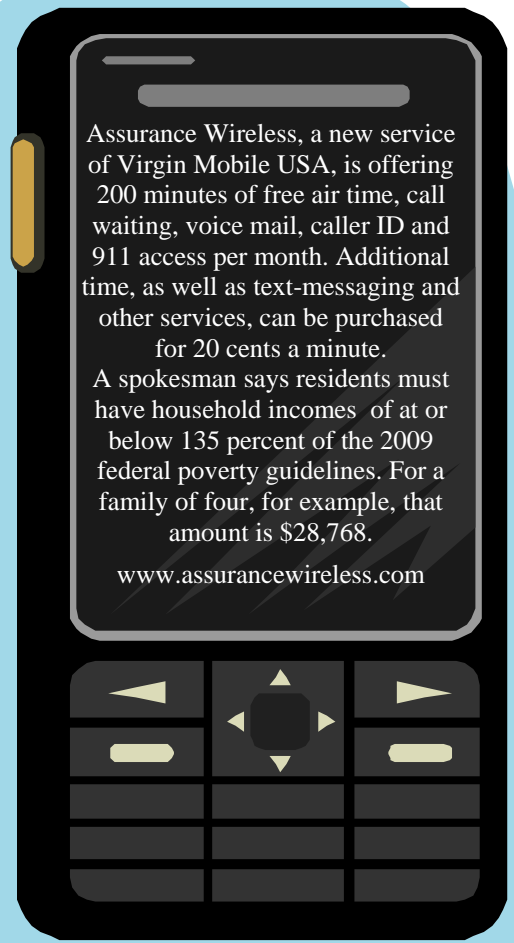
Some children are naturally more vocal than others. They will begin talking no matter how much or how little input they get. Most children need mommy, daddy, or the baby sitter to talk to them some, to play with them, to comment about what they are doing ("oh, look, you wiggled your fingers at me!") and what mommy wishes they would do ("Please, go back to sleep for a little longer!"). But some children need even more. For whatever reason, the basic language that most parents use with their babies is not enough to teach and motivate them. Their built in drive to speak doesn't kick in on its own, and they need extra help and motivation. Some simple ideas can help kick start their language production.

One of the most important things you can do to help your child begin talking is to increase the amount of language that he hears you use. Talk out loud about what you are doing, seeing, hearing, etc. If you are cooking keep up a running commentary about it "*Mommy is putting water in the pot. Now I'm going to put the pot on the stove and turn it on. While that heats up, I need to go get the noodles. Where are those noodles? Here they are!*" You can do this while you are reading, watching TV, eating, working on the car or in the garden, doing the laundry, driving, or any time that your child is with you. This is called **Self Talk**. Another important way to increase the speech that your child hears is to talk about what he or she is doing, seeing, hearing, or feeling. If he is throwing a ball you can say "*You rolled the ball. The ball is big. Pick it up. Oh, you threw the ball.*" This is called **Parallel Talk**. Remember to use short, clear sentences and to speak slowly. Also, use as many nouns and verbs to label the objects and actions as you can. I try to remind myself not to use pronouns like it, that, and those so that the child has more opportunities to hear the name of the object. (Instead of saying "Give me that," when your child is playing with your telephone, say "Give me my phone.")

Stop anticipating what your child needs or wants. This is a big one. Getting children what they want or need without them having to ask (fuss or cry) may make things more quiet and pleasant, but it doesn't teach the child that they can and should point, gesture, and vocalize to get their needs met. Not only should you delay meeting your child's needs automatically, but you can even create situations where they need to ask (like by putting their favorite toy out of reach, but within view, so they need to point and "tell" you in some way that they want the toy). Be sure to respond quickly when they do make the effort to communicate, no matter how small that effort may be. Pointing is acceptable for a child just learning to communicate.

As your child begins communicating more, you can take this even further by delaying your response to their gestures. If he points to his cup of juice, instead of immediately giving it to him, pretend not to know what he wants. Say "*What do you want up there? Do you want the spoon?...the salt?...my pen?...your juice? Oh, you want your juice. Here is your juice.*" And then give it to him. Since he is communicating by pointing, you want to give it to him after 15 to 20 seconds. But if he used a word to tell you, you would want to give it to him immediately to demonstrate the benefit of using words—I get what I want faster! I call this method **Playing Dumb**.

Try these ideas to help jump start your child's language. Talk to your SC, educator, or therapist about how they work and get more ideas for how to increase your baby's desire to talk and his or her vocabulary.



Upcoming Events @CHKD

February 06

Happiest Baby on the Block

This two-hour class for expectant and new parents will help Mom and Dad navigate the first months of Baby's life while learning how to soothe even the fussiest infant in minutes and help Baby sleep longer. Parents will learn about the calming reflex, the cuddle cure and the "5 Ss." All participants will receive "The Happiest Baby on the Block" DVD by Dr. Harvey Karp and a soothing sounds CD. To register call Sam Fabian at 668-7402. This program is supported by Kohl's Cares for Kids.

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: CHKD Health Center at Oakbrooke
500 Discovery Drive
Chesapeake, VA

February 25

Positive Discipline

Learn about several discipline techniques that work without yelling, arguing, or spanking. Call 668-7500 to register.

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: FREE

Location: CHKD Health Center at Oakbrooke
500 Discovery Drive
Chesapeake, VA 23320