

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

A New Direction:
"Illuminating the Path from Competence to Excellence"
- Dr. Yvonne W. Brandon, Superintendent

SPRING 2010

"The Source for Information"

Volume 3, Issue 3

Parenting Is Basic New Date & New Location

Richmond Public Schools will be hosting its annual *Parenting Is Basic* "Family Fun Day" on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at the Comfort Inn Conference Center Midtown from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. There will be hands-on-activities and entertainment for children.

A **Family Showcase** of representatives from various community agencies and programs will share information about their services for children in pre-kindergarten through the second grade and provide information to families. Our goal is to provide additional tools to parents, professionals, and volunteers who work with our children.

The activities will end with a hospitality reception. This event is open and free to RPS families. For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center at (804) 780-6081.

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Parenting Is Basic

New Date "Family Fun Day" New Location



Please join us for activities and family fun.

Sunday, April 25, 2010
Comfort Inn Conference Center Midtown
3200 West Broad Street
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Celebrating Families and Early Childhood

*The activities will end with a hospitality reception.
This event is open and free to the public.*

For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center at (804) 780-6081.

FROM THE PRC STAFF

As spring and summer months approach, we would like to provide you with beneficial resources for the remainder of the school year. These resources will also present opportunities for a fun and productive summer for your children and family.

Our main goal is to provide resources, support, and motivation for successful teaching and learning for our children. We are here to encourage and to promote a successful partnership among parents, educators and the community.

The staff members at the Parent Resource Center want to share positive goals in assisting your children in reaching their potential to the fullest extent possible. The center also promotes teambuilding and successful partnerships between families and educators.

In closing, we look forward to assisting families and educators at the Parent Resource Center. We hope you will contact us and let us know how we can better serve you.

English as a Second Language/ESL

By Barbara M. Ingber, Parent Liaison

Seven Tips for Practicing English this Summer

Summer is coming and most children are thrilled at the prospect of taking a break from routines that they follow when school is in session; however, studies show that children often forget much of what they learned during the school year. In addition, English-language learners need to continue practicing in the summer, so that they are prepared when they return to school in September.

This doesn't mean that you need to teach your children English, if it's not your native language. You must be able to share what is in your heart and on your mind, and that is a challenge, if not an impossibility, in a language that is foreign to you. What I would like to suggest are some ways to encourage your child to speak, read, write, and listen to English over the summer:

1. Enroll your child in summer school, if it is offered. The classes are interesting and fun and will review much of what your children learned at school.
2. For 15-20 minutes per day (or more, if they are having fun), have your children play "school." They can teach you, their siblings, or their stuffed animals by reviewing worksheets, tests, or rereading stories.
3. Take your children to your neighborhood library at least once a week for Story Hour and other activities. If they don't already have library cards, get them! Borrow books, videos, and CDs and use the computer. And be sure to enroll your children in the Summer Reading Program.
4. Allow your young children to watch an hour or two of English-language educational programming each day, such as "Sesame Street" or "Dora the Explorer." Older children can view the Nature or History channels and the news. Watch with them and discuss the programs in your language afterwards.
5. Ask older children (or relatives or friends) to read to and with younger ones for at least 20 minutes each day.
6. Enquire about summer camps and programs at your church, mosque, or synagogue or at a nearby Boys and Girls Club or Community. Some programs charge a modest fee or offer scholarships based on financial resources and needs.
7. Take your children to museums and parks – or even to the supermarket – and have them read (and translate into your language) the signs that they see written in English.

You can probably come up with more ideas to encourage your children's abilities in their new language, so that they'll be ready to face the new school year. In the meantime, I hope that you will all enjoy a safe and fun summer!



2010 Summer Camps and Activities in the Richmond Area



ArtsSpace 31 East 3rd Street 232-6464	Boys & Girls Clubs of Richmond 2601 Kensington Avenue 353-3246	Maymont Park 1436 Hampton Street 646-5733	Visual Arts Center of Richmond 1812 West Main Street 353-0094
Bow Tie Cinemas Movieland 1301 N. Blvd at W. Leigh Street 354-6099	Chesterfield Metro Zoo 8300 Beaver Bridge Road 739-5666	Science Museum of Virginia 2500 West Broad Street 864-1400	Virginia Historical Museum E. Franklin Street 342-9662
Children's Museum 2626 West Broad Street 474-2667	Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens 1800 Lakeside Avenue 262-9887	City of Richmond Parks & Rec 900 East Broad Street 646-5733	YMCA of Greater Richmond 2 W. Franklin Street 649-9622

Exceptional Education and Student Services

"Obtaining Success in the Least Restrictive Environment"

By Maria Beck, Elementary Specialist

Richmond Public Schools Meets the Challenge of Serving Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are a cluster of developmental disabilities that have a significant impact on children's social skills, communication skills, and often result in the presence of challenging behaviors. The three types of ASDs under the umbrella of Autism Spectrum Disorders are Autistic Disorder, Asperger Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) indicate that the prevalence of ASD is approximately 1 in 110 children with boys being 4x more likely than girls to be identified. There is great diversity among the children who have ASD, thus the reason for referring to the disorders as a "spectrum." Some students with high functioning autism (HFA) and Asperger Syndrome have highly developed verbal skills while other children with ASD have limited verbal skills but communicate through pictures, sign language, or augmentative communication devices. School services for students with ASD must focus on increasing social competence, communication effectiveness, and addressing any behavior challenges that result from the disability.

To address the complex and varied needs of our students with ASD, the Office of Exceptional Education and Student Services formed a strategic planning team to develop short-term and long-term goals for the division. This team and various subcommittees meet monthly to review the initiatives and make adjustments based on identified needs. Here are a few of the on-going initiatives that the team has implemented:

- Collaborative project with VCU to offer free coursework to teachers, related service providers, and support personnel who serve students with ASD. To date, 22 staff have graduated from the four-course certificate program.
- Funding of two mentor positions to provide intensive in-room support to teams serving students with ASD. Our mentor teachers assist classroom teachers, teaching assistants, and related service providers in setting up classrooms and implementing effective instructional strategies.
- Establishment of a process for teams across the division to request on-site technical assistance to assist with classroom needs or child-specific needs
- Development of a transition plan for each child leaving early childhood special education programs and entering kindergarten programs in zone schools
- Development of behaviorally-based classrooms to serve students with high support needs
- Provision of division-wide workshops for teachers, teaching assistants, and therapists serving students with ASD
- Provision of autism overview workshops for schools across the division
- Participation in the National Professional Development Center for Autism Model Site Project
- Development of a parent resource and information document that outlines supports available to families of children with ASD
- Collaborative project with the VA-LEND Grant (Leadership in Neurodevelopmental Disorders) to increase the use of state of the art techniques to identify children with ASD as early as possible
- Development of post-high options for high-school age students, including on-site vocational training at MCV hospital through Project SEARCH

For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center at (804) 780-6084 or (804) 780-4052.

Parent Resource Center Workshops

What is a Sizzlin' Summer Sampler?

A Sizzlin' Summer Sampler is a sampler of information that will provide parents with upcoming summer activities and camps for their children during Summer 2010. This is a great opportunity for your children to explore activities in the Richmond area.

The Sizzlin' Summer Sampler is coming to your school in April and May. Don't forget to SAVE the DATE.



Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Carver Elem.
 1110 W. Leigh Street
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, April 14, 2010
ESL Workshop: "Introduction to Exceptional Education: (with PEATC)"
Location: One Stop - Southwood
 4606 Southwood Parkway
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Date: Thursday, April 15, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: J.L. Francis Elem.
 5146 Snead Road
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Friday, April 16, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Swansboro Elem.
 3160 Midlothian Turnpike
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: George Mason Elem.
 813 North 28th Street
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Blackwell Elem.
 300 E. 15th Street
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Thursday, April 22, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Emergency Preparedness"
Location: John B. Cary Elem.
 3021 Maplewood Ave.
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 &
 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

Date: Monday, April 26, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Broad Rock Elem.
 4615 Ferguson Lane
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: John B. Cary Elem.
 3021 Maplewood Ave.
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Ginter Park Annex
 4011 Moss Side Avenue
Time: 7:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2010
ESL Workshop: "Rainy Days and Saturdays"
Location: Summer Hill Elem.
 2717 Alexander Ave.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Westover Hills Elem.
 1211 Jahkne Road
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2010
ESL Workshop: "Rainy Days and Saturdays"
Location: Summer Hill Elem.
 2717 Alexander Ave.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Date: Thursday, April 29, 2010
ESL Workshop: "F.U.N. = Families Using Newspapers"
Location: J.L. Francis Elem.
 5146 Snead Road
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 5, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Fairfield Court Elem.
 2510 Phaup Street
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Monday, May 10, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: Miles Jones Elem.
 200 Beaufont Hills Drive
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Thursday, May 13, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Monday, May 17, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2010
ESL Workshop: "Bullying"
Location: Reid Elem.
 1301 Whitehead Road
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010
PRC Workshop: "Sizzlin' Summer Sampler"
Location: TBA
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Date: Thursday, May 20, 2010
ESL Workshop: "How to Help Your Child with Homework"
Location: John B. Cary Elem.
 3021 Maplewood Ave.
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



American Red Cross
Presents

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

Sponsored by
Richmond Public Schools'
Parent Resource Center



Fires



Flooding

**KEEPING
YOUR FAMILY SAFE**



Hurricanes



Blackouts

**PREPARE
PLAN
STAY INFORMED**

John B. Cary
3021 Maplewood Ave.
April 22, 2010
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
&
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the Parent Resource Center at 780-6081.

**Richmond Public Schools Kindergarten
Richmond Public Schools Head Start Program
Richmond Public Schools Virginia Preschool Initiative Program**

**City Wide Kindergarten and Preschool Registration will be held on
Thursday, March 18, 2010 (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)**

At all RPS Elementary Schools

(Except no Preschool Registration at Fairfield Court and George Mason)

Children eligible to enroll in Kindergarten must be five years old by September 30, 2010.

Children eligible to enroll in Preschool must be four years old by September 30, 2010.

**Preschool Registration will continue every Thursday until June 17th at the following schools:
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

Bellemeade	Bellevue	Blackwell	Broad Rock	Carver
Clark Springs	Fisher	Fox	Martin Luther King (Round A)	
Miles Jones	Munford	Overby-Sheppard	Ruffin Road	

Beginning Wednesday, March 24, 2010 thru June 16th

(No registration during Spring Break, April 5th - 9th)

Registration will be held every Wednesday at the following **community locations.
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

- **East End District Initiative Building (EDI)**
701 North 25th Street
- **Parent Resource Center (Room 205)**
Richmond Technical Center - North Building
2015 Seddon Way
- **Southside Community Service Center**
4100 Hull Street
Southside Plaza

*****Registration for children who will be three years old by September 30, 2010 will be
Held during the month of May at community locations listed above.**

Kindergarten and Preschool Parents must bring the following information at the time of registration:

- ✓ Proof of City Residence (Multi-family Disclosure Form, Lease or Mortgage agreement, and/or Utility Bill)
- ✓ Child's **Certified** Birth Certificate
- ✓ Child's Social Security Card
- ✓ Child's Physical Examination (dated within 12 months)
- ✓ Child's up-to-date Immunization Record

Head Start Program also requires:

- ✓ Family Proof of Income (W-2 Tax Form, Most Recent Pay Stub, TANF Verification, Letter from Employer)
- ✓ Child's Health Insurance Cards
- ✓ Child's Dental Exam

Preschool Parental Notification

Preschool Parents will be notified of their child's enrollment status by the following dates.

1st Notification - April 21st 2nd Notification - May 12th

*****Families of Children with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.*****

For Information Contact:

Virginia Preschool Initiative/VPI
By *Sylvia Smith Dyer, Family Involvement Specialist*

Transitioning Your Child from Preschool to Kindergarten

So, your child is starting kindergarten soon! This is an exciting time but it can be a little scary too. You may be wondering how you can help her/him get off to a good start. Included are a few ideas on how to help your child become successful in kindergarten.

What is transition and why is it important? Transition is a major life change. For young children, moving from preschool to kindergarten is one of the most significant transitions they will experience. Transition is a period of adjustment. All adjustments can be exciting, yet stressful. However, when parents are actively involved, the process of transitioning to kindergarten operates more smoothly while reducing the amount of stress experienced by the child. The love and guidance that you provide your child can set him/her on the way to many years of success in school.

- **Create a positive attitude about school and learning.**

Reinforce the basic skills taught during the preschool year through fun activities such as games, songs, hand games, crafts, etc. Be positive about the change.

- **Enhance your child's self-esteem and independence.**

Build confidence in your child by giving her/him challenges she/he can master, such as putting toys and clothes away or setting the table. Boost your child's self-esteem by letting her/him know that she/he is loved unconditionally, no matter what. Give hugs, kisses, and pats on the back every day.

- **Discuss any fears or anxieties your child may have.**

Let your child talk to you about her/his feelings and fears. She/He may ask, "Will the new teacher like me?" "Will the other children like me?" "Will someone go with me to the bathroom?" "What happens if I miss the school bus?" Be reassuring. Do what you can to help your child feel confident about kindergarten.

- **Allow your child to explore and try new things.**

Plan educational and exploratory activities and trips to the library, beach, mountains, train station, botanical gardens, museum, airport, aquarium, etc. with your child.

- **Read to and with your child.**

Set aside time - fifteen minutes - for reading aloud every single day. Let your child snuggle close to you. That way, she/he will think of reading as a happy time when she/he has your full attention. Reading to your child helps teach her/him new words, experiences, and feelings. Help develop her/his thinking and reasoning skills by asking questions about the stories and pictures.

- **Give your child lots of time to play.**

Play time can be learning time. Let your child just be a kid. That's how she/he learns and grows best.

- **Talk with and listen to your child as much as possible.**

Talk with your child as you move through the day - in the kitchen, in the car, in the grocery store, etc. Children learn language when they hear it and use it. Talking together can help your child learn how to use new words, follow instructions, express ideas and feelings, listen without interrupting, learn sentence structure, and respect other people's opinions.

- **Help your child build language skills.**

Use complete sentences when talking to your child. Keep reading materials in your home for both you and your child. Learn nursery rhymes and songs together. Ask your child to tell you a story or (pretend) "read" her/his favorite book to you.

- **Help your child develop number and math skills.**

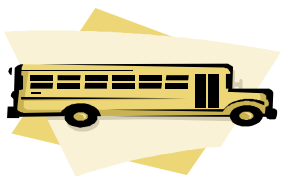
Help your child recognize the difference between letters and numbers. Use numbers every day. Play counting games: count the coins in your pockets, count the items in a grocery store or the number of windows in your house. Let your child help you measure ingredients for cooking. Choose books from your local library that encourage counting, such as [Splash](#) by Ann Jonas.

Transitioning from Preschool to Kindergarten

Parent Resource Center
RTC - North
Room 205
2015 Seddon Way
Richmond, Virginia 23230

Phone: (804) 780-6081
Spanish: (804) 780-6082
Fax: (804) 780-6091

Center Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



School Board Members
The Honorable:



- Kimberly M. Bridges, Chair
- Dawn Page, Vice Chair
- Donald L. Coleman
- Kimberly B. Gray
- Maurice Henderson
- Dr. Norma H. Murdoch-Kitt
- Adria Graham Scott
- Chandra Smith
- Evette L. Wilson



Save the Dates

- April 2 Early Dismissal for Students
Good Friday
- April 5 - 9 Spring Break
- April 20 Third Grading Period
Report cards issued
- April 22 Emergency Preparedness Workshop
Sponsored by the Parent Resource Center
- April 25 Parenting Is Basic
'Family Fun Day'
- May 9 Mother's Day
- May 31 Memorial Day
- June 20 Father's Day
- June 22 Students' Last Day of School
- June 23 Teacher Workday
Fourth Grading Period
Report cards mailed



PRC Staff Members

Early Head Start/Head Start
Suzanne Rackley
Family and Community Specialist
srackley2@richmond.k12.va.us
819-1098

ESL Department
English as a Second Language
Barbara Ingber
Parent Liaison
bingber@richmond.k12.va.us
780-6082

Office of Exceptional Education
Student Services
Sharonda Smith
Parent Coordinator
ssmith7@richmond.k12.va.us
780-4052

Anita C. Swan
Parent Educator Coordinator
aswan@richmond.k12.va.us
780-6084

Family Literacy
Debra M. Hall
Family Literacy Specialist
dhall@richmond.k12.va.us
780-6083

Virginia Preschool Initiative
Sylvia Smith Dyer
Family Involvement Specialist
sdyer@richmond.k12.va.us
780-6087

In accordance with federal laws, the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and the policies of the School Board of the City of Richmond, Richmond Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, disabilities or national origin in the provision of employment and services. Richmond Public Schools operates equal opportunity and affirmative action programs for students and staff. Richmond Public Schools is an equal opportunity/ affirmative action employer. The section 504 Coordinator is Mr. Harley Tomey, Director of Exceptional Education and Student Services, 301 N. Ninth St., Richmond, VA 23219-1927, (804) 780-7911. The Title IX Officer is Mrs. Angela C. Lewis, Clerk of the School Board, 301 N. Ninth St., Richmond, VA 23219-1927, (804) 780-7716. The ADA Coordinator is Mrs. Valarie A. Jones, Esq., 2015 Seddon Way, Richmond, VA 23230, (804) 780-6211. The United States Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights may also be contacted at Post Office Box 14620, Washington, DC 20044-4620, (202) 208-2545.