



Butler Kids

That's Right! We Named It!

Smart Start was excited to debut our new community-based newsletter in May. Over the past two months, we asked our community partners, child care providers, staff members, and parents who receive our newsletter to offer recommendations for the name. We collected 17 different recommended names for the newsletter.

During the monthly meeting of the Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force on July 20, we asked attendees to choose the one or two names they liked the most. 9 of the 17 recommendations received votes.

At that point, we did a web search to find out if other programs had claimed the titles for their own; 3 of the 9 titles had to be crossed off our list.

We were then down to 6 titles from which to choose. The Smart Start Advisory Committee members were asked to anonymously vote, via Survey Monkey. The vote was unanimous and "Butler Kids" was chosen as the name for our newsletter which coincides with the name of our website ButlerKids.org.

Thank you, to the many friends who sent recommendations to us as we prepared to chose the name. We continue to be excited about this community-based publication for the Early Childhood Professionals of Butler County and the families they serve. If you want to include your program's information, send the information to Audra at before the last day of the month, so it can be included in the following month's edition. Send information to akenneson@rui.org.

Get to Know Your SRS

There will be an El Dorado SRS Service Center Open House on **August 30, 2011**.

10:00-10:15

Welcome and Regional Update — Cyrilla Petracek, South Central Regional Director.

10:15-10:30

Presentation of SRS Services — Media Presentation repeated every 20 minutes.

10:00-12:00

Information Booths, Service Center Tour and Refreshments

This is a good opportunity for members of the community to learn more about the specific programs and services offered through our local SRS office. The local SRS staff look forward to meeting you and answering your questions.

Please specify any special accommodations such as media of choice before August 16, 2011 by contacting Marla Cutsinger at 316.321.4200 ext. 220.

One man may hit the mark, another blunder; but heed not these distinctions. Only from the alliance of the one, working with and through the other, are great things born.

- Antoine de Saint-Exupery

A Community-Based Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Friday, August 5, 2011

Inside this issue:

Page 2

- ☉ Smart Start Trainings
- ☉ Community Partner Trainings
- ☉ Augusta Library Story Time

Page 3

- ☉ Get Outside, Learn Inside
- ☉ Teaching Children to Practice Acts of Kindness
- ☉ Smart Start Lending Library

Page 4

- ☉ Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force
- ☉ Meet a Butler County Early Childhood Professional

Be a Friend of Rainbows

You can support the work of Rainbows and allow the wonderful services you have received to continue. To find out more visit www.rucfoundation.org or give us a call in the Butler County office: 320.1342.



Upcoming KDHE Approved Trainings for Providers

Signs & Symptoms Abuse & Neglect

When: Thursday, September 8

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Audra Kenneson, LMSW

Heart Saver CPR

When: Saturday, September 17

Time: 8 am to Noon

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Heart Saver Pediatric First Aid

When: Saturday, September 17

Time: 1 pm to 4 pm

Where: Augusta Department of Public Safety - 2100 N. Ohio, Augusta

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Troy Jellison

Safe Slumber

When: Saturday, September 24

Time: 9 am to 11 am

Where: TBA

Cost: Free—Paid for by Smart Start

Instructor: Jamie Downs, LBSW & Audra Kenneson, LMSW

To register, contact Audra at 320.1342 or akenneson@rui.org



CPR/First Aid Instructor, Troy Jellison, and his assistant, Dylan Woodbridge, demonstrate what to do when someone is choking.

Upcoming Trainings by Community Partners

Day Care Orientation Training

Information about the licensing regulations and what you need to do to become a licensed child care provider will be given at these free trainings, by the Butler County Health Department. For more information contact Jamie Downs at 320.0365. Upcoming dates of Orientation are: August 19 and September 16.

Child Start Trainings in Butler

When: Monday, August 15

Title: Adventurous Group Games for School Age Students: Special Projects and Events

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$20

Instructor: Annette Green

When: Monday, September 19

Title: Basic Knowledge Curriculum: Daily Experiences—Understanding the Whole Child

Where: Butler County Health Dept.

Cost: \$20

Instructor: Jackie Tanner

For more information about Child Start trainings contact 682.1853.

Augusta Library's Story Time & Toddler Time



Augusta Public Library
1609 State Street

Our friends at the Augusta Public Library will begin their Fall Story Time and Toddler Time sessions soon.

Sessions will begin September 6, 7, and 8 and run through December 15. Registration begins on August 15 and each session is limited to 15 children.

Story Time is for children who are 3 to 5 years old and is offered Tuesdays at 10:30 and Wednesdays at 10:30.

Toddler Time is for children who are 18 months to 36 months with an adult playmate and is on Thursdays at 10:30.

The Library Director is Lynne Holloway. The Children's Librarian is Lisa Daniels. Children and parents can expect stories, finger plays, songs, and a craft at Story Time and Toddler Time. The Augusta Public Library is located at 1609 State Street in Augusta. To register, visit the library or call 316.775.2681.

Get Outside, Learn Inside



Child Start, Inc. has partnered with the Sedgwick County Zoo to bring you this unique opportunity to explore awesome outdoor activity! You will get a hands-on, minds-on introduction to environmental education, outdoor exploration, and nature play for early childhood. Learn how to use the Growing Up WILD and Project Learning

Tree Early Childhood Environmental Experiences Activity and Curriculum Guides to engage children ages 3 to 7 in outdoor exploration and play. Participants will gain hands-on experience with a sampling of activities, which integrate investigations of nature with art, literature, math, music and movement. In addition, participants will strengthen their awareness and understanding of the environment and natural resources while learning developmentally appropriate methods to safely and effectively engage

young children in outdoor exploration and nature play. After this session, you will be free to visit the zoo at your leisure. Normal training fees (which depend on membership with Child Start) and additional \$20 fee for books are required for attendance. Lunch is not included. **For more information or to register, contact Child Start at 316.682.1853 or visit their website at www.childstart.org.**

It's not easy being green.

- Kermit the Frog

Teaching Children to Practice Acts of Kindness

From: Sandbox Learning

Being kind to other people and yourself is important for being a good friend and being happy. Modeling kindness, reflecting on kind actions, and practicing acts of kindness can help children develop this skill.

1. **Be a Role Model:** When you say unkind things about other people or yourself, children learn this is acceptable behavior. Say kind things about co-workers, neighbors, family members, people in the community, and yourself.

2. **Use Lists:** Have your kids write

lists or make collages that represent what they like about their friends, family members, and people at school. Hang the creation where classmates and friends can see them. Have children make a similar project about themselves.

3. **Read and Write Stories:** Read stories about kindness and respect in school and at home. Ask Kids to share times when they were kind and when people were kind to them.

4. **Practice Kindness:** Teach Kids to

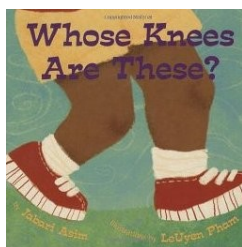
help other people in day to day situations. Have them role play what they would do to be helpful.

5. **Learning to do Kind Things for Yourself:** Have kids write or draw about things they like to do that make them feel good about themselves. Discuss how to decrease stress.

6. **Pick a Cause or Charity:** A long term investment in a volunteer or charity activity teaches children that even a small amount of time and energy can make a big difference.

Smart Start Lending Library

Have you ever checked an item out from the Smart Start Library? It's easy! Call Audra at 320.1342 or send her an email: akenneson@rui.org.

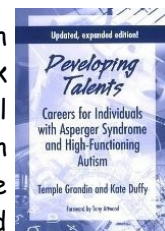


Whose Knees are These? In this book, playful rhymes answer the title question.

The story is sweet and simple, and children will enjoy bending knees or wiggling toes along with the protagonists. The text refers to knees so brown and so strong and toes so brown and sweet.

Developing Talents: Careers for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome & High-Functioning Autism This book considers the employment statistics

for individuals with ASD. The book explores Vocational Rehabilitation programs that provide job training and placement for people with disabilities, as well as Social Security Administration programs that offer vocational assistance.



Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force

At 11 am the third Wednesday of every month, in the basement of Bradford Memorial Library in El Dorado, a very special group of people come together to discuss early childhood initiatives in in Kansas and how we can impact the young children of Butler County.

The group meets as the Interagency Coordinating Council for our area whose vision is "The Butler County Child and Family Development Task Force, with community support, ensure quality, available, and affordable childcare, early childhood education, children's health services and family support for all children in Butler County."



The "Task Force" met in October 2010 for strategic planning. Work is fun when you do it with friends!

A typical meeting enjoys 18 to 20 attendees who begin by sharing agency updates and happenings across the county that pertain to young children and their families, then a guest speaker presents information about a particular program in the county.

This is this group of people who guide us in our efforts as we write and implement the Smart Start grant.

The chair of the task force is Sue Barrientos, the Coordinator of the Early Childhood Program at Butler Community College. Audra Kenneson, Smart Start Coordinator, serves as the facilitator of the meetings.

The meetings are open to community members. More information can be found on ButlerKids.org where the minutes and handouts from each meeting are posted monthly.

Meet a Butler Early Childhood Professional

The vision of Smart Start of Butler county is "Butler County Smart Start will improve and expand early childhood experiences and care for children to ensure they enter school ready to succeed. "

The Smart Start Coordinator works to meet that vision. Audra Kenneson became the coordinator in August 2007.

Audra grew up in Butler County. She went to El Dorado schools and when she was in the 9th grade her family moved to Rosalia where she graduated from Flinthills High School. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from Kansas State University in 1991.



Audra taught at Eureka Alternative High School until she earned her Master's Degree in Social Work from WSU in 2004. She worked on a reintegration grant with the Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority in El Dorado. When that grant ended, Audra was a Juvenile Intake and Assessment worker which she continued doing on a part-time basis after she was hired by Rainbows United, Inc. to coordinate the Smart Start Grant.

Smart Start is housed in Rainbows' El Dorado office, located at 409 N. Main. There Audra supervises two Mental Health Specialists who work with families and child care providers to address behavior issues in young children. Besides her duties of



managing the daily operations of the Smart Start Grant, Audra is the lead Incredible Years instructor in Butler County and she coordinates trainings for child care providers throughout each grant year. She is a part-time instructor in the Early Childhood Program at Butler Community College.

Audra is the mother of toy poodles, Gabby and Gidget, who occasionally come to the office with her.