



Families

Understanding

Needs

WINTER 2008

PARENT PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

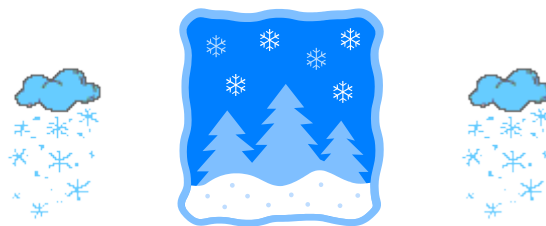
What is communication? Communication is knowing how to say what you want, and having the other person(s) understand what you said precisely. It takes at least two people...one sharing and one listening to communicate. If one person does not receive the information being communicated...no communication will occur, at least not what was originally intended.

When Congress reauthorized the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in 2004 (IDEA 2004), parents were renewed as equal partners in their child's education. Congress said that parents should always be considered as equal partners in every aspect of their child's education. Parents and Professionals are to be equal partners working together for the common good for the student on the student's IEP team.

"Parent Professional Communication" is one of the ten **FUN** trainings Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities (OCECD) has designed to help families and professionals come together through communication. You will learn how to clear up old assumptions about professionals and parents and how to make the most of a conference/meeting. Communication is a "Team Activity". "Team members" support each other so that everybody wins. There

are four types of communication and each type of communication has its place in the right situations. The "Parent Professional Communication" training will help you understand the four types so parents and professionals can build solid communication teams. All of the trainings are free and come with a booklet! If you are interested in scheduling a training in your area, contact us for information and availability. For a complete list and details of our trainings, visit our website at www.ocecd.org or call 800-374-2806.

Winter is a **FUN** time for more inside activities and sometimes outside with your children. In this **FUN** newsletter there are two activities with one to do outside making ice candles! There are three book reviews with one on appreciating children with special needs and another that combines a CD to use music to help students learn math. In "Family Fun" you will learn where Leap Year came from, and in "What's Happening Now" you will learn of a successful reading program in Darke County. So enjoy the **FUN** times this winter with your children and keep warm!



BOOK REVIEWS

IN JESSE'S SHOES

By Beverly Lewis

Illustrated by Laura Nikiel

This is a wonderful book that will help your child understand those with special needs. What parent hasn't urged their child not to stare at or tease a child who is "different" or disabled in some way?

In this sensitive yet realistic story, Jesse's sister struggles to understand her brother – and the kids who make fun of him. This endearing book will encourage families everywhere to appreciate and befriend children with special needs.

Ages 3 years and up

SHARING MEMORIES

A Keepsake Journal for Grandmother and Grandchild
By Leslie Carola

The first page says it all: To my grandchild: The best thing about being a grandmother is you. This is a wonderful journal with page headings such as Family Tree: The members of a family can be as individual as the blossoms on this tree, yet they have a common link: they are family.

There are questions to answer and phrases to finish telling your grandchild about your life with words and pictures and your memories with them.

LISTEN IN ADDITION

By Julie Elliot Scott and Sandy Sartor

Illustrated by Anne Stanley

Listen In Addition is a 13-song CD featuring music and lyrics by Mrs. Scott, with a companion picture book of

watercolor illustrations by Anne Stanley that make characters out of numbers. Listeners are taken on musical journeys that add zero through nine to numbers one through 10. The nine combinations that produce a sum of 10 are featured in a song, as are the addition doubles from one plus one to 10 plus 10. The last song counts from one to 100. A page in the book correlates to each song.

The philosophy is "looking plus listening equals learning". The songs feature different types of music, including boogie, Latin, cha-cha and country waltz, which underscore the different ways children learn.

Professional musicians on real instruments provide accompaniment. The series continues with the soon-to-be-released *Multiplication Sensation* designed for older children in a comic book format. To preview the set go to www.kidcleveronline.com.

FUN AND EDUCATIONAL WEBSITES

www.myfreecolouringpages.com is designed to share a large selection of **free** children's pictures to color, dot-to-dot and more. Check out the dot-to-dot activity page in this newsletter!

www.brightfuturesforfamilies.org is a national initiative for families and communities to promote and improve the health and wellbeing of children of all ages. They offer resources for families based on the award winning, federally supported Bright Futures initiative, developed through the support of public health, non-profit, and corporate organizations.



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW!

STEVENSON READING PROGRAM in Darke County

How cool is it to watch kids learn how to read? Better yet, how cool is it to see children with learning disabilities learn how to read? My answer is "pretty darn cool!" My name is Edward Porter and I am an elementary school special education teacher. Most refer to the position as an "intervention specialist" however I don't feel that I am a "specialist" at anything but always learning new and innovative ways to teach kids to read.

Franklin Monroe Elementary School located in Darke County, Ohio is where I teach and our special education department adopted a reading series 4 years ago targeted at the lower level special education students and those students at risk. The Stevenson Reading Program has succeeded in providing an avenue for children to learn to read in a somewhat unconventional way. This program uses mnemonics from start to finish in its series which begins at the green level and progresses through the blue level and eventually to the pink level which at that time the students would be reading at a sixth grade reading level. The program is very structured but very easy to follow.

I have used this series for four years now and have witnessed tremendous results in EVERY student that I have used this approach on! Thanks to the support of our Darke County Educational Service Center and the Franklin Monroe Administration I have had the opportunity to be trained by Tom Diebold, Bill Stevenson and Nancy Ziehme who are all experts in the field and really nice folks who have embraced

this program. This program has shown to be so effective that the superintendents of all of our Darke County schools have adopted this program into their special education curriculum. Pretty good stuff and fun to teach! More importantly I can bask in the glow of a child's face when they are unlocking the door towards literacy.

For more information regarding the Stevenson Reading Program go to www.stevensonsemple.com or contact Franklin Monroe Elementary School @ 937-548-8318.

Note: Edward Porter was the 2007 Miami Valley SERRC area recipient for the Franklin B. Walter Outstanding Educator Award.

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What did one broom say to the other broom?

A: "Have you heard the latest dirt?"

Q: How do you warm up a room after it's been painted?

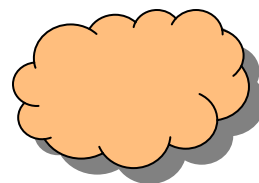
A: Give it a second coat.

Q: Why did the man run around his bed?

A: To catch up on his sleep.
(National Geographic Kids)

And finally did you know hamsters can get the winter blues? Researchers found that hamsters that spent their younger days in less daylight were more inclined to be anxious and depressed than those who saw more sun.

(PARADE, November 26, 2006)



FAMILY PROJECTS

ICE CANDLES

Age: Preschool and up

Time: About 20 minutes

Type of Activity: Back yard fun

Materials needed:

- Small plastic tub or bucket (a summer beach pail is ideal)
- Tin can or small plastic cup

A few strategically placed ice candles can turn your backyard into a winter's evening wonderland. Ice candles are easy to make, and best of all, cost next to nothing.

The first step to create an ice candle is to make a mold. This is done by filling a bucket or pail with cold tap water and placing a tin can or cup in the center, Weigh it down with enough small rocks to almost, but not quite sink it.

Place the bucket outside on the porch or in the freezer until the water is frozen solid. Carefully remove the block of ice from the pail or bucket (you might need to loosen the ice by running warm tap water over the bucket's surface for a few moments). Once the ice is free from the bucket, the next step is to remove the tin can or plastic cup from the center of the block. (If the can or cup seems locked in the ice you can fill it with warm water to make removal easier.)

Once the ice has been removed from the pail and the cup from the center of the block, you've got your basic ice candle. Just place a small candle at the bottom of the well where the cup used to be Bingo! You've just made an ice candle!

Hints: To keep the can or cup from "drifting off center" you may want to anchor it in place by placing a stick across the top of the pail and taping the

cup or can to the stick. An inverted sauce pan cover will also do the trick – the knob at the top will prevent the cup or can from drifting too far from the center. (www.fun.familyeducation.com)

APPLE-CINNAMON SCENTERS

Materials needed:

- Bowl
- ¼ cup cinnamon
- spoon
- 4 tablespoons applesauce
- waxed paper
- cookie cutters
- paper plates
- pencil
- ribbon or string

Put cinnamon in a bowl. Stir in applesauce, mixing well. The mixture should feel like cookie dough. If it's too sticky, add more cinnamon. If it's too dry, add more applesauce.

On waxed paper, flatten the dough with your hand. Use a cookie cutter to make shapes, or use a blunt knife to create your own cutouts.

Place the shapes on a paper plate. Use a pencil to make a hole in the top of each shape.

Let the scenters dry for about a week.

Tie ribbon or string through each hole. Hang the scenters to make your home smell yummy!

(www.highlightskids.com)

FAMILY FUN

Leap Year 101

2008 is a leap year, which means that it has 366 days instead of the usual 365 days that an ordinary year has. An extra day is added in a leap year – February 29 – which is called an intercalary day or a leap day.

Why is a Leap Year Necessary?

Leap years are added to the calendar to keep it working properly. The 365 days of the annual calendar are meant to match up with the solar year. A solar year is the time it takes the Earth to complete its orbit around the Sun – about one year. But the actual time it takes for the Earth to travel around the Sun is in fact a little longer than that – about 365 1/4 days (365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds, to be precise). So the calendar and the solar year don't completely match – the calendar year is a touch shorter than the solar year.

The Egyptians were the first to come up with the idea of adding a leap day once every four years to keep the calendar in sync with the solar year. Later, the Romans adopted this solution for their calendar, and they became the first to designate February 29 as the leap day.

To rectify the situation, the creators of our calendar (the Gregorian calendar, introduced in 1582) decided to omit leap years three times every four hundred years. This would shorten the calendar every so often and rid it of the annual excess of 11 minutes and 14 seconds. So in addition to the rule that a leap year occurs every four years, a new rule was added: a century year is not a leap year unless it is evenly divisible by 400. This rule manages to eliminate three leap years every few hundred years. (www.infoplease.com)

And for those families who love to travel...

America The Beautiful – Access Pass

This pass is for citizens or permanent residents of the United States who are blind or permanently disabled (this includes deafness). The America The

Beautiful – Access Pass is a lifetime entrance pass to national parks, monuments, historic sites, recreation areas, and national wildlife refuges that charge an entrance fee. The America The Beautiful – Access Pass admits the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle if a park has a per vehicle entrance fee. Go to www.us-parks.com/park_fees for more information. You will find a link to FAQ/s on that web page. There is also an America the Beautiful pass for Senior Citizens!

DEVELOPMENT

Baby Talk

Children crawl before they walk. They learn language before they read. The loving relationship that grows when you share stories, songs and rhymes with your baby or toddler lasts a lifetime. Even when your baby is too young to know what a book is, they love to hear your voice reading to them.

Talking sets the stage for learning language. Shower your baby with words. Even though they may not understand the words they're hearing, they are storing up the sounds of language. Soon they will be able to put the sounds and words together and speak them themselves. Encourage your child's first words! All of these experiences add up to provide a foundation for later reading ability.

When you and your child snuggle together to share a book, reading becomes an important and happy experience for them. They connect the experience of reading to the warm, loving feeling of being beside you.

Here are some tips about books to share with your child from birth to age 2.

Look for books that:

- Have bold pictures in black or bright colors on a white background.
- Have no words or only one or two words on a page.
- Have stiff pages that are easy for young children to turn.
- Are made of cloth or vinyl. These are durable and easy to clean!
- Have familiar characters, actions or objects. For example, young children love to see pictures of other young children!
- Have songs, rhymes and repeating phrases that are fun to listen to.
- Have more words and detailed pictures as your child gets older

(Cultivating Readers, Making Reading Active and Fun! www.famlit.org)

SCIENCE/MEDICAL

Learning About Snow

Snowflakes and kids are made for each other. You can use your children's natural curiosity about snow as a gateway into scientific exploration.

Where does snow come from?

Snow crystals are born in the clouds when water vapor freezes on a particle of dust, a floating bit of bacteria, or another solid material.

When cloud temperatures are at the freezing point or below, and there are an ample supply of moisture in the air, ice crystals form around a core particle. As water vapor condenses and freezes, the complex pattern of a snowflake is born, one molecule at a time. A snowflake's hexagonal shape is born at the atomic level. It is here that water molecules

bond together into stable crystal structures.

Snow can be further classified into six basic patterns called: Needles, columns, plates, columns capped with plates, dendrites, and stars. Each type is the result of different atmospheric and temperature conditions within the cloud. (www.fun.familyeducation.com)

Sticky Solution

To remove a splinter, if you don't have tweezers handy: Put clear adhesive tape over it, then pull the tape off at the same angle that the splinter entered. The splinter will come out, with little or no pain. (PARENTING, April 2002)

Emergency Information Form, EIF

The American Academy of Pediatrics has created the emergency information form to transfer critical information about children with special health care needs. The EIF is a quick and easy way to inform an emergency room doctor about your child's diagnosis, baseline statistics, and the proper course of action for anticipated crises. Go to www.aap.org to download a copy of the EIF for your doctor to fill out.

Kids Better Nourished by Family Meals

Project EAT, a study conducted by the Minnesota School of Public Health, found that children who dined with their families consumed more nutritious meals than kids who ate separately. It also found that the greatest benefits came when families ate together and turned off TV. www.ahc.umn.edu



ACTIVITY PAGE

Draw lines from 1 to 6 and then color the page. What is the picture of? For more free coloring and dot to dot pages go to www.myfreecolouringpages.com.

