



Children's News

a newsletter for
growing minds

Spring 2009

Has your child ever wanted to sit in the driver's seat of a school bus? Explore the inside of an ambulance?



Get up close with these and many other vehicles at

Touch-a-Truck!

Join us at **Briarwood Mall** on **Saturday, May 16th** from **9:00am to 12:00pm**. Come enjoy a morning of fun (rain or shine)! It's free fun for the whole family brought to you by Washtenaw Success by 6 and the Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition.

Quick Links

Need help finding child care or preschool for your child? [Visit Child Care Network](#)
Concerned about your child's growth and development? [Visit Early On Michigan](#)

Your Ideas Wanted!

Have an idea for a story or something that you would like to see featured in Growing Minds? Please feel free to call us or email us anytime!
734.994.8100 ext. 2177
[Email Success by 6](#)

Dear Melissa,

Welcome to the new online version of the Washtenaw Success by 6 Newsletter. We aim to bring you helpful information about child development and family life, including topics like health and safety and this issue's feature, "Why Preschool?" Each issue will also include fun things to do with your child and exciting events happening throughout Washtenaw County. Enjoy!

Melissa

Washtenaw Success by 6

Why Preschool?

Thinking about preschool for your little one? Here is some information to help you make this important decision.

What will my child gain from preschool?

Childhood experts agree: Attending a high-quality program prepares children for kindergarten and beyond. A good preschool experience can provide your child with the essentials for a successful entry into school and life. Preschool programs provide classroom experiences that prepare your children for long term school success: give new opportunities to develop their **self confidence, social and communication skills**; provide the chance to develop **independence** and individual competence, support **literacy activities** and skills that prepare your child to learn to read; develop their **intellectual capacities**; give them **indoor and outdoor play** on a daily basis and provide **support for parents and caregivers** - with access to community programs and services that support family life and child development.

When should I seek a preschool?

Although most preschools enroll year round, the ideal time to find the right program for your child is in the spring of the year when your child will be 3 or 4 in the fall. Preschools hold open-houses and information events throughout March, April and May and these are great ways to check a program out and get a sense of whether it will be right for your child.

What kind of programs are there?

Preschool programs come in all different forms - some run for full days and others for half days - some are all week and others just a few days a week - some charge private tuition while others are free for eligible families.

• Private Tuition Pre-schools

There are programs throughout the county that offer a tuition based pre-school experience for your child. Many childcare centers have pre-school programs as do school districts, independent schools, and some independent preschools. For help finding a quality program, contact [Child Care Network](#) at 975-1840.

• Head Start Programs

This federally funded program for eligible children of all abilities serves both three and four year olds.

• Great Start Readiness Programs

The State of Michigan funds preschool for eligible families. This year of preschool for four-year-olds is available to children of all abilities. For information about Great Start Readiness Programs or Head Start Programs contact [Washtenaw Success by 6](#).

Activities- What's Happening around the County

Here is just a sampling of the free, family-friendly events taking place throughout the county in April and May:

*Tuesday, April 14th and Thursday, April 16th *4:00-5:00pm

Earth Day Crafts at [Tree Town Toys](#).

Kids ages 4-10 invited to make bracelets with items found in nature and a wallet out of a juice carton. Tree Town Toys, Traver Village, 2611 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor. 929-6545.

*Thursday, April 16th *6:30pm

Storytime at Waters Place [Borders](#).

Borders staff present a special "Earth Day" storytime for babies, infants, and toddlers. Borders, 3140 Lohr Rd., Ann Arbor. 997-8884.

*Saturday, April 18th *2:00pm

Earth Day Fun at [Ypsilanti District Library](#)

Celebrate with earthy crafts, snacks and stories. All ages. Ypsilanti District Library, 8975 MacArthur Blvd, Ypsilanti. 482-3747.

*Friday, April 24th *9:30-10:00am & 10:30-11:00am

Music and Motion at [Ann Arbor District Library](#).

Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Kids, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra cellist Eric Amidon lead kids from babies through age 5 (accompanied by an adult) in a program that includes storytelling and dancing to live music. Participants also learn about the instruments. Accompanist is pianist Kathryn Goodson. AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor. 327-8301.

*Saturday, April 25th *3:00pm

The Uninvited Guest [Barnes & Noble](#).

Local writer Teresa Kovalak reads her story, for kids ages 4-8, about a creature who arrives to cause mischief in a house full of squeals and giggles. Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw, Ann Arbor 973-1618.

*Sunday, April 26th *Noon to 4:00pm

Earth Day Shebang at [Leslie Science Center](#).

Local enviro organizations and musicians join forces for interactive fun. Dress like your favorite plant or animal for the All-Species Parade, too. Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor. 997-1553.

*Sunday, May 3rd *9:00am to 4:00pm

Show and Shine at Riverside Park

The [Ypsi Area Street Rods'](#) 30th annual event features food, a DJ, games, swap meet and more. Riverside Park, 1 W. Cross St, Ypsilanti. 485-7025.

*Thursday, May 14th to Sunday, May 17th *Hours vary

[Ann Arbor Book Festival](#)

Author talks and signings, writing workshops, spelling bees, poetry slams, book art displays, children's activities, and thousands of books for sale, at various downtown locations. 500 S Main St., Ann Arbor. 369-3366.

*Saturday, May 16th *9:00am to 12:00pm

Touch-a-Truck at Briarwood Mall

Come join us for a morning of fun for the whole family! Brought to you by [Washtenaw Success by 6](#) and the Washtenaw Great Start Parent Coalition. 994-8100, ext 2177.

Quick Tip:

Turn chores like laundry into learning activities. Ask your child to identify colors, help you separate lights and darks, or count the number of socks. These activities will help build math and cooperation skills.

This information comes from the United Way's Born Learning Campaign.

For more Quick Tips and information about your child's development, visit bornlearning.org

Did You Know?

Success by Six is working throughout Washtenaw County to support families, child care providers and others as we all work toward sending our young children off to school ready to

succeed!

Want to Learn More?

Visit our website at www.washtenawsuccessby6.org to learn more about the work that Success by Six is doing in Washtenaw County. You can also join our Parent Network, volunteer, or join our Great Start Parent Coalition to help us get the word out about the importance of learning in the first 5 years of a child's life!
