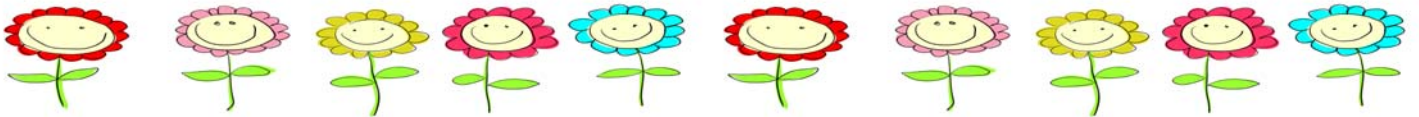


WV Birth to Three

West Virginia Birth to Three Region 1 RAU is a program of
Catholic Charities WV
and the Diocese of Wheeling/Charleston.



Summer Pleasures

Sunshine beaming golden heat
For lots of fun outdoors;
Vacations, for a sweet retreat
To mountains, plains and shores.

Kids in constant summer motion,
Free from teacher's rule,
Head to toe in suntan lotion,
At the beach or pool.

Inflatable rafts on which to float,
Camping and fishing gear,
Rowing or sailing or water ski boat,
Tell us summer's here.

Things we can't do the rest of the year
Are summer's special treasures;
Oh summer, summer, linger long,
And give us all your pleasures!

By Joanna Fuchs



Region 1 Newsletter by Parent Partners:
Alberta Johnson and Laura White

Summer 2009

~~~An Inspirational Quote~~~

*If You Find It In Your Heart To  
"Care" For Somebody Else.....  
You Will Have Succeeded!!  
Author: Maya Angelou*

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### Parent Partners

Contact your Parent Partners  
for more information.

#### Wheeling

Alberta Johnson

304-214-5775

1-800-619-5697

ajohnson@stratuswave.net

#### Morgantown

Laura White

304-296-3660

304-296-7424

laura.l.white@wv.gov

# Parent's Page



# Tummy Time

**Researchers are now saying that moving and exploring the world on their tummies stimulates babies brain in new and important ways.**

Outlined below are three ways to support your baby's development:

**1. Give your baby plenty of 'floor time.'** While putting babies on the floor is contrary to many of our previous customs, it is one of the best ways to support both physical skills and the development of a baby's sense of competence. Babies who spend time on open, clean, safe, flat surfaces, free of infant seats or other restrictive carriers, have the opportunity to learn about their bodies in space. They get to learn what positions they can get themselves into and out of. They develop the muscles they need for their next developmental challenge. Babies who are playing on the floor are strengthening all of the muscles they will later need to roll over, sit up and crawl. Babies who are crawling on their own are exercising the muscles they will later need for walking. Limiting the amount of time babies spend in car seats, infant carriers, swings, chairs and other restrictive containers allows babies to have lots of chance to develop their muscles, skills and body awareness through 'floor time.' Just as important as physical development is the development of a baby's sense of competence. Having the opportunity to learn how to make one's body do something new gives an infant the idea, 'I can do it!' and the confidence to keep trying new things...even at an early age.

**2. Get down on the floor with your baby.** Not all babies like to lie and/or play on their tummies. This is because there is an increased pressure on the stomach and the lungs..breathing is more difficult. The child also feels frightened as they do not have the same visual orientation as they do when in an upright position or on their backs. The best solution is to get down on the floor with your child. In spending floor time with your baby, you can just watch and see what your baby does, where she looks, and how she moves. You can see the world from her perspective. You could sing with her, talk to her and call her name to encourage her to look at you. Just being on her level allows her to communicate with you using all the subtleties of her nonverbal, as well as your verbal communication.

**3. Support your infant's achievements.** We all want to do the best we can for our children, especially with regard to infant development. What babies really need is our attention, observation and our responsiveness. In the first year of life, babies are learning trust. They are learning that the world is a place where they will get their needs met, where they can make things happen, and where they can safely explore. Our job is not to "teach" them these things. Our job, as parents, is to get to know them, to enjoy them, to provide them with safe and interesting learning spaces, to learn their unique communication systems and to be responsive to them.

The importance of "[Tummy Time](#)" is clear. It is beneficial for all children and helps to further promote their development in the areas of gross motor, fine motor, and sensory motor functioning. It also helps promote their cognitive and social skills. Every parent should set aside a few minutes each day to make sure their child benefits from some "[TummyTime](#)"!

Adapted by: [crawlies.ca/babyarticles/tummytime](http://crawlies.ca/babyarticles/tummytime)

**\*\*\*NEW to our Lending Library in New Martinsville, Morgantown and Wheeling is the E.A.S.Y. Baby Tummy Time Program DVD.**

***This is FREE OF CHARGE to borrow for West Virginia Birth to Three families!***

[www.myeasybaby.com](http://www.myeasybaby.com)

*West Virginia Birth to Three services and supports are provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and administered through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health.*

# Summer Activities



## ★ **What is Camp Gizmo?**

★ Camp Gizmo is a five-day hands-on camp where parents, professionals and students learn how assistive technology can help young children (birth-8 years) with significant and multiple developmental needs.

## ★ **When Is Camp Gizmo?**

★ July 18-22, 2009 on the campus of the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind in Romney, WV.

## ★ **Who Should Come And What Do We Do?**

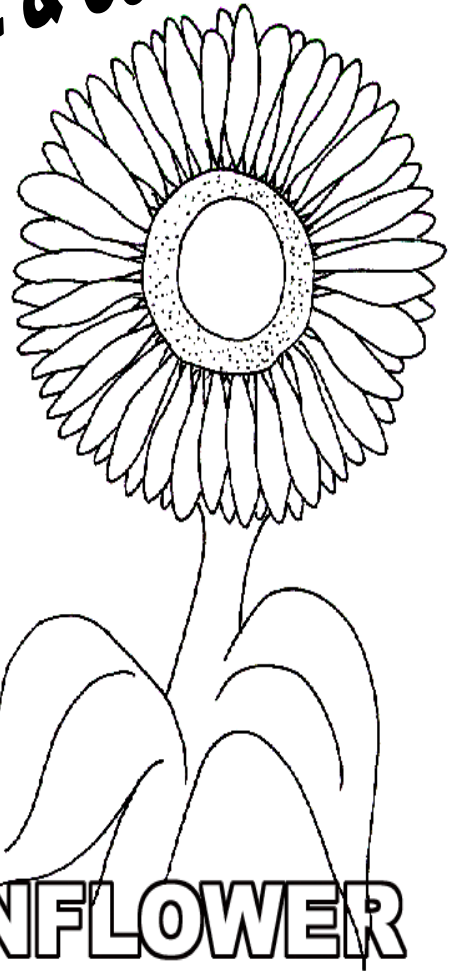
★ Families, professionals, college students, and others who want to learn more about assistive technology. A limited number of "focus" children will be accepted and assigned a team of professionals who help families identify and apply new strategies for solving their multiple assistive technology needs.

## ★ **For More Information:**

★ Kathy Knighton or Ginger Huffman, WV Dept of Ed—1-800-642-8541 or Pam Roush, WV Birth to Three—1-800-642-9704 or Alyson Edwards, WVECTCR—1-888-983-2827 or email at aedwards@rvcds.org

★ Camp Gizmo is funded by the WV Dept of Ed/ Office of Special Programs, WVDHHR/Bureau for Public Health/ Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health/WV Birth to Three, and WVDHHR/Bureau for Children and Families/ Division of Early Care and Education and in-kind support is provided by WVATS, WVU Center of Excellence in Disabilities, National Seating and Mobility and Assistive Technology Works, INC. Support and coordination provided by WV

# Cut Out & Color!



# SUNFLOWER



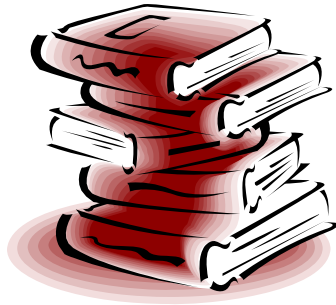
## WV Birth to Three Eligibility Changes Effective May 1st, 2009

There have been changes in eligibility and additional information is available on our WV Birth to Three website: [www.wvdhhr.org/birth23](http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23) or you may call our Wheeling Office toll free at:

# 1-800-619-5697



# Lending Library



## Available in the Morgantown and Wheeling Office

- ◆ Selecting Child Care for Your Baby-**VHS & BOOK**
- ◆ Understanding SSI Disability for Children-**VHS & BOOK**
- ◆ 1-2-3 Magic: Managing Difficult Behavior in Children 2-12 years-**DVD & BOOK**
- ◆ Beyond Baby Talk: A Parent's Guide to language development-**DVD & BOOK**
- ◆ Caring for Your Baby and Young Child-birth to age 5-**BOOK**
- ◆ What to do When Your Child Gets Sick-**BOOK**

## Available in the Morgantown Office

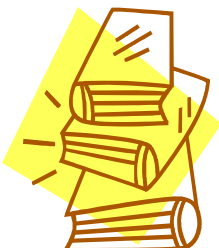
- ◆ Creative Activities For Young Children-**BOOK**
- ◆ Steps To Independence ( A Skills Training Guide for Parents and Teachers of Children with Special Needs)-**BOOK**
- ◆ Developmental Disorders of Language-**BOOK**
- ◆ 1,2,3, The Toddler Years-**BOOK**
- ◆ Someone Special Just Like You-**BOOK**
- ◆ Infections in Children-**BOOK**
- ◆ Exercise Program for Young Children 4 weeks to 4 years-**BOOK**

**\*\*NEW\*\***

**EASY Baby**

**Tummy Time Program DVD**

(Available to all WVBTT families through our Lending Library in the New Martinsville, Morgantown and Wheeling Offices.)



**Call your local office:**  
Wheeling 304-214-5775  
Morgantown 304-296-3660  
1-800-619-5697

## Region One Staff

### Wheeling Office

Program Coordinator  
Judy Bischof

Administrative Assistant  
Pauline Boring

AARP Volunteer  
Margaret Schank

Data Entry  
Geraldyn Hemmann

Interim Service Coordinators  
Amanda Rockwell  
Nancy Baranski

Parent Partner  
Alberta Johnson

### Morgantown Office

Administrative Assistant  
(vacant position)

Interim Service Coordinators  
Liz Smailes  
Jennifer Dailey

Parent Partner  
Laura White

### New Martinsville Office

Interim Service Coordinator  
Melinda Graham



## Attention Parents !

**Would you like to have your child  
featured in our upcoming newsletters?**

\*We are looking for close head shots. If interested, please contact the WVBTT Wheeling Office for more information (1-800-619-5697 or 304-214-5775). We will need to have a signed consent for photo release.

😊 We look forward to hearing from you! 😊

# Community Resources & Upcoming Events

**All Counties:** \*Nursing Mothers Support Group ~ Held on the 4th Saturday of every month, for more information please call Kim Connor (304) 242-5751.

**\*\*Check with your local libraries for events!\*\***

**Hancock County:** \*Chester 4th of July Celebration ~ parade, fireworks, concert and vendors  
\*Lincoln Highway Byway Sale (1st week of August) ~ US 30 Garage Sale (goes through Chester, WV)

**Brooke County:** Brooke Hills Park ~

\*June 20th—WV Birthday Celebration ~ 6:00—9:00 PM @ the Bald Eagle Shelter. (picnic, FREE cake, hot dogs, drinks, entertainment, and park activities)

\*Star Watch ~ 3rd Friday of every month throughout the summer at dusk/dark.

\*National Kid Day (August 2nd) ~ 1:00 (FREE swimming, hot dogs, snow cones, drinks, cardboard boat race (pool), kids games, raffles and door prizes)

Follansbee City Park ~ \*July 5th ~ FREE swimming, hot dogs, pop and three concerts!

**Ohio County:** Oglebay Good Zoo/ Oglebay Park ~

\*Mid-June—A giant 18ft., 350 lb. Reticulated Python

\*July 11th—The Amazing Spiderman

\*August 5-9—“Crunch” the GIANT 165lb. Alligator Snapping Turtle

\*July 3rd Fireworks at Schenk Lake

Wheeling Park ~ \*Day Camp June 15—Aug. 7 (call 243-4085 for cost & details)

**Marshall County:** \*Support Group/Special Needs ~ Moundsville Library (all families with special needs children young and older) Please contact Pat Elliott 304-845-6869.

\*Music in the Park ~ June 11th at 7:00 PM and every other Friday :FREE concert at Riverfront Park

\*Marshall County Fair July 25 ~ Aug. 2nd @ fairgrounds

GrandVue Park ~ \*WV Birthday Heritage Tour June 20th (facility tours, FREE golf [day], band at the outdoor amphitheatre, Steak-Fry and Corn Hole Tournament from 6:00—9:00 PM)

\*Free Dads Day ~ Friday, June 19th @ The Barn 3:00—7:00. Call 232-2250 or 221-2006. (Martial Arts demo., Building bird houses/ model cars, 3 Man Sling Shot, dunk tank, face painting, . . .)

\*FREE Summer Playgroup ~ June 9th—August 20th 10:00—12:00 @ Starting Points Center. Call 221-2006.

**Marion County:** \*WV State Summit on High School Graduation & Dropout Prevention on July 14th 2009 from 5:00—9:00 at the Charleston Civic Center, Charleston WV. Please call Pam Dugan at 661-1460.

**Monongalia County:** \*Autism Parents Support Group ~ Held the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am-12n at the PlayWorks Child Dev. Center on 483 Dents Run Rd, Westover, WV. For additional information email her at bobandcherismith@yahoo.com or call Cheri Smith at 328-5042 (before 8pm). Childcare will be available for most meetings. Please email or RSVP for child care needs.

**Wetzel County:** \*Relay for Life ~ June 19-20 at Magnolia’s Track Field Events 6pm (June 19th Luminary Ceremony at 9pm) Please call Betty Klug at 455-5320.

\*Wetzel County Town and Country Days ~ Wetzel 4-H Grounds Aug. 10th—16th

**Tyler County :** \*Tyler County Fair ~ August 3-9 - at the Tyler County Fairgrounds in Middlebourne

\*Middlebourne Public Library ~ Summer Reading Program every Monday FREE (lots of reading, crafts, snacks and games contact Rosanne Eastham at 758-4304.

# Kids First: Hearing Services

**GOAL:** To assure West Virginia's children are healthy and ready to learn.

**MISSION:** To provide hearing aid services and supplies for children ages 3, 4, 5, or 6 years who lack insurance coverage for this benefit. Ineligible are children who have Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance, or those children who have commercial coverage that includes this benefit.

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- Age limitations: Children ages 3, 4 5, or 6 years.
- Approval for hearing aids is for children with an average sensory neural hearing loss of at least 30dB in the frequency range of 500-4000 Hz, documented by a licensed audiologist report.
- Children with permanent conductive hearing loss may be eligible for the Project, if a statement of need is issued by a licensed physician.
- Only children within the age group lacking credible coverage are eligible to have the service paid using Children's Hearing Project resources.
- Prior authorization is not required; however, because there is a finite amount of resources, please send the child's name and date of birth, name of the parents, and address along with an estimate of cost, at the point the practice has reason to believe the child is uninsured for hearing aid services. This preliminary information should be sent with a copy of the hearing test to:

Maternal, Child and Family Health  
350 Capitol Street, Room 427  
Charleston, WV 25301-3714  
Attention: Robin Simmons

Sending this information allows us to earmark money to support the cost of the child's service.

## **REIMBURSEMENT:**

- If insured, but not a covered benefit, then a copy of the insurance denial must accompany the child's bill.
- A copy of the dealer's quote/cost invoice is required for reimbursement consideration.
- Payment will be based on the dealer's quote/cost invoice plus 40%.
- Hearing aid supply needs, including evaluation, molds, and six month supply of batteries, will also be covered services, paid for at Medicaid established rates.
- For children participating in Kids First, please order hearing aids that come with a standard two year warranty period. If, however, the hearing aid prescribed for the child comes with only a one year manufacturer's warranty, then we will provide payment for a warranty extension of one additional year for repair/damages.
- The Kids First Hearing Services Project does not provide additional warranty for repair and damages beyond two (2) years. There is no insurance/warranty coverage of hearing aid loss. If a participating child loses a hearing device while age-eligible for Project coverage, the request for financial aid will be given consideration, subject to the availability of funds.

- Invoices are to be sent to:

Dena Smith  
BPH Central Finance  
350 Capitol Street, Room 519  
Charleston, WV 25301

This Project, funded by WV Blue Cross Blue Shield and administered by the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, Department of Health and Human Resources, is a part of Governor Manchin's Kids First Initiative: Healthy and Ready to Learn. All payments are subject to the availability of funds, and claims will be paid in the order received.

This Project is open to all children who meet the above eligibility requirements and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, or national origin.

# West Virginia Birth to Three and ME!

## A Personal Story



My name is Alberta Johnson and my husband is Clifford Johnson. We are the proud parents of our thirteen month old baby girl, Maryeli. She was born eleven weeks premature in my twenty-ninth week of pregnancy. To say the least, her early arrival was a complete surprise. After Maryeli's birth was a whirlwind of events. She spent her first five weeks in the NICU and the following four weeks in and out of hospitals. When we finally had our last hospital homecoming at the end of June, we were able to schedule our first meeting with West Virginia Birth to Three.

The West Virginia Birth to Three system had been a source of comfort even before we were officially home. I had been in contact with a wonderful and soft spoken woman by the name of Melinda Graham, our Interim Service Coordinator. She was more than understanding of our continued postponement for our meeting due to returns to the hospital. Upon meeting Melinda, her voice matched her warm personality that seemed to embrace my very weary self at the time. Things were so chaotic and so scary for us. The hope of having a system offer us resources and services that we needed at no cost or obligation was wonderful and reassuring. The fact that it was not income-based was very comforting to us. We have hit many road blocks for assistance due to the fact that our income is regarded as too high and we have insurance. Finances were and are beyond stressed. So, the comfort of knowing that eligibility was based on Maryeli's needs and not discriminated against due to income was icing on the cake!

We have now been in the WVBTT system for approximately eleven months and it is a blessing! We have been very pleased with all of the individuals who have been part of Maryeli's team. All have been nurturing and caring with our daughter. The Interim Service Coordinator, Ongoing Service Coordinator, and the Practitioners have all shown a perfect marriage of professionalism and compassion towards our whole family! The cost of the necessary medical trips has already stressed our budget; therefore, it has been wonderful having the WVBTT services offered to us out of the convenience of our own home. WVBTT truly seems to put children and their special needs as well as their families first, that is impressive! If all people in services could adopt the approach the West Virginia Birth to Three System has shown, the world would be a much better place!

One final note: Our daughter is growing and developing beautifully! The WVBTT system has played a vital role in Maryeli's continued progress! We have been given a gift through the services we have been privileged to have for our daughter! I have recently become the Parent Partner for the West Virginia Birth to Three Region 1 Administrative Unit. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to serve parents with the same warmth and compassion that was offered to me during a very trying and difficult period of my life and my family's, one journey in which we continue to travel!

**WV Birth to Three  
Orientation Training:**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
To register go online:  
[www.wvdhhr.org/birth23](http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23)  
Orientation trainings are  
open to the public and  
FREE of charge.

**Calling All Parents !**  
Would you like to have your story featured in our upcoming  
☺☺☺ WVBTT Newsletters? ☺☺☺  
♥ WVBTT would love to hear how we have served and supported ♥  
**YOUR family!**  
\*If interested, please contact your WVBTT office for more information.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
WVBTT Region 1 RAU is looking for parents to be a part of the Advisory Council.  
If you are available, please call 1-800-619-5697.



# *West Virginia Birth to Three Region 1 RAU*

## Wheeling Office

1025 Main St.  
Suite 502  
Wheeling, WV  
26003

(304) 214-5775

## Morgantown Office

965 Hartman Run Rd  
Suite 1103  
Morgantown, WV  
26508

(304) 296-3660

## New Martinsville Office

1236 North State  
Route 2  
New Martinsville, WV  
26155

(304) 455-0920 ext. 251

1-800-619-5697

[www.wvdhhr.org/birth23](http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23)



or Current Resident

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WHEELING WV  
PERMIT NO. 20

Catholic Charities West Virginia  
WV Birth to Three  
1025 Main Street, Suite 502  
Wheeling, WV 26003