

Smart Start helps more than 140 teachers of young children with education through IPDP

More than 140 child care workers will receive help with paying for their college educations because of the the Partnership for Children's Individual Professional Development Plan.

The IPDP reimburses child care professionals who are currently in college pursuing degrees in early childhood education. Program participants must have declared a major as early childhood education and must be working at least 20 hours per week in an early childhood program while attending classes.

Teachers who participated in the program were recognized June 17 at the Gaston County Public Library.

Dr. Janet Johnston, director of curriculum at Hope Lutheran School, which is slated to open in Gastonia in the next few months, was the keynote speaker.

Johnston spoke on the importance of persistence when pursuing a college degree, no matter how long it may take.

"What it says to your children is, 'I finish what I start,'" she said.

Johnston said it's also important to recognize that a student cannot complete a degree without support from family, friends and the community.

"You have support from the Partnership or you wouldn't be here tonight," Johnston said.

Partnership board member Bar-



Susan Durrer, early childhood education director for the Partnership, congratulated child care professionals on their accomplishments.



Dr. Janet Johnston spoke about persistence in pursuing any goal.

bara Voorhees attended.

"What you do with children is so important," Voorhees said.

Qualifying child care providers who are pursuing a college degree in early childhood education may be eligible to participate in the program. To find out if you qualify or to apply, call Susan Durrer, early childhood education director for the Partnership for Children, at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008.

SuperSTARS

The following child care centers or homes in Gaston and Lincoln counties have recently increased their STAR rat-



Kennedy's Kids Kare, Gastonia; G.E. Massey Head Start, Lincolnton



Fantasy World No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3, Belmont; Great Beginnings No. 2, Gastonia; In the Beginning Child Development Center, Gastonia; The Kidsplace Inc., Lincolnton



H & G Learning Center, Gastonia

Group Heading to Raleigh

On July 16, GLAEYC President Suzanne Jacobs will lead a group to Raleigh to meet with legislators on the importance of funding programs for young children. The event is called "Tuesdays for Tots."

Anyone who is interested may go on the trip. Vans will be taken to allow for participants to ride together. Departure time is set for 7 a.m. July 16 from Great Beginnings Child Care Center in Belmont.

For more information, contact Jacobs at (704) 825-8337.

JUST FOR PARENTS

Summer Project: Miniature Greenhouse

It's easy to build a miniature greenhouse with your kids, and it's a learning process that will last all summer! Here's what you'll need to get started:

- A large glass jar with a wide mouth and a screw-on lid
- A few handfuls of gravel or small pebbles
- A small amount of potting mix or garden soil
- An empty tuna can
- Hammer and nail
- Plant seedlings

Directions:

Parents should use the hammer and nail to poke three holes in the bottom of the tuna can for drainage.

Put one layer of gravel or pebbles in the can and then fill the can up with potting mix or garden soil.

Moisten the soil. Carefully trans-

plant the seedlings into the soil. Place the taller plants in the middle of the can and the shorter ones around the outside.

Place the tuna can with planted seedlings on top of the jar lid. The inside of the lid should be facing up, and the sides of the lid should form a basin for the water to drain

into. Invert the glass jar and screw it onto the lid.

Place your miniature greenhouse in *indirect* sunlight and water when the plants start to wilt. Replace seedlings which die or become too tall.

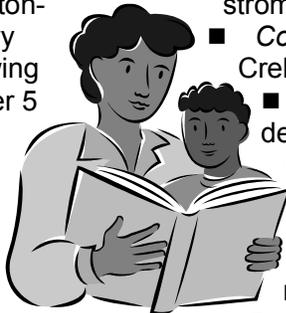
Source: *365 Days of Creative Play, Third Edition*, by Sheila Ellison and Judith Gray



Settling in With a Good Book: Summer Reading List

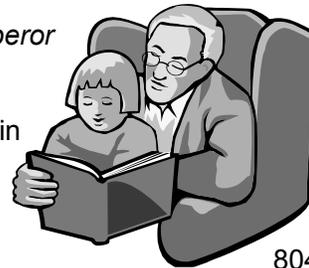
Whether it's a long car ride, a day at the beach or bed time, there are always opportunities to read to your children. The Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library recommends the following books for children under 5 years of age:

- *Dancing Feet* by Charlotte Agell
- *Louella Mae, She's Run Away* by Karen Beaumont Alacron
- *Cuddly Dudley* by Jez Alborough
- *Barnyard Lullaby* by Frank Asch
- *Red Light, Green Light, Mama and Me* by Carl Best
- *Baby High, Baby Low* by Stella Blackstone
- *Just Like a Baby* by Rebecca Bond



- *Willy the Dreamer* by Anthony Browne
- *Rise and Shine* by Nancy Carlstrom
- *Cows in the Kitchen* by June Crebbins
- *Follow Carl!* by Alexander Day
- *Now It Is Morning* by Candace Whitman Gay
- *Surprise Garden* by Zoe Hall
- *Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse* by Kevin Henkes
- *The Big Wide-Mouthed Frog* by Ana Larranaga
- *Tacky and the Emperor* by Helen Lester
- *Chugga Chugga Choo-Choo* by Kevin Lewis
- *Flora McDonnell's ABC* by Flora McDonnell

- *Yum!* by Colin McNaughton
- *Here In Space* by David Milgrim
- *Uno, Dos, Tres* by Pat Mora
- *Chickens! Chickens!* by Barbra Ann Porter
- *Axle Annie* by Robin Pulver
- *Mouse Mess* by Linnea Riley
- *Trucks: Giants of the Highway* by Ken Robbins
- *My Box of Color* by Lorianne Siomades
- *Three Little Kittens* by Lorianne Siomades
- *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly* by Sims Taback
- *Mouse Magic* by Ellen Stoll Walsh



For more information call the Gaston-Lincoln Regional Library at (704) 868-2164 or (704) 735-8044.

The Partnership for Children of Lincoln & Gaston Counties

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Our vision: A community where young children will reach their full health and educational potential.

Our mission: To serve as a leading advocate and financial resource, in collaboration with other community agencies, to provide affordable access to high quality services for young children.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- July 4: Independence Day, Partnership office closed
- July 19: Partnership Board of Directors meeting, 12 p.m., Partnership office
- August 16: Partnership Board of Directors meeting, 12 p.m., Partnership office

DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you would like to receive the Partnership's new newsletter by mail, call Shannon Clubb at (704) 922-0900 or (704) 736-9008 or e-mail her at publicinfo@pfclg.com.

Be sure to include the following information:
Name

Organization, if applicable

Complete preferred mailing address (*Note whether address is home or work.*)

Daytime phone number (*if we have any questions*)

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