

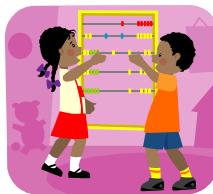


September 2009



Welcome Back!!

It's the start of the new school year and the DART Program would like to take this opportunity to welcome both our returning and our new students. We hope that everyone enjoyed the summer and is looking forward to a fun and exciting school year. If you have any questions about your child's programming or anything else related to the DART program, please feel free to ask your child's teacher/therapist. We are here to assist you in any way we can.



Reminder to all DART Parents & Teachers



If you have a child with physical health needs (asthma, seizures or anything else), please contact the DART Service Coordinator for Physical Health (Cindy Callaghan, 412-394-3616). We want to make certain that all of the children in the DART Program have their health needs met in the classroom.

Now Enrolling: Integration Children

Did you know that DART classrooms enroll children who do not qualify for Early Intervention services? They are considered our Integration Children. If you know of a child who is in need of a high quality, low cost preschool program, DART is the place to be! Integration Children are a big part of the success of children in DART classrooms. If you know of a child for consideration as an Integration child, please call (412) 394-5942 to schedule a screening appointment. *Children must be at least 3 years old to be screened.*



Parents Corner

Competence and Confidence: Partners in Policymaking (C2P2) Early Intervention 2009-2010

A free leadership development training for families with children in Early Intervention (EI) and pre-school programs.

Participants will:

- Identify best practice supports in EI
- Connect with community resources
- Navigate the Pennsylvania EI System

Families will receive travel and childcare cost reimbursements (if eligibility requirements are met).

Who should apply? Interested family members from Pennsylvania who:

- Have an infant, toddler or pre-school age child who receives EI services.
- Have a desire to learn to advocate for themselves and others by building leadership skills.
- Are willing to make a time commitment to attend all trainings.

All 4 trainings are 2-day sessions. All C2P2 EI 2009-2010 training sessions will be held on Fridays and Saturdays (starting in October 2009 and ending in April 2010) in Lancaster, PA. Exact location to be announced. For more information and/or an application, contact Diane Perry, Family Inclusion Coordinator at 215-204-3031(voice), 215-204-1356(TTY), or email her at dperry@temple.edu.

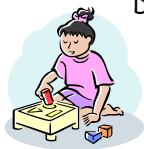


Trainings are funded by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and the PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare



Does your family need support with your child's behavior? The DART Behavior Series will be offered this fall. Be on the look-out for informational flyers that your child's teacher or therapist will distribute in mid September.

Early Learning Standards 101 and The Importance of Play



All of the professionals who service children enrolled in DART use the Early Learning Standards to guide planning of instruction and IEP development. In this opening issue, we are reviewing the Early Learning Standards for everyone, and introducing them to the new families in DART. In future issues, we will focus on the PA Early Learning Standards and how you can incorporate them into your child's play at home.

Approaches to Learning: This standard deals with differences in the ways children learn.

Creative Arts: This standard focuses on creative expression as important part of children's learning.

Language and Literacy: This standard is broken into four separate areas: Receptive Language, Expressive Language, Comprehension, and Literacy.

Logical Mathematics: This standard deals with numbers, patterns, space/shape, measurement, data, and problem solving.

Personal-Social: This standard deals with strengthening children's social and emotional development as well as nurturing emotional security, positive self concept and respect for others.

Physical-Health: This standard deals with development and strengthening of gross and fine motor muscles.

Science: This standard deals with learning scientific concepts through exploring, observing, and investigating materials.

Social Studies: The foundation for social studies and history learning begins with children's personal experiences and expands to schools, neighborhoods, communities, and the larger world.

Program Partnerships: Early care and education programs must work together with parents to assure children's school success. The partnership that is developed helps to create a seamless experience between home and school that allows children to learn in a comfortable, consistent environment.

Sources: "Parents Corner" created by Sue Vandervort, DART Preschool Service Coordinator. Early Learning Standards" and "The Importance of Play" information provided by PDE and DPW. Focus on Health and Safety created by Cindy Callaghan, DART Service Coordinator for Physical Health with information from <http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/carseat/>. "Get involved now to ensure academic success" and "Show your child attendance is a top priority" articles reprinted from the September 2007 issue of *Parents make the difference! E. Childhood Edition newsletter*.

Focus on Health and Safety

Welcome back! The beginning of the new school year means a busy time for families. In addition to school, there are other activities going on. As families drive carpools and travel to many places, it is a good time to think about carseat safety.



<http://stokes.chop.edu/programs/carseat/> is a comprehensive website sponsored by the Stokes Institute and Children's Hospital of Philadelphia focusing on carseat safety. There are videos which show how to properly install a carseat for any age (infant seats through booster seats) in addition to tips for buying a new car that is carseat friendly. This website is a great resource to help keep all family members safe in the car.

Get Involved Now to Ensure Academic Success

Educational research shows that parental involvement from an early age helps your child do better in school. Being involved can help your child build critical skills, such as reading. But most of all, it tells your child that education is important to you and your family. That attitude is likely to stick with him. Other benefits for children of involved parents, according to research, include:

- Better school attendance.
- Better behavior at school.
- More confidence about school.



Here are some important ways to get involved:

- Attend back-to-school nights or parent presentations.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Check with teachers to see how your child is doing in school.
- Spend time in your child's class as your schedule permits.

Show Your Child that Attendance is a Top Priority

It may be a year or so before your preschooler attends an academic school program. The most important good school habit is regular attendance. Show your child that attending school is a top priority by:

- Being excited about your child's preschool. Talk about how much fun he has there and how much he is learning.
- Trying not to interrupt the school day. Schedule doctor's appointments and vacations during non-school times.
- Helping your child get enough rest so he can be fresh for school the next day. Preschoolers need about 11 hours of sleep.