



**F**amilies

**U**nderstanding

**N**eeds

## KINSHIP CARE

Kinship care represents the most desirable out-of-home placement option for children who cannot live with their parents. It offers family preservation and the greatest level of stability by allowing children to maintain their sense of belonging. It enhances their ability to identify with their family's culture and traditions. Kinship Care refers to a temporary or permanent arrangement in which a relative or any non-relative adult who has a long standing relationship or bond with the child and/or family has taken over the full-time, substitute care of a child whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so for reasons such as death or chronic illness (e.g., HIV/AIDS), substance abuse, incarceration, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, teenage pregnancy, unemployment, poverty, and other problems. Kinship care includes those relationships established through informal arrangement, a legal custody or guardianship order, a relative foster care placement or a kinship adoption. The 2000 U.S. Census reports that

## SPRING/SUMMER 2010

86,000 children are being raised by their grandparents in Ohio. Regardless of the type of kinship care arrangement, the kinship caregivers' voluntary commitment to devote their lives to the children in their care is a courageous, life-changing decision.

**Kinship Permanency Incentive** is designed to promote a permanent commitment by the kinship caregiver, who becomes a guardian and custodian over a minor child, who would otherwise be unsafe or at risk of harm if the child remained in their own home. The Kinship Permanency Incentive program provides time-limited incentive payments to families caring for their kin. For more information, please contact your local public children services agency or call 1-800-886-3537 (Option 4).

**Relatives Caring for Children: Ohio Resource Guide** is a statewide resource guide providing information about the availability of programs for kinship providers through local agencies and can be requested by calling 1-866-886-3537 (Option 4) or [www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms](http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms).

## BOOK REVIEWS

### LET'S LOOK AT COLORS

By Shirley Barber's

From the work mice painting the toy fire engine red to Queen Kitty growing beautiful purple pansies children will see and learn the different shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple. At the back of the book, there is a special color pallet showing the names of the colors featured in the illustrations. Children can use this pallet to help them identify the many different shades of color in each picture. Ages 6 months (reading to them) thru 8 years.

### ZINNIA AND DOT

By Lisa Campbell Ernst

Zinnia and Dot should be friends. After all, they sit in the same henhouse day after day. But instead they fight about whose eggs are more lovely, more brilliant, more perfect. Then one day a weasel steals their eggs, leaving behind only one prize specimen. Whose egg is it? Who will get to sit on it first? And who will the chick look like when it is hatched? Can two cranky hens learn the value of cooperation before they drive each other crazy? Ages 3 and up.

### THERAPY DOGS

By Linda Tagliaferro

Some of the kids at the school were having trouble learning to talk – until Ozzie came along. Ozzie is a therapy dog. He knows just what to do to help kids calm down, so that it's easier for them to learn. After spending time with Ozzie and his human partner, Lee, many of the kids at the school had learned to speak in full sentences! Look inside to find out more about dogs like Ozzie, who are special heroes to the people

whose lives they change. Therapy Dogs is part of the Dog Heroes Series. Ages 5 and up.

### I LOVED YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN

By Anne Bowen

A loving grandmother eagerly awaits the arrival of her grandchild. She dreams of the baby's soft sighs, sweet smells, and tiny toes, and imagines the infant smiling, rolling over and crawling for the first time. Finally the baby arrives and Grandma is ready with a very special message.

Tender and touching, Anne Bowen's I LOVED YOU BEFORE YOU WERE BORN perfectly conveys the magical anticipation of birth and the joy a new child brings to a family. Greg Shed's rich, luminescent paintings capture the love and wonder of this blessed event. Ages 3 to 8 years



### JUST FOR FUN

In your whole life, your mouth will make about 10,000 gallons of spit. That's enough to fill a giant swimming pool!

Every person on earth has a different fingerprint. We all have different tongue prints too.

If you are skiing in Sweden and get hungry for a Happy Meal, no worries; Sweden has a ski through McDonalds!

And . . . A cow needs to drink four gallons of water to make one gallon of milk. ([parentcenter.babycenter.com](http://parentcenter.babycenter.com))

## FAMILY FUN

### Top Ten Ways to Explore a City

These tips can help your family get to know a new city – or even explore the hidden treasures in your own hometown.

**1. Take a city bus/trolley tour.** Get settled in your hotel, grab a quick bite, and then buy tickets for a city tour. Within an hour you'll get a "feel" for the layout of the city and an idea of the places you may want to visit.

**2. Explore one museum in depth.** Huge museums can be overwhelming, especially with kids in tow, plan on spending two hours max, taking in the areas of most interest to you. Stop in the café for a breather and buy high-quality postcards and prints at the museum shop. Some museums even have kids' gift shops, with educational toys, games and books.

**3. Visit the botanical garden or local park.** Even if it's rainy, you'll enjoy the respite of an unhurried walk through tranquil green space. It's rejuvenating for the whole family, and a great place for kids to run around and let off steam.

**4. Go on a historic walking tour** and get to know one part of the city really well. Tour guides can suggest good places to stop for a snack or meal, along with places of interest that appeal to families.

**5. Use your hotel concierge.** He'll know the good local restaurants, when the shops open, how to find public transport and best bets for kids.

**6. Keep a daily journal.** You'll be amazed at how quickly you forget what you did each day of that long-awaited vacation. Young children can draw pictures or collect interesting scraps

(flyers, menus or paper placemats, exotic candy wrappers) to decorate the pages.

**7. Buy postcards of major attractions.** Many foreign postcards are sharper, more colorful, and have a greater perspective than most amateurs can shoot.

**8. Pass up souvenir shops** and investigate the local hardware, grocery and department stores for unique items. (This one may be difficult with very young children).

**9. Tear out the guide book pages that you'll need that day,** instead of lugging around a large touring book. Consider buying a nice book when you leave that captures the scenes and memories of your trip.

**10. When travelling abroad, use simple foreign phrases well and often.** Even if you know only "Hello" and "Good-bye" in the host language, effort will be appreciated by the "natives" and may even encourage them to use their two words of English in return!  
([www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com))

**And while you are traveling try these FUN road trip activities with your family on vacation . . .**

Counting cars – have each person pick a color and count as many cars of that color as they see on the road. The first player to reach a predetermined number is the winner.

License Plate Name – Play as a team or compete against each other. As you drive, look for license plates from the different states. See how many different states you can find in a present timeframe. (A map of the U.S. is helpful)



Alphabet Game – Play as a team or compete against each other. Make a list of all of the letters in the alphabet. Look for objects along the way that start with a particular letter. Cross each letter off until you have completed the entire alphabet. ([www.familyeducation.com](http://www.familyeducation.com))

## FAMILY PROJECT

### Bedside Caddy

What you'll need:

- Scissors
- Ruler
- Felt
- Glue
- Fabric paint
- Large cardboard rectangle

How to make it:

1. Cut out an 8 ½ inch square piece of felt. Place it on top of an 8 ½ inch by 11 ½ inch piece of felt, matching the bottom corners.
2. Fold down a 1 inch section on the top piece and glue it in place. To form a pocket, stitch or glue the side and bottom edges of both pieces where they meet.
3. Add details and a message with fabric paint. Cut out a moon and some stars from felt. Glue them on.
4. Glue the top edge of your caddy to one end of a large cardboard rectangle, let the glue dry.
5. Slide the cardboard between the mattress and box spring on your bed.  
([www.highlightkids.com](http://www.highlightkids.com))

### Here's Some Easy Ways to Have FUN with Your Child This Summer!

A. On a rainy day go on a biggest and smallest hunt. Where is the biggest chair in your house? Where is the smallest? Find the biggest window, the smallest. The list can be endless!

B. Make a healthful fruit milk shake by blending one cup of frozen berries, one cup of milk and a half banana.

C. Pretend together. If you were an ant . . . a cloud . . . a squirrel . . . where would you go? What would you see? What would you do at night, in the morning?

D. Make ice cubes from fruit juice. Add them to water for your child to drink instead of soda.

And don't forget to play the outdoor games you learned as a child. Do you remember Shadow Tag, Stoop Tag, Red Light-Green Light, Simon Says and/or Red Rover? Teach them to your child. (Parent Partners *Empower*)



## FUN WEBSITES

[www.bananaboo.com](http://www.bananaboo.com) is an activity centre for kids ages 4 to 8 or big kids at heart. Print out crosswords, word searches, craft ideas, cut-outs, and pages to color, jokes, recipes, stories and much, much more. Let Hoot and Toot be your guide through the site.

Welcome to the Official Berenstain Bears' Website. There's a lot to do in Bear Country! Check out some hot tracks on Brother Bear's BearPod. Try the Maze to Bigpaw's Lair – just make sure you don't wake him up! Sister's got a secret message for you – can you solve it? Take a tour of the Bears' Tree House from the cellar all the way up to Brother and Sister's room and much more. [www.berenstainbears.com](http://www.berenstainbears.com)

## DEVELOPMENT

### Have FUN with Letters

It's never too early to start building your child's literacy skills – and the Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL) can help. It offers parents and professionals free practice guides that show how you can use everyday activities to encourage infants, toddlers and preschoolers to listen, talk and learn the building blocks for early literacy. You can learn more about CELL practice guides at [www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php](http://www.earlyliteracylearning.org/pgparents.php). Here is an excerpt from one of the guides you can use with your toddler.

#### What's Your Letter?

Before children can begin to read or write, they need to become familiar with the look and shape of letters. Interacting with letters they can see and touch – letters with different textures, colors and sizes – helps children become interested in and comfortable with the alphabet. Providing alphabet toys for your child and encouraging their interest through praise and conversation will help them begin to understand the way our alphabet is used and organized. Playing with alphabet toys can help toddlers feel confident about learning.

#### What is the practice?

Interacting with your child around a wide variety of alphabet toys makes letter learning fun. These toys can be alphabet blocks, magnetic or foam letters, alphabet puzzles or any other toys with the letters prominently displayed so your toddler has many occasions to look at them.

#### What does the practice look like?

Let your toddler play with letter-shaped cookie cutters in damp sand, cornmeal,

play dough or real dough. Cut kitchen sponges into letter shapes and show them how to use them as bathtub toys or as stamps with finger paint. When you enjoy these kinds of activities together while talking to your toddler about what they are doing, you're making good use of alphabet toys. Let your child arrange magnetic alphabet letters on the refrigerator door, stack alphabet blocks, string large alphabet beads and much more. Each play time with alphabet toys helps them become more familiar and comfortable with letters.

#### How do you do the practice?

Make play with alphabet toys FUN for your toddler by providing a variety of materials, praising their efforts and following their lead.

- Help your child start to learn the letters in their name by pointing out the blocks, stamps or other materials that have those letters. Praise them when they find or recognize them.
- Point out that each letter toy your child is playing with stands for a sound. For example, when your child hands you the block with the letter B on it, name the letter and its sound and encourage them to do the same.
- Try to avoid making alphabet toys seem too "hard" or too much like work. Even if they don't seem to be paying attention to the letters themselves, they are still becoming more familiar to them, which will make them easier to learn later on.



## SCIENCE

### 2010 Meteor Showers and Viewing Tips

**Perseids – night of August 12 – Sets around 10 p.m.**

**Orionids – night of October 21 – Full Leonids – night of November 17 – Sets around 4 a.m.**

**Geminids – night of December 13 – Sets around midnight**

#### **What are meteor showers?**

An increase in the number of meteors at a particular time of year is called a meteor shower. Comets shed the debris that becomes most meteor showers. As comets orbit the Sun, they shed an icy, dusty debris stream along the comet's orbit. If Earth travels through this stream, we will see a meteor shower. Depending on where Earth and the stream meet, meteors appear to fall from a particular place in the sky, maybe within the neighborhood of a constellation.

Meteor showers are named by the constellation from which meteors appear to fall, a spot in the sky astronomers call the radiant. For instance, the radiant for the Leonid meteor shower is located in the constellation Leo. The Perseid meteor shower is so named because meteors appear to fall from a point in the constellation Perseus.

#### **How can I best view a meteor shower?**

If you live near a brightly lit city, drive away from the glow of city lights and toward the constellation from which the meteors will appear to radiate.

For example, drive north to view the Leonids. Driving south may lead you to darker skies, but the glow will dominate the northern horizon, where Leo rises. Perseid meteors will appear to "rain"

into the atmosphere from the constellation Perseus, which rises in the northeast around 11 p.m. in mid-August.

After you've escaped the city glow, find a dark, secluded spot where oncoming car headlights will not periodically ruin your sensitive night vision. Look for state or city parks or other safe, dark sites.

#### **How do I know the sky is dark enough to see meteors?**

If you can see each star of the Little Dipper, your eyes have "dark adapted," and your chosen site is probably dark enough. Under these conditions, you will see plenty of meteors.

([www.stardate.org/nightsky/meteors](http://www.stardate.org/nightsky/meteors))

#### **Did you know the biggest single cell you might ever see is an ostrich egg?** ([www.billnye.com](http://www.billnye.com))



#### **FREE WEBINAR OR AUDIO TRAININGS** via your computer and/or phone. Dates and titles are listed below:

May 6	Parent's Rights
May 12	All About Visual Impairment
May 19	A Guide for Parents and Educators of Deaf & Hearing Impaired Children
June 9	Enriching the Learning Environment
June 17	Individual Development
June 23	All About Reading

For a complete list, times and details of Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities' trainings or to schedule one, visit our website at [www.ocecd.org](http://www.ocecd.org) or call 800-374-2806.

**ACTIVITY PAGE**

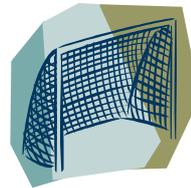
**Which piece of equipment is used with the ball? Draw a line from the ball to the piece of equipment.**



(Soccer Ball)



(Baseball)



(Basketball)



(Tennis Ball)



(Volley Ball)



**What is your favorite summer activity?**

**Draw a picture of you playing your favorite summer activity.**