



Children's News

a newsletter for growing
minds

February 2010

Great Start Parent Coalition at JUNGLE JAVA

**Free entry for parents and
kids!**

Across the state of Michigan, a network of Great Start Parent Coalitions (GSPC) is growing. The GSPC is a volunteer group of parents who work together to lend voice and hand to the belief that every child from birth to age six needs and deserves a Great Start in life.

**Join us on Thursday,
February 18 from
9:30am to 11:00am at
Jungle Java (3900
Jackson Road, Ann
Arbor) for a special
presentation on Social
Development.**

Did you know that social development is critical to ALL other areas of your child's development? Joy Greer, from Early On/First Steps Washtenaw, will be discussing the benefits of parent-child interactions and socialization on your child's success. Come and learn while your children are supervised and having fun in a giant indoor play structure with a dedicated toddler area.

Admission to Jungle Java and refreshments will be provided for free, but a reservation is required. Please contact Donna Lasinski, Parent Liaison, at 997-7265 or lasinski@mac.com to reserve your spot. 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

Dear Julie,

Welcome to the February 2010 edition of the Washtenaw Success by 6 Newsletter. This month's feature article is all about the importance of talking with your kids- even your baby! Plus, check out the FREE Parent Coalition event happening at Jungle Java and a link to a great new website from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Enjoy!

**Melissa
Washtenaw Success by 6**

Talking Counts

Most words in a child's vocabulary come from everyday encounters with language. Children pick up language from books, media, and conversations with the people in their lives.

You can increase your child's vocabulary and background knowledge - two important pieces of the reading puzzle - by having conversations with them. Giving children a rich language environment is one of the best ways to build a foundation for reading success.

With babies:

- *Talk to them about what you're doing so they can begin to connect words with concepts.
- *As your baby begins to speak, start asking, "What's that?" when pointing to objects or pictures. Elaborate on their simple answers as a way to have them listening to more words. "Yes, that is a banana! It's yellow and smooth."

With young children:

- *Talk about the things you see in your neighborhood, on trips around town, or on television. These conversations help build a child's understanding of her world.
- *When reading, pause to ask questions or comment on the story. Ask, "Why do you think he did that?" or "What do you think is going to happen next?"
- *Use interesting and new words with your child. For example, "This cookie is scrumptious! It is really good!" or "I can see you're reluctant to leave, but we can come back tomorrow."
- *Tell your children stories from your own life, or about the day they were born. This helps develop their personal and cultural identity.

participation in early childhood planning and decision making in our county and state.



When you have a concern about your child's health and development, who do you turn to? For many parents, the answer is a doctor or a pediatrician. Now there is a place to go get answers to everyday questions from these trusted professionals. The American Academy of Pediatrics has launched a new website:

HealthyChildren.org

The site is full of information to take you all the way from before baby is born to helping children cope with the struggles of the teen years. Check it out!



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

It doesn't matter what language you use - a rich language environment creates better readers!

For more ideas like this to help your kids build vocabulary, visit:

www.ReadingRockets.org/article/5136

Helpful information about learning brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine

Other great websites about Language Development:

KidsHealth.org

SpeechTherapyWeb.com

ZeroToThree.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 February:

*Friday, February 5th *9:30-10 & 10:30-11 a.m.

[Kinderconcert: Music and Motion](#)

Ann Arbor District Library will host local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Kids, and Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra trumpeter Jason Bergman who will 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, 343 S. Fifth Ave. 327-8301

*Saturday, Feb. 6th & 20th *10:30

a.m.

[Super Saturday](#)

[Storytimes](#)

Ypsilanti

District Library hosts preschool aged children and older for stories, songs and a simple craft.

YDL, 5577 Whitaker Rd., Ypsilanti, 482-4110

*Thursday, Feb. 11th *6:00-6:30p.m.

[Valentine's Day Evening Storytime](#)

Join Miss Karen at the Chelsea District Library for stories, songs and crafts about Valentine's Day. Who do YOU love? CDL, 221 S. Main St, Chelsea, 475-8732

*Tuesday, Feb. 16th *7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

[Drumcommunity](#)

Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45pm by a brief drum lesson.

Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S Main St., AA, 426-7818

*Saturday, Feb. 20th

*12:00noon

["The Boy in the Striped Pajamas"](#)

Part of a free family film series hosted by Elderquest and the Children's Literature Program. Contact elderquest@emu.edu Eastern Michigan University, Student Center, 487-1157

Preschool Expo

Follow Us!

You can follow us on



Our profile name is:

washtenawsb6

www.twitter.com

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](mailto:washtenawsb6@gmail.com)

A Preschool Expo will be held at the Palmer Commons on the campus of the University of Michigan, 100 Washtenaw Avenue, Ann Arbor. Representatives from over 40 Preschools will be on hand to answer questions, share promotional materials, and show examples of some of the great activities going on at their schools. This event is free and open to the public! What a great opportunity to learn about many preschools, all in one place.

This event is sponsored by the Ann Arbor District Library, Child Care Network, U of M Work/Life Programs, and Washtenaw Success by Six. If you would like further information, or want to sign your Preschool up to participate(also free!), please contact Meaghan Battle 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](http://AnnArborAreaEventsforPreschoolers.com)

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](http://EarlyOnMichigan.org) 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