

Smalltalk

Serving Providers & Families in Yolo County

Volume XXV, Number 6

IF A DOG WERE YOUR TEACHER, YOU WOULD LEARN STUFF LIKE:

- ♥ When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- ♥ Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- ♥ Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
- ♥ Take naps and stretch before rising.
- ♥ Run, romp, and play daily.
- ♥ Avoid biting, when a simple growl will do.
- ♥ On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass.
- ♥ On hot days, drink lots of water and lay under a shady tree.
- ♥ When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
- ♥ No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout...run right back and make friends.
- ♥ Delight in the simple joy of a long walk.
- ♥ Eat with gusto and enthusiasm. Stop when you have had enough.
- ♥ Be loyal.
- ♥ Never pretend to be something you're not.
- ♥ If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
- ♥ When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.

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Editor's Note: When I first took our dog to "Puppy Kindergarten," I was immediately struck by the similarity between that class and a good parenting class. Both stress the importance of setting clear, appropriate limits and enforcing them with love as consistently as possible. Over the years, I have learned a lot about life (and parenting!) from my dog. Therefore, when a friend sent me "If a Dog ..." I couldn't resist sharing it!

Meetings/Support Groups

DAVIS CHILD CARE COMMISSION

Quarterly; next meeting January 27, 7:30 p.m.
Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street
Public welcome.

FAMILY CHILD CARE LICENSING ORIENTATIONS

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
VMC Game Room
For dates & information call 757-5691

WESTERN YOLO COLLABORATIVE FOR HEALTHY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

3rd Wednesday of each month
26479 Grafton St, Esparto
Call Iris at 787-3516 for more information.

WOODLAND PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

4th Monday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers, City Hall, Woodland
Public welcome. Youth and children's issues discussed.

YOLO CHILD CARE PLANNING COUNCIL

1st Wednesday of each month, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Call 757-5691 or (800)378-5044 for location

YOLO COUNTY YOUTH SERVICE TASK FORCE

No Nov. or Dec. meeting, Call for date of Jan. meeting.
To confirm meeting dates and location call Susan at 668-3704.

BRIDGES

Support for parents of children in K-12 special ed.
3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
No meeting in December.
Learning Center, Davis High School
Call Inger at 756-8791 for information

CH.A.D.D.

Children & Adults with Attention Deficit Disorders
Thursday, Nov. 18, 7:15 p.m.
Leake Room, Woodland Public Library
Small group discussions, speakers and support.
Call 750-3929 information

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

2nd Tuesday of month, 7:30 p.m.
Genealogy Library, Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street
Call 757-5696 for information

LA LECHE LEAGUE

2nd Thursday of month, 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
345 L Street, Davis;
3rd Wed. of month, 10:00 a.m., Woodland
For location, phone support/meeting topics call for Davis info:
Karen 753-6986; Lonna 756-3551; Mary 753-2932
For Woodland: Angela 757-7105; Pamela 750-0229;
Jennifer 753-9824, Nathaline 759-1106

MOMS TOGETHER

For moms and babies under 1 year
Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 p.m.; VMC Game Room
For information call Jody at 758-5494

NEIGHBORHOOD TODDLERS

Monday & Wednesdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
26479 Grafton Street, Esparto
Call Iris for more information, 787-3516

PARENT-TO-PARENT

For parents of children 6th grade and up
Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., English
Lee Jr. High Library, 520 West Street, Woodland
Classes also will be given in Spanish.
For more information call Kenton Keithly at 666-7621

PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP

3rd Monday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.
Davis Community Church Fireside Rm., 412 C St
Call Mental Health Assoc. of Yolo County at 756-8181

WOODLAND SPECIAL EDUCATION LINKS

Support for parents of children in K-12 special ed.
Nov. 4, 7:00 p.m., no Dec. meeting
WJUSD Office, 630 Cottonwood St.
For information call Sue at 666-0246 or 662-0201 ext. 4377

VMC = Veterans' Memorial Center

203 E. 14th Street, (14th & B), Davis

YCSS = Yolo County Social Services

120 West Main Street, Woodland

Community News

Calendar

November 2 Election Day -- don't forget to vote!
11 Veteran's Day; city offices closed
25 Thanksgiving Day; city offices closed
26 City offices closed

December 3-4 Director Mentor Institute**
4 Market training*
20 School vacation; all districts
24 Christmas Eve; city offices closed
25 Christmas Day
31 New Year's Eve; city offices closed

January 1 New Year's Day
8 Tax Preparation and Record-Keeping training*

* For family child care providers and/or participants in Infant/Toddler Training Project

** See Conferences, Classes section

Compiled by Chris Weber-Johnson & Carrie Shepard

Special Needs Pilot Project Is Still Available!

Funds are still available for the Special Needs Pilot Project. This exciting project offers one-on-one support for child care providers who are caring for children needing special accommodations. Representatives from Lekotek will conduct an initial assessment with interested providers, parents and children to determine a case plan. The plan will include home visits in which a Lekotek employee will work with the provider to accommodate the special needs of the children in his or her care.

If you are a parent with a child who needs special accommodation in child care, or if you are a provider interested in increasing your comfort level in providing this kind of care, contact Carrie Shepard at (530) 757-5691 or 1(800) 378-5044.

Current Recommendations for Hepatitis A

Because Hepatitis A is seen more often than in the past, there is a new recommendation that children in preschool and child care settings receive the vaccine. The Hepatitis A disease usually does not seriously affect healthy children, though it does cause vomiting and diarrhea. However, the adults who may get the disease from infected children more often become seriously ill, especially if the adult is elderly or has other medical problems.

Hepatitis A is transmitted through the fecal-oral route. In other words, someone who changes the diapers on a child with Hepatitis A and does not then adequately wash her hands can then infect herself or others by handling food.

If you have questions about immunizations, call the Yolo County Health Department at (530) 666-8645. See next page for information on the immunization clinics located throughout the county, providing free or low-cost vaccines for children and adults each month.

Bill Adds Chicken Pox to List of Required Vaccines

Governor Davis has signed a bill which adds the chicken pox (or *varicella*) vaccine to the list of immunizations required for children entering child care or school. This requirement will go into effect on July 1, 2001. It does not require the chicken pox immunization for children already admitted to kindergarten or a higher grade. However, younger children already in child care will be required to receive the vaccine.

State-funded Preschool Program in Davis

The Children's Center in Davis has openings in its part-day preschool program. Parents who qualify as low-income may call the Center to find out about enrolling their child in the program. The sessions last for three hours each day, running from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or from 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. There are openings in both time slots. For information, call the Children's Center at 757-5340.

Community News

Community Resources

FEDERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Eligibility is based on income.

Last Wednesday of the month, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Senior Center, 646 A Street, Davis, 757-5696

Last Friday of month:

Winters Community Center, 12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.

Yolo Housing Community Center, 10:45-11:30 a.m.

Call (530)758-6821 for information

IMMUNIZATION CLINIC

Immunizations given by Yolo County Health Dept.

Winters, Public Library, 1st Wednesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Woodland, 10 Cottonwood, Monday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. &

Friday, 9:00-11:00 a.m.;

West Sacramento, 500 B Jefferson Blvd., Ste 170

Tuesday, 1:00-3:30 p.m.

Call (530)666-8645 (Woodland, Winters) or (916)375-

6380 (West Sacramento) for information

WELL AND SICK CARE CLINICS

for Women's Health Care & general medical information

Davis Community Clinic, 2040 Sutter Place,

Call (530)758-2060

Peterson Clinic, 8 N. Cottonwood, Woodland,

Call (530)666-8960

Salud Clinic, 500B Jefferson Blvd. #180, West Sacramento, call (916)375-6400

YOLO COUNTY CHILDREN'S

MEDICAL SERVICES

Child Health &

Disability Prevention Program

Free health check-ups for children through 20 years of age on MediCal and for low-to-medium income children through 18 years of age.

California Children's Services

Case management and financial assistance for children through 20 years of age with serious or chronic medical conditions.

For information and appointments call (530)666-8640

YOLO COUNTY WIC PROGRAM

Nutrition program for women, infants & children.

Clinics in Davis, West Sacramento, Winters &

Woodland. Phone hours 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.,

MWF: (530)666-8445 (Woodland), (916)375-6390 (West Sacramento)

New Recommendations to Prevent Infant Deaths

New recommendations to prevent infant deaths were recently issued by the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). These revisions affect the way infants are put down to sleep.

For years, parents have been warned to place infants to sleep on their backs in a crib with a firm, tight fitting mattress, and never to place infants on top of soft, fluffy bedding, such as pillows, comforters, or sheepskins.

While deaths from SIDS have dropped dramatically in recent years after the Back-to-Sleep Campaign, as many as 900 infants deaths each year are still associated with soft bedding.

New information shows that babies are also at increased risk for SIDS if they get their heads covered by soft bedding even while they sleep. Babies have been found dead with their heads covered by soft bedding even while they were sleeping on their backs.

Therefore, the CPSC, the AAP and the NICHD are releasing the following revised recommendations:

- Place baby on his/her back on a firm, tight-fitting mattress in a crib that meets current safety standards.
- Remove pillows, quilts, comforters, sheepskins, stuffed toys and other soft products from the crib.
- Consider using a sleeper as an alternative to blankets with no other covering.
- If using a blanket, put baby with its feet at the foot of the crib. Tuck a thin blanket around the crib mattress, only as far as the baby's chest.
- Make sure your baby's head is uncovered during sleep.
- Do not place baby on a waterbed, sofa, soft mattress, pillow, or other soft surface to sleep.

Source: *Humboldt Child Care Council Newsletter*, Fall 1999

Community News

Websites for Parents

If you would like to access information and services offered on-line by city of Davis Child Care Services, try visiting these websites:

General information about child care:

www.city.davis.ca.us/city/parks/child/

Recent Parenting Handouts:

www.city.davis.ca.us/city/parks/handout/

Small Talk: www.city.davis.ca.us/city/parks/smtalk/

The following interactive web site helps you see more clearly what your child's temperament is and find parenting tactics that work for your child. Developed by the Preventive Ounce over the past ten years, this program has been used by more than 20,000 parents in health maintenance organizations in the western United States: www.preventiveoz.org/

Children and Diabetes

November is National Diabetes Month. Child Care Services recently bought the video, "Care of Children with Diabetes in Child Care and School." If you are interested in checking out the video, stop by the Book and Video Lending Library, located in our office at 604 Second Street, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is an annual borrowing fee of \$10 (fee waivers are available) which allows one to check out books, videos and audio tapes from our Lending Library as well as toys from the Toy Closet, located in the Parks & Community Services Dept. at 23 Russell Blvd. A \$5 refundable deposit is required on each video or audio tape that is borrowed. If you would like a listing of all our video and audio tapes, call 757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044.

Applications are being taken for Supervisor Position

The City of Davis is currently recruiting for a Community Services Supervisor to oversee Child Care Resource and Referral programs and services. Donita Stromgren recently resigned from her position as Resource and Referral Supervisor after 20 years of exemplary service to the City. The position involves preparation and administration of state, federal and private grants, planning, development and implementation of resource, referral and parent education programs and services, and staffing the Child Care Commission. Job announcements and applications are available at the City of Davis Human Resources Department, 23 Russell Boulevard. Deadline for applications is November 12, 1999.



See Your Child's Art Published!

We enjoy publishing the artwork of children in *Small Talk*. Original line drawings done in ink or markers on paper not larger than 8 ½ by 11 inches reproduce the best. Please send in a xerox of the drawing(s) along with your child's name, age, and your name, address and phone number to Chris Weber-Johnson, Child Care Services, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis, CA 95616. You will receive a copy of *Small Talk* when the art work is published.

The "Dancing Butterfly" above was drawn by Luke McClellan, age 8.

Workshops & Classes

Parenting Classes in Yolo County Fall 1999/Winter 2000

The following classes are being offered by various agencies in Yolo County. Some of the classes are repeated when sufficient enrollment is reached so call the sponsoring agency if a class interests you but has already started. For information on other classes that may have not been planned in time to get on this list, call city of Davis Child Care Services at (530)757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044.

Active Parenting Today (PC910)

Sponsored by City of Davis Child Care Services

A class for parents of children 3 to 11 years of age.
Tuesdays, January 18 - February 22; 6:30-8:30 p.m.
East Conference Room, DJUSD Office
526 B St (enter from C Street), Davis

No cost but participants must pre-register by calling Child Care Services at 1(800)378-5044 or (530)757-5691. A limited number of child care spaces are available for children 2 to 10 years but child care (PC911) must be reserved in advance.

The Not-So-Terrible Twos (PC907)

Sponsored by City of Davis Child Care Services

A class for parents of children 12 to 36 months.
Tuesdays, Jan. 25-Feb. 15, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Woodland Public Library, Leake Room
250 First Street, Woodland

No cost but participants must pre-register by calling city of Davis Parks & Community Services at 757-5626 or Child Care Services at 757-5691.

Parent Empowerment Program

Sponsored by Washington Unified School District

Classes for parents of children 2 to 13 years of age.
Weeks of Jan. 17-March 15 (Exact dates, time and location to be announced.) Class is free; child care provided for all ages. To register contact Julie Vierra at (916)375-7600 ext.2249

Family Life Skills Program

Sponsored by Mental Health Assn. of Yolo County

12 week groups for youth 10-14 years and their parents. Cost is covered by MediCal; sliding fee scale for non-MediCal participants. Dinner is provided. Waiting lists are kept and new groups are started to meet the demand. Call Andrea Jones at (530)756-8181 ext. 13. Groups scheduled now:

In Davis: Third & B, 303 Third Street
Mondays, November 1-end of January; 5:30-8:30 p.m.
(Another group will start in Davis in January.)

In West Sacramento:

Community Room A, 500A Jefferson Blvd.
Tuesdays or Wednesdays, beginning in January;
6:00-9:00 p.m. (Call for exact dates.)

Healthy Families

Outreach workshops for Perinatal Outreach Education incorporating care before conception. These workshops are presented by Public Health nurses and can be scheduled as needed. Contact Donna Curley, PHN at (916)375-6388.

Yolo Family Service Agency

These classes are repeated when there is sufficient enrollment. To find out starting dates or to sign up 662-2211 or 753-8674 or (916)375-1254:

Kids' Turn

Six-week groups for children (4 - 14 years) and parents experiencing separation or divorce.
Mondays, November 1-December 6; 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Holmes Jr. High, 1220 Drexel Dr., Davis

Protecting Children from Conflict

For children of divorced or separated families with ongoing difficulties resolving issues.
Mondays, January 24 - April 10, time & location TBA

Parenting for Yourself & Your Child

Learn effective communication skills; how to build your child's self-esteem; appropriate discipline/limit setting; constructive expression of anger. This class meets court ordered mandated requirements. Class will be repeated starting mid-January
Fee: \$120/individual; \$176/couple

Families of the Mentally Ill

For families who have a chronically mentally ill adult family member.
December 1; 4:00-5:30 p.m.
1105 Kennedy Place, Ste. 2, Davis

Living with Your Teens

Call for dates and times.

Workshops & Classes

Parenting Classes

Sponsored by Yolo Connections Sister/Friend Project

These CPS approved classes are open to men and women whether or not they are participating in the Sister/Friend Project. During each session three classes appropriate to different ages are offered: "Rebonding and Rebuilding" (0-5 years); "Active Parenting" (6-12 years); "Parent to Parent" (13-17 years). All classes are held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and offer free child care. There is no class fee but participants must pre-register by calling 669-3285.

Session 1: All classes held at the Mario Obledo Center, 514 Main Street, **Woodland:**

"Rebonding and Rebuilding"

Wednesdays, October 6 -December 1 (class)

December 6 (family activity).

"Active Parenting"

Wednesdays, December 15 - January 19 (class) January 26 (family activity).

"Parent to Parent"

Wednesdays, February 2-March 22 (class)

March 29 (family activity).

Session 2: All classes held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1500 Park Blvd., **West Sacramento:**

"Rebonding and Rebuilding"

Mondays, November 8 – January 3 (class)

January 10 (family activity).

"Active Parenting"

Mondays, January 24 – February 28 (class)

March 6 (family activity).

"Parent to Parent"

Mondays, March 13 – May 1 (class)

May 8 (family activity).

Session 3 (held in Spanish): All classes held at the Mario Obledo Center, 514 Main Street, **Woodland:**

"Rebonding and Rebuilding"

Thursdays, January 6 – March 2 (class)

March 9 (family activity).

"Active Parenting"

Thursdays, March 16 – April 20 (class)

April 27 (family activity).

"Parent to Parent"

Thursdays, May 4 – June 22 (class)

June 29 (family activity).

Session 4: All classes held in **Davis** at a location to be announced:

"Rebonding and Rebuilding"

Tuesdays, January 11 – March 7 (class)

March 7 (family activity).

"Active Parenting"

Tuesdays, March 14 – April 18 (class)

April 25 (family activity).

"Parent to Parent"

Tuesdays, May 2 – June 20 (class)

June 27 (family activity).

Foster Care Education Program

Held at Woodland Community College

For information call Cherie Schroeder at (916)678-3021 or Cyndi Smit at (530)666-4276.

Caring for Our Foster Parents

November 4, 11, 18; 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Parent-Child Interaction Therapy

Saturday, December 4; 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Kinship Care Education Program

Held at Woodland Community College

For information call Debra Wiegel at (530)668-9231.

Special Education Services

Nov. 18, 9:00-12:00 noon or Nov. 20, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Legal Issues with the Honorable, Donna Petrie

Jan. 20, 9:00-12:00 noon or Jan. 21, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Life Skills Learning Center

A 20 or 52 week domestic violence program for perpetrators and victims/ survivors dealing with issues of anger, conflict resolution & anger management. For information call 662-1624.

Conferences

Child Abuse Conference:

Prevention, Intervention, Treatment

November 10, 1999;

The Money Store, West Sacramento

Contact: (530)666-8267

Director Mentor Institute

Sponsored by the

California Early Childhood Mentor Program

A two-day intensive exploration of the role of mentoring.

December 3-4; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sacramento, CA

Cost is \$40.00 for 3 meals and program materials.

Contact Linda Olivenbaum, Mentor Program

Coordinator at (510)723-6677.

Especially for Parents

Home Made Fun

By Anna Otto

Play is the work of babies and children. It is how they learn about the world. And toys are the main “tools of the trade.” Good, developmentally appropriate play items provide opportunities for children to build new skills and solve problems in creative ways.

Just visit the toy section of any store, and you will see the wide variety of commercial toys available. Keeping your child equipped with new and interesting toys, however, doesn't have to break the family budget. There are many simple toys you can make at home for little or no cost. Regardless of whether you buy or make the items, be sure to keep the following factors in mind:

Safety: For babies and small children, make sure that no part is smaller than 1¼ inches. Small parts present a choking hazard. To test toys, you can either purchase or make a “choke tube.” If the toy, or any part of it which could become detached, can fit through the tube, then it is not a safe choice for a baby. Also, be on the lookout for string or cords which can present a strangulation hazard. And, always be careful of water! Never let a baby or small child play with water unsupervised, no matter how little water there is.

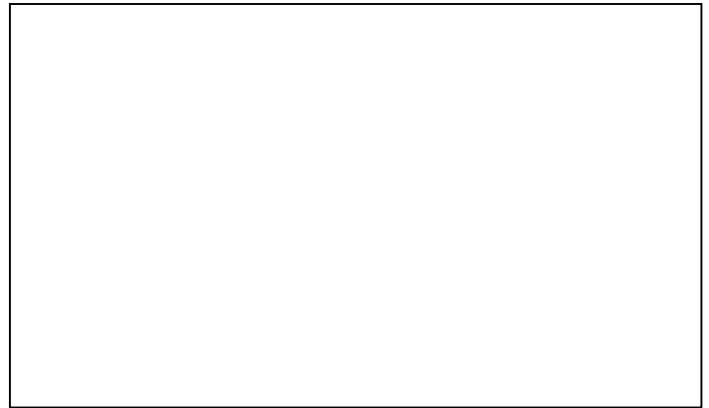
Developmental Level: Most commercial toys include an age rating on the package. This rating provides useful information about the safety and developmental level of the item. Even if a toy is safe for a younger child, it may be beyond his/her developmental level. If this is the case, the child may not have the skills to play with or enjoy the toy. This may lead to frustration, boredom, or “burn out” (where the child may not be interested in the toy when it becomes developmentally more appropriate). When creating toys, use common sense and knowledge about your child to determine whether or not a toy is appropriate.

Keeping children interested and challenged with their toys is an on-going process. It sometimes seems that children quickly tire of the same old toys. Again, however, keeping your child equipped with new and interesting items need not break the family budget. Below are a few suggestions for stretching your toy options:

- Rotate the toys in your house.
- Take advantage of toy lending libraries.*

- Swap toys with friends.
- Try to purchase toys that have multiple uses and can grow with your child.
- Think of different ways to present or combine toys to make them “new” again.
- Make toys and play items from objects around the house.

Making toys and play items at home is simple. All it takes is a little time and creativity. The toys may be as simple or complex as you like. Add pictures, stickers, or contact paper to dress them up. Below are some ideas for children of different ages.



Infants

Sorter toy. Take an old container, such as a coffee can. Cut a hole in the top of the lid. Show baby how to drop items, such as clothes pins, into the container. Initially, use the toy without the lid; later, add the lid for added difficulty. Another version of this toy is to use a diaper wipe box and juice can lids.

Roller toy. Use an empty oatmeal container or other round container. Cover it with interesting pictures. Show baby how to roll the container. For added interest, enclose a bell or other noisy object inside the container.

Rattles. Fill empty containers with a variety of items, such as rice, beans or pasta. Empty water bottles work well; be sure to secure the lid so baby cannot choke on the contents. This is also a great use of empty medicine containers, which come equipped with child proof lids.

Especially for Parents

Puppets. A great use for those mismatched socks! Simply draw faces on the socks to make puppets. Place the puppets on baby's hand or foot.

Tunnel. Create a tunnel out of large boxes. You may need to add some support to the corners to keep the box from collapsing. Baby will have hours of fun crawling through the tunnel.

Toddlers

Nesting/Stacking toy. Find three or more containers that fit inside each other. Yogurt containers work great. You can also cut the tops off different sized milk containers.

Blocks. Another use for old milk containers. Measure the bottom of the container. Cut three of the sides to this height. Cut the fourth side twice as long, then fold it over. You have now made a square cube block. Make a few for building.

Splat Mat. Save some old plastic tops, such as those from a milk bottle or a yogurt container. Fill a zip lock bag with the tops and water (no more than half full). Insert the first bag into a second bag. Lay the toy on a flat, waterproof surface.

Water/Sand Toys. Create simple water/sand toys from old containers. Laundry soap scoops make great scoopers. Yogurt containers are good for digging and pouring; add some holes in the bottom for extra fun. Plastic bottles are fun for filling and emptying.

Play Dough. Mix 1 cup flour, ½ cup salt, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1 cup water, 1 tablespoon oil, and coloring or tinting in a saucepan. Cook the mixture over low heat until a ball forms and pulls from the sides of the pan while stirring. Remove the ball to a cutting board and allow to cool. When cool, kneed until soft and smooth.

Preschool

Sewing. Punch holes around the edge of an old piece of cardboard. Wrap tape around the first inch or so of a piece of yarn. Use the yard to sew around the cardboard.

Matching Game. Mark off a 3x3 game board on a piece of paper or posterboard. Using another piece of paper or posterboard, make cards the same size as the

boxes on the game board. Use duplicate pictures from stickers or old magazines; place one picture on the game board and one picture on the card. Have child match the pictures.

Lids. Set out a variety of containers and their lids. Children will spend hours matching the lids to the containers.

Corn Meal Letters. Fill a pie tin, or similar container, with corn meal. Show child how to make letters in the container. When done, erase the letter and try again.

Coupon Clipping. Children like to practice their cutting skills. Give them the coupon section from the newspaper. They can practice cutting out the coupons.

*Toys may be borrowed from the Toy Closet, located in Parks & Community Services, 23 Russell Blvd., Davis, (757-5691) or the Woodland Toy Library, 1017 Main Street, Woodland (666-2918).

Anna Otto has a M.S. degree in Child Development from UC Davis. She has extensive experience working with infants and children. Locally, she has taught informal classes for "A Mother's Place." She lives in Davis with her husband and two children (8 and 1 years).

Parenting Handouts

In the November parenting handout, "Entering the Land of Books," Laura Mezirka discusses how we can show children by example that there is much to be gained from reading. She gives suggestions for helping children find books which will make them want more.

Two short articles make up the parenting handout for December: "A Baker's Dozen: Tips for Parents" and "Honoring Silliness." Among other things, this handout reminds us that during the stressful holiday season, it's helpful to keep your sense of humor.

Parenting Handouts are available at no cost to individuals and at those family child care homes and children's programs that request them for parents. An index of past handouts is also available. To request individual copies of past handouts or to be put on a mailing list, call Child Care Services at 757-5691 or 1-800-378-5044 or stop by the Child Care Services Office at 604 Second Street, Davis.

Book Corner

Selected and reviewed by Chris Weber-Johnson

The following children's books are new additions to the Yolo County Public Library. If they are not available in your local branch, ask to borrow them through inter-library loan. Also, when you call the library don't forget to ask when your local branch is scheduling story times for young children. This is a great way to spark your child's interest in reading and books.

Dance

*By Bill T. Jones and Susan Kuklin
Photography by Susan Kuklin*

Dancer/choreographer Bill T. Jones and photographer Susan Kuklin have teamed up to produce a beautiful book which will appeal to children and dance-loving adults of all ages. Although the text is very simple, brief and printed in a large font size, Jones' expressive poses are so clearly captured in Kuklin's photography that they invite the reader's sustained attention. The text and photographs work together to show how Jones uses his body to express himself, bringing joy to himself and others. The words seem to dance with the photographs on each page of this uncluttered, visually appealing book.

Lottie's New Friend

Written and illustrated by Petra Mathers

"Who does Lottie like best?" Herbie wonders when an exotic new neighbor befriends *his* best friend. That question---familiar to children everywhere---is answered with extraordinary warmth, humor, and insight in Petra Mather's new picture book treat about Lottie and Herbie. This story about making new friends while keeping the old is appropriate for children ages 3-8 years.

Fruits: A Caribbean Counting Poem

*By Valerie Bloom
Illustrated by David Axtell*

In this counting poem, two sisters playfully count tropical fruit, a number of which may be new to readers unfamiliar with that part of the world. David Axtell's vibrant oil on canvas board illustrations and Valerie Bloom's lilting dialect capture the rich texture of the Caribbean culture. For children 3 to 7 years.

Magpie Magic

Written and illustrated by April Wilson

This colorful, wordless picture book is an artistic delight. On the first two pages, a child's hands reach for a gift of colored pencils and begin to draw. The bird, which takes shape on the page, comes to life and begins to mischievously interact with other objects that become real as the child and the bird draw them. Children about 3 to 7 years of age will have fun supplying the words to describe the bird's antics as the story unfolds. April Wilson's mesmerizing introduction to color is sure to inspire budding artists of all ages to reach for their own drawing pencils.

Family Child Care News

Confused by the Immunization Records?

As licensed child care providers, you are required to keep on file the immunization records of any children in your care who are not yet schoolage. But beyond that, you are required to ensure that every child in your care is current on their immunizations. That means that you may not allow any child to come to your family child care home who is not up-to-date on their shots!

The two exceptions to this rule are; 1) when a parent has signed the back of the blue California School Immunization Record in the "Personal Beliefs Affidavit," or 2) when a doctor signs a statement that an immunization can not be given for medical reasons. In the latter case, the doctor should indicate when the immunization can be given, and the provider must then be sure that the child is immunized at that time.

At first glance, this record-keeping may not seem terribly difficult. However, this means that you, as providers, must know *what* immunizations are required and *when* they are due for each non school-age child in your care. You should try to give parents a heads-up that the child must receive the vaccination by a certain date in order to come to child care (you may want to develop a special form for this). If the parent does not follow through, then you must turn the child away from your care until he or she receives that immunization.

In addition, you may have a child who is 2 years old, for instance, but who did not get vaccinated as an infant. The child *may* come to child care as long as the required vaccines are started before he or she comes to your home. From that point on, you must track that child to be sure that he or she gets the rest of the immunizations at the appropriate intervals.

The immunization records can be quite confusing, and you may want some help to understand what you are required to do. If you have questions, call the county Public Health Dept. at (530)666-8645 or Carrie Shepard at (530)757-5691 or 1(800)378-5044. Child Care Services also has written information on developing a system for keeping track of the immunizations due, handouts on talking to parents about immunizations, and copies of the blue forms (you must use the original blue forms in the children's files.)

Free Marketing Class Scheduled

Whether you are a new licensed family child care provider, or you're just looking for ways to market your business, sign up for the *It's Your Business: Marketing* class. It is scheduled for Saturday, December 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center Club Room, at 203 E. 14th Street in Davis.

Also, look for information on the next Tax Preparation and Record-Keeping class scheduled for January 9, 2000. For more information or to sign up, call Carrie at 757-5691. This class is also part of the Infant/Toddler training project curriculum.

Davis Family Child Care Association

In September, David and Dorothea Gee from Woodland, hosted the Davis FCC Association for a sumptuous feast of ethnic food (Japanese and Philippine). If you weren't there, then you missed a really enjoyable evening!

This association welcomes licensed family child care providers from all over Yolo County. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet, talk to, and learn with your fellow child care providers. The next gathering will be held after the holidays. Look for an announcement in the January/February issue of Small Talk, or call Dave Bakay at 758-3709.

FAMILY CHILD CARE CONNECTION

Morning Out and Home Visits

Linda and Renuka look forward to welcoming participants in the Morning Out program at the Chestnut Park Round House from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. on Fridays, November 5, 12, and 19, and December 3, 10, and 17. There is still space for six more children in the December group. If you would like to find out more about this fun, free program aimed at licensed family child care providers and their children in the two to five year old age range, call Linda at 757-5691.

Providers participating in Home Visits will continue to be visited by Linda at their regularly scheduled times in November and December. Linda will reschedule visits to those providers whose regular day falls on a holiday.

A few more providers can be accommodated in this fun, free program which can be tailored to meet the needs of all age children.

Smalltalk

City of Davis
Parks & Community Services Dept.
23 Russell Blvd.
Davis, CA 95616

CITY OF DAVIS
CHILD CARE SERVICES
757-5691 or 1-800-378-5044

Supervisor: Donita Stromgren
Editor: Chris Weber-Johnson
Staff Writers: Chris Weber-Johnson, Carrie Shepard,
Donita Stromgren
Contributing Writer: Anna Otto

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