



## Children's News

a newsletter for  
growing minds

Summer 2009

### Wanted: Your Ideas and Opinions

You are invited to  
participate in planning  
for stronger resources  
for young children and  
their families in  
Washtenaw County.

Join us for a **Community  
Conversation** on  
**Wednesday, June 24th**  
from **7:00 to 8:30pm** at  
Washtenaw Head Start

Call 734-994-8100 ext 2177 or email:  
mpinsky@uwwashtenaw.org for more  
information

Can't attend this  
conversation? You can  
participate by reading the  
Status of Young Children  
report online and completing  
a brief survey. [Just click here to  
visit the Washtenaw Success by 6  
website.](#)

### Summer Reading @ your library

Public libraries throughout the state  
work to encourage reading and learning  
throughout the summer by offering a  
variety of fun events and programs for  
all ages! Contact your local library for  
details:

<a href="#">Ann Arbor</a>	327-4200
<a href="#">Chelsea</a>	475-8732
<a href="#">Dexter</a>	426-4477
<a href="#">Manchester</a>	428-8025
<a href="#">Milan</a>	439-1240
<a href="#">Saline</a>	429-5450
<a href="#">Ypsilanti</a>	482-4110
<a href="#">Northfield</a>	449-0066

### Help Support Programs for all Young Children!

Dear Melissa,

Welcome to the Summer edition 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, "Learning on the Go-Car Travel". In this edition you will also find plenty of opportunities to have your voice heard when it comes to supporting the programs that serve young children in our community and lots of fun activities to fill these long summer days!

Enjoy!  
*Melissa*  
Washtenaw Success by 6

## Learning on the Go-Car Travel

Hitting the road with little ones this summer? Here are some tips for making car travel more fun for everyone!

**Connect:** Rather than finding toys to amuse and distract your child, use driving time to connect and enjoy being together.

*As a parent (and as a teacher) I would think of yourself as the child's greatest play thing. Your voice, your face, the things you do, and your actions are the things that intrigue them most. They have a natural curiosity for the things humans do. The thing to remember is that you and your time are the most valuable things to a child.*

- Patricia K. Kuhl, PhD, Professor of Speech and Hearing Sciences, University of Washington; Co-Director, Institute for Learning & Brain Sciences, University of Washington

**Watch and listen:** What interests your child on car trips? Is it looking for signs that you are almost home or it is talking while you are together? Is it repeating new or silly words or sounds? Is it saying nursery rhymes, singing or watching for when the traffic lights change?

**Extend:**  
**For your baby**

Use car travel as a time to sing. Play a tape or CD or sing songs you know or love. You can also make up songs about what you are seeing along the road or sing along with the radio. Singing about everyday activities helps children enjoy the sounds of language, and helps babies begin to associate words with good experiences. Singing also creates a sense of togetherness.

**For your toddler**

If your toddler likes trucks, look for trucks as you drive along and see who can yell out "truck" first. Or listen to what your toddler says and repeat their words, adding new words or rhyming with words they say. These games help children learn to watch carefully and to categorize.

**For your preschooler**

Use car time to talk about your child's day. Ask specific questions ("Did you draw in preschool?" or "Did you eat a cheese sandwich?") rather than general ones ("How was your day?") because they are easier for young children to answer. Help your child talk about past experiences to enhance memory.

Talk with your child about where you are going in the future ("We are going to the market on the way home") to help him or her develop

Many of the programs that support young children and their families are at risk of being eliminated as our state legislators are faced with many tough budget decisions. Programs most at risk of having funding cut or eliminated include: Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, Great Start Readiness Program (provides free preschool for at-risk 4 year olds), Great Parents, Great Start, Nurse-Family Partnerships, and the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (provides state support for local collaboratives like Success by 6).

### You can help!

Contact your state senators and representatives to let them know how important support of early childhood programs is to our community. For more information, including sample letters and emails that you could send, visit:

[Michigan's Children](#)

click on "Get Involved"

or

[Early Childhood Investment Corporation](#)

click on Policy Center

### Summer Learning for Parents, too!

Summer can be a great time for parents to do some learning, too. Check out some of the classes offered by your local community education programs:

[Ann Arbor](#)

[Chelsea](#)

[Dexter](#)

[Manchester](#)

[Saline](#)

[Ypsilanti](#)

The Lamaze Family Center is offering a series of classes including topics like Protecting Your Child's Hearing, Taking Great Photos of Your Kids and "Greening up" Your Family. Call 973-1014 for more information or visit their [website](#).

### 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

thinking and planning skills.

*Memory is at the center of the cognitive universe. Every other kind of cognitive function depends on memory. Memory is bringing an experience that you've had in the world into mind. Memory is extremely important to learning because if you cannot remember, you can't acquire new abilities. Without memory you cannot store the products of learning.*

- Patricia J. Bauer, PhD, Professor of Child Development, Institute of Child Development University of Minnesota

These tips were developed for Born Learning by Mind in the Making, a project of the Families and Work Institute and New Screen Concepts. Visit the [Born Learning website](#) for more tips.



Check out these other great websites for more information about traveling with young children:

[Babyzone.com](#)

[FamilyFun.go.com](#)

[Momsmivan.com](#)

[PBSParents.org](#)

### Activities- What's Happening around the County

There are so many fun and family-friendly events happening throughout the summer, it is hard to know where to start!

Here is just a sampling of the free events taking place throughout the county this summer:

\*Daily, June 12th- July 5th \*Times vary

[Ann Arbor SummerFest](#)

A wide variety of musical entertainment as well as movies are part of the line up for the free Top of the Park series this year. Top of the Park events are held on Ingalls Mall off of Washington Street.

\*Thursdays-June 18th thru August 27th \*6:30-8:30pm [Chelsea Sounds and Sights](#)

A great line up of musical acts, children's entertainment and other attractions with simultaneous performances on separately staged areas in downtown Chelsea.

\*Fridays, June-August \*7:00-10:00pm

[Crossroads Summer Festival](#)

Held on Washington Street between Pearl and Michigan Ave., the Ypsilanti Crossroads Festival features an all new line up of great live musical entertainment. Opening acts are especially family-friendly and music lovers of all ages are welcome!

\*Fridays, June-August \*6:30-8:30pm

[Dexter Summer Music Series](#)

Featuring a wide variety of performers throughout the summer. Held at the Gazebo in downtown Dexter.

\*Wednesday, July 1st-Sunday, July 5th \*Hours vary

[Lake Shore Family Festival](#)

The Lake Shore Apartments off Grove Road near I-94 will host the area's 1st Annual LakeShore Family Festival. Located in Ypsilanti Township on Ford Lake, the Lake Shore facility will host a fireworks show on the lake, together with five days of carnival rides, a petting zoo, circus, musical entertainment, arts & crafts show and much more! This will be an event for the whole family with all activities, with the exception of the carnival rides, being offered free of charge.

\*Tuesday, July 7th- Saturday, July 11th \*Hours Vary

[Manchester Community Fair](#)

free to call us or email us  
anytime!  
734.994.8100 ext, 2177  
[Email Success by 6](#)

Held on the corner of Vernon and Wolverine Streets, the Manchester Community Fair has long been known as "Michigan's Biggest Little Fair"!

\*Friday, July 24th & Saturday, July 25th \*All Day  
[Chelsea SummerFest](#)

The two-day event features live music, children's entertainment and activities, a classic car show, and much more. Activities for children include a pet parade on Saturday and KidZone- a special area featuring a bounce zone, crafts and other activities for kids.

\*Friday, August 7th & Saturday, August 8th  
[Saline SummerFest](#)

Summerfest takes place on Friday evening and all day Saturday and includes a 5k run/walk. A sweeping assortment of activities, attractions, and amusements bring together people of all ages and interests for one super hometown celebration Saline's Summerfest. Summerfest features traditional family-oriented food, music, and fun of Saline's annual Picnic in the Park.



## Sun Safety Tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics

### Babies under 6 months:

The two main recommendations from the AAP to prevent sunburn are to avoid sun exposure, and dress infants in lightweight long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and brimmed hats that shade the neck to prevent sunburn. However when adequate clothing and shade are not available, parents can apply a minimal amount of sunscreen with at least 15 SPF (sun protection factor) to small areas, such as the infant's face and the back of the hands. If an infant gets sunburn, apply cold compresses to the affected area.

### For Young Children:

Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside, and use sunscreen even on cloudy days. The SPF should be at least 15 and protect against UVA and UVB rays.

### For Older Children:

The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up. Wear a hat with a three-inch brim or a bill facing forward, sunglasses (look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays), and cotton clothing with a tight weave.

Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Use a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or greater. Be sure to apply enough sunscreen - about one ounce per sitting for a young adult.

Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.

Use extra caution near water, snow, and sand as they reflect UV rays and may result in sunburn more quickly.

For more summer safety tips, visit the [American Academy of Pediatrics website](#).

### 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](http://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!