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Washtenaw

SUCCESS BY 6™

Children's News



a newsletter for growing
minds

March 2010

Great Start Parent Coalition ADVOCACY TRAINING Free for parents!

Join us on Thursday, March 25 from 9:30am to 11am or 7:00am-8:30pm at Washtenaw Intermediate School District (1819 South Wagner Rd., Ann Arbor)

Did you know that you are your child's best advocate? Speaking up for our children's best interests is a critical part of parenting. Come learn how to speak up for all of our children's interests. In the upcoming Michigan budget and elections, the voices of parents will be KEY to the decisions about early childhood funding. Let's make sure that the programs we count on will be around for our children.

Please contact Donna Lasinski, Parent Liaison, at 997-7265 or lasinski@mac.com to reserve your spot in the morning or evening session. Registration is limited to the first 30 parents.

The Washtenaw County Parent Coalition is made up of parents with children ages 12 and under. Our purpose is to increase parent participation in early childhood planning and decision making in our county and state. We will be successful when every child begins kindergarten ready to succeed.

Dear Melissa,

Welcome to the March 2010 edition of the Washtenaw Success by 6 Newsletter. March is Parenting Awareness Month-- Check out our [website](#) for a list of programs that support you in this most important, difficult and rewarding job you will ever have! Then take some time this month to pat yourself on the back for the hard work that you do every day as the parent of a young child!

Enjoy!

Melissa
Washtenaw Success by 6

Why Does My Child Act Like That?

All parents wonder at times whether their child's behavior is normal. Children at every age exhibit embarrassing or frustrating behaviors: whining, tantrums, bathroom talk, swearing, or bossiness. These behaviors test your patience and can leave you at your wit's end. As much as you love your child, his actions can make you feel uncomfortable and vulnerable to other people's criticism.

Parents ask: "Why is he doing this?", "Will she outgrow this?", "What should I do?" For each challenging behavior, parents struggle with what is normal, what is acceptable, and how to deal with it. Sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference between unacceptable behavior and normal development.

Parents often turn to one another when their child's behavior overwhelms them. It is important to reach for support and voice your concerns. This helps you focus on the behavior rather than your own embarrassment.

The ages listed here are approximate guidelines. The behaviors listed occur most frequently but are not limited to these ages. Behaviors may reappear at any time, particularly in times of stress.

| Normal | Time to Consult with Others |
|------------------------|---|
| Temper tantrums | Tantrums continue past (age 18 months - 4 years) preschool; increase in frequency or the behavior is unsafe |
| Swearing or "Bathroom" | Does not respond to limits |



2010 Census

Did you know?

Children have been undercounted in every Census since the first one in 1790! Don't forget to include these youngest citizens on your form.

Why is the Census so important?

The information gained from the Census is used to distribute more than \$400 billion in federal funds

[The 2010 Census: How People are Counted](#)



Storytime @ 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:

- [Ann Arbor](#) 327-4200
- [Chelsea](#) 475-8732
- [Dexter](#) 426-4477
- [Manchester](#) 428-8025
- [Milan](#) 439-1240
- [Saline](#) 429-5450
- [Ypsilanti](#) 482-4110
- [Northfield](#) 449-0066

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Parenting Awareness Month Event

| | |
|---|---|
| talk" (age 3 - adolescence) | |
| Excluding others or being excluded (age 4 - 12) | Behavior is unsafe; exclusion based on prejudices |
| Bossiness or bully (age 4 - 8) | Shows no empathy; hurts others without cause; behavior is unsafe |
| Inability to share (age 1 - 4) | Is not limited to special items; shows no improvement in preschool |
| Hyperactivity (age 2 - adult) | Prevents child from participating in activities (sleep, reading, group activities) |
| Dishonesty or stealing (age 4 - 10) | Persists for more than a few months; uses behavior to get attention |
| Picky eater (age 2 - adolescence) | Chooses only non-nutritious foods; pediatrician concerned; possible eating disorder |

Visit the [ChildCare Aware Website](#) for the full article including more information on understanding children's embarrassing behaviors and responding to your child.

Other great websites about helping your child with challenging behaviors:

- [Parenting.com](#)
- [WebMD.com](#)
- [HealthyChildren.org](#)
- [ChildDevelopmentInfo.com](#)

Activities- What's Happening Around the County

Here is just a sampling of the free events taking place throughout the county during the month of March:

*Saturday, March 6th *1:00-2:00 p.m.

[Sap to Syrup: Doing it Yourself](#)

Join naturalist Faye Stoner of the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission who will discuss and demonstrate the steps of maple sugaring for those who'd like to try it at home, including tree ID, tapping, and boiling the sap. Dress for the weather. Preregistration required.

County Parks Field Operations Bldg., County Farm Park, Platt Rd. entrance (south of Washtenaw), 971-6337, ext. 334.

*Sunday, March 7th *1:00-5:00 p.m.

[Chinese Brush Painting](#)

All families invited to drop-in and try basic Chinese ink painting. Materials provided.

Univ. of MI Museum of Art, 525 S. State St., AA, 763-UMMA

*Saturday, March 12th *11:00 a.m.-3:00p.m.

[Easter Bunny Arrival](#)

A chance to visit the Easter Bunny and pet goats, chicks, regular

Each year over one hundred infants die in Michigan because of where and how they are placed for sleep. On **March 5, 6, and 7, 2010**, in celebration of Parenting Awareness Month and to raise awareness of these totally PREVENTABLE deaths, Washtenaw Area Council for Children and Safe Kids Huron Valley will be hosting a display table of information during mall hours for new and expecting parents, and others at Briarwood Mall near the JC Penney mall entrance. Join them for:

- *Demonstrations of safe and unsafe sleep environments
- *Important handouts on how to safely sleep your baby
- *Answers to your questions about child safety
- *Drawing for a FREE Graco Pack 'n Play portable crib, courtesy of Safe Kids Huron Valley.

Also highlighted will be other infant mortality information in an effort to reduce infant death in Washtenaw County. For more information, please contact info@washtenawchildren.org or call the Council office at 734-434-4215.

Thank you!

We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the people who took the time fill out our online survey about the Success by 6 Newsletter! Your opinions are important to us and we will use them to guide future issues. If you did not get a chance to fill out the survey and would like to, [click here.](#)

bunnies, and other baby farm animals. Once he arrives on the 12th, the Bunny will be at the mall every Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 3pm thru April 3rd.
Briarwood Mall, AA, 769-9610

*Sunday, March 21st *4:00 p.m.

[Child's Play XVIII: Carnival of the Animals](#)

Eastern Michigan University music faculty pianists Anne Beth Gajda and Garik Pedersen present their popular annual concert for families with young children.

EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Pl, Ypsi, 487-2255

*Thursday, March 25th *6:00-7:30 p.m.

[New York Life Family Activity Night](#)

New York Life FREE Child ID Program is family friendly and fun! Children are fingerprinted & photographed. In the event of an emergency all pertinent information will be available in the form of an ID card! The fun doesn't stop there; throughout the evening there will be food, beverage and fun activities!

Rainbow Child Development Center, 1580 Commerce Park Dr., Chelsea, 475-6080

*Saturday, March 27th *11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

[Family Health Fair](#)

The Ann Arbor Community Center and the Ann Arbor Host Lions Club will host a FREE Family Health Fair at the Ann Arbor Community Center. Join us for free health screenings, treats, education and a jumpstart to a healthy you!

Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N Main St, ywhiten@aacc1923.org

*Saturday, March 27th *11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

[Easter Egg Scramble](#)

All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited for egg hunts, pictures with the Easter Bunny, games, and egg decorating. Free, but donations accepted to benefit Ronald McDonald House. Hosted by the Ann Arbor Jaycees.

Vets Park, 2150 Jackson Ave, AA, 913-9628

Thinking about Preschool options for next year?

Don't Miss the Preschool Expo

Sunday, March 7th 1:00-4:00PM

**Palmer Commons (University of Michigan),
100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor**

**This event is sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library,
Child Care Network, U of M Work/Life Programs, and
Washtenaw Success by Six.**

**For more info visit the [library's website](#)
or call 734-327-4584**

Many Preschool Open Houses take place this time of year. Check out these websites for listings:

[AnnArbor.com](#)

[Ann Arbor Area Events for Preschoolers](#)

If you need help finding child care or preschool visit [GreatStartforKids.org](#) and click on Great Start Connect or call Child Care Network at

734-975-1840



**CHILD CARE
NETWORK**

Don't Worry, But Don't Wait

Do you have a child who is not growing or developing at the same rate as his same- age peers. Are you concerned about a particular aspect of your child's growth and development or has a doctor, teacher or other professional suggested that you seek support for your infant, toddler or young preschooler?

Visit [Early On Michigan](#) or call 1-800-EARLY ON

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 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!

www.washtenawsuccessby6.org



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