

EARLY LEARNING TODAY

Jul-Aug-Sep 2006

Serving Early Care & Education Professionals, Communities & Families of Southeast Missouri

Child Care Resource & Referral • Workshop On Wheels

ON THE MOVE!

Young children are on the move! And it's a good thing, because movement is not just important for helping children grow physically strong and healthy. It is also a key factor in their overall development. Through movement, children develop good thinking and communication skills as they explore and interact with their world. Movement also builds self-confidence. Children feel competent, physically and emotionally, when they use their bodies to communicate and solve problems.

Most importantly, children develop a close bond with you through movement. In fact, a child's desire to be close to and connect with you is what motivates him or her to move.

When you make physical activity part of your everyday routine with children, you are helping them take pleasure in and learn through movement. Whether you take a daily walk or dance to music, your caring responses tell the children that you understand them and enjoy being with them.

- Kristen Foltz-Schlegel
Program Director

Interested in taking college classes to earn your CDA?

We are compiling a list now for classes to possibly be held in Malden, Cape, and Festus. Call Heather Fisher @ 800-811-1127 or 573-290-5644 now to have your name put on the waiting list. Upon receipt of funding and enough interested individuals, classes will begin in September 2006.

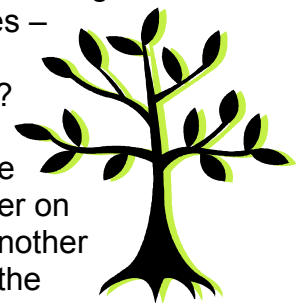
Summertime, and the Livin' is Easy!

It's a great time to take some relaxing, peaceful, music outside. Spread a blanket on the grass, and lay on it while listening to the music. You can look up at the clouds and birds, or down at the insects and clover in the grass. You can also turn the music off and listen to the sounds of birds and insects and planes. Mmmm, mighty nice!

Give the children some large pieces of paper to let them draw what they saw. Write a story together about what they saw; how they felt; what they liked or didn't like. Post the story so the parents can read it. This is a great way to encourage an interest in reading and writing!

Other outdoor activities –
Have you ever made a rubbing of tree bark?

It's easier if you pair the children off, so one can help hold the paper on the tree trunk, while another rubs a crayon across the bark. Hopefully you'll be able to compare the rubbings from different trees.



I used to have a friend that could always spot a 4-leafed clover. Can your children find one? Of course, 3-leafed clover is fun too. Just be careful, for bees also like clover. Hmmm, that could start an interesting discussion about bees. Enjoy the summer, but be wise and avoid the heat of the day. Use sunscreen and hats. Have a cooler of water and paper cups handy.

- Judith Perkins
Child Care Liaison