

BTT Bits

Summer Issue

2017

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WV Birth to Three: Croix Story

When my son, Croix, was 4 months old he started having chronic ear infections. After the third infection within two months I started to get worried. Finally at 8 months old Croix received his first set of tubes. When he turned a year old he still wasn't talking and I decided I wanted to refer him to WV Birth to Three to see if we were able to receive help and support.

When we first started speech therapy he hated it. He wasn't responding the way I was anticipating he should be. Our therapist really went the extra mile to encourage him, get him interested and gave us a lot of ideas on things we should be doing at home. After a few months Croix really started to respond and was excelling. He went from not talking at all and now he's saying words and using sign language. We've been in the program for 8 months now and it has been the best thing I could have ever asked for!

Our family has had such a great experience with WV Birth to Three. When you have therapists that are compassionate about their job and helping the children they work with it really makes a difference. We look forward to working with our team throughout the remainder of our time in the program!



WV Birth to Three
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Is your child moving, hearing, seeing, learning, talking like others their age? Our services are offered at no cost to families. If you have any questions contact our office at 304-485-2000 or 1-866-401-8919

Team Tips

Cognitive Development– Information provided by Debbie Long Developmental Specialist and Vision Specialist; Wood County– WV BTT

What happens when your child turns two? Most two year olds are explorers and experimenters. They discover things in the environment and think about how they work. They do not always want their parents to tell them answers or show them how something works. They want to figure it out themselves. It is so important to resist the temptation to interfere.

Two-year-olds strengthen their ability to solve problems by developing these skills:

- ◆ Matching Colors, Shapes, and pictures and matching pictures to objects
 - Practice pointing out one color, such as red. Find red things around the house or point out red things you see while on outings.
- ◆ Sorting colors, shapes, and objects
 - Let your child help you sort laundry (socks, washcloths, towels, etc.)
- ◆ Fitting things together
 - Provide simple one-piece puzzles for your child to assemble. Next introduce puzzles that have several (four to nine pieces). Pieces with knob handles are age appropriate.
 - Let your child play with stacking cups.
 - Let your child play with a variety of size bowls.
- ◆ Understanding quantity
 - Look for occasions when you can talk about one and more than one with your child such as in the grocery store, ask your child to bring you one tissue, one toy, etc...



Edited from —Just For Two's– Brighter Vision Learning Adventures

Fun Experiments

Dino Dig

Cool off this summer with this fun science and sensory activity.

Materials Needed:

- A bowl
- Water
- Plastic Dinosaurs
- Salt
- Excavation Tools: (spoon, paintbrush, toothbrush, water dropper, popsicle sticks)
- Baking sheet or container with sides



Directions: Put your plastic dino in the bowl and add water. **Do not fill the bowl!** You'll add water in layers so the toys don't all float up to the top or sink to the bottom! Let the first layer of water freeze, then add another toy, and another layer of water, and freeze. Continue this until your bowl is full. Once frozen, remove the ice block from the bowl (run a little warm water over the bowl, or let sit for a bit if you're having trouble getting the ice out). Place the ice in your container. Then let your child experiment on how to get the dinosaur out of the ice by using the tools you provide.

Colorful Carnations

Materials Needed:

- ◆ White Carnations
- ◆ Flower Vases
- ◆ Food Coloring (**Red and Blue work the fastest**)
- ◆ Water

Directions: Fill the vase 1/4 full of water. Add ten to twenty drops of food coloring. Put a flower in each vase and let it sit for one day. Check back every couple of hours to see what happens.





Optometry's Charity™ - The AOA Foundation and The Vision Care Institute™, LLC a Johnson & Johnson company partnered to create InfantSEE®, a no-cost public health program developed to provide professional eye care for infants nationwide. Through InfantSEE®, optometrists provide a one-time, comprehensive eye assessment to infants in their first year of life, offering early detection of potential eye and vision problems at no cost regardless of income. A comprehensive assessment between the ages of 6 months and 12 months is recommended to determine healthy development of vision.

The InfantSEE® program:

- Provides no-cost access to an eye-care doctor who has the instruments and resources not available to general-care doctors like pediatricians and family physicians
 - Detects potential problems that, if undetected, may lead to learning and developmental issues later
 - Gives new parents the peace of mind that their infant's vision is developing properly

To learn more about InfantSEE® call toll-free (888) 396-EYES (3937) or visit www.infantsee.org



PROTECT YOUR BABY'S EYES.

One in 10 American children has an undiagnosed vision problem.

Schedule a no-cost eye assessment with an optometrist in your area at www.infantsee.org.



Typical Vision Development

The first year of life is one of the most critical stages in child development. Infants vision should be checked by one year of age. During the first twelve months, infants should be examined regularly by your child's doctor to determine proper development and any other health problems. Early detection and treatment of potential problems are vital to your child's development. Information provided by [infantsee.org](http://www.infantsee.org)

0-1 Month	Looks at mother's or caregiver's face. Responds to light.
2-4 Months	Begins to smile at others. Follows a moving person with her/ her eyes. Fascinated by lights and bright colors. Begins to look at own hands.
5-8 Months	Watches things happening across the room. Reaches for nearby toys. Looks at small objects, such as raisins or small cereal.
9-12 Months	Reacts to facial expressions of others (smiles, frowns, funny faces, etc.) Looks for fallen toys, even around corners. Is interested in picking up tiny objects, such as lint on carpet.
12-18 Months	Marks and scribbles with a crayon. Interested in picture books. Can reach in and pull out objects easily. Builds a short tower with blocks.
18-36 Months	Sees detail in familiar pictures. Copies a circle with a pencil or crayon. Looks for familiar things in the distance. Can imitate movements of others. Matches objects to pictures

What is Social & Emotional Development?

As parents, we all want our children to be healthy and happy. It's easier to tell if your child is development physically, but do you know if your child is developing the appropriate social and emotional skills? Supporting their emotional and social development is just as important as supporting their physical development.

So, what is social and emotional development?

- Social and emotional development is a child's ability to understand the feelings of others, control his or her own feelings and behaviors, get along with other children, and build relationships with adults.
- In order for children to develop the basic skills they need such as cooperation, following directions, demonstrating self-control and paying attention, they must have social-emotional skills.

Why is it important for children to have positive social and emotional skills?

- Having positive social and emotional skills is important throughout life and can have an impact on how they function at home, school and in the community.
- When young children are faced with social, emotional, or behavioral challenges it can impact their chances for school success and healthy relationships.
- A child's positive relationship with trusting and caring adults is the key to successful emotional and social development.



What can I do to support my child's positive social and emotional development?

- Be using the behavior you want your child to use
- Be affectionate with your child and others
- Be considerate and respect their feelings, wants and needs
- Be interested in in daily activities
- Let your child know you are proud of their accomplishments
- Encouragement and support them when it gets stressful

Edited from —Missouri Early Childhood Mental Health Project. *What is social emotional development*. Retrieved from <http://dmh.mo.gov/healthykids/parents/social-emotional-development.html>.

Friendly Reminder from your Parent Partner, Shannon Hedrick

I will be sending out e-mails with current activities, resource guide, and fun things you can do with your family every month. If you are interested in receiving these e-mails please provide your e-mail address to shannon.hedrick@thearcmov.org. We would love to hear from you if your family would like to share a short article, craft, poem, or other information that would support other WV Birth to Three families.

Upcoming Events



What is a Community Baby Shower?

A Community Baby Shower or Expo is where families can come and meet with valuable resources for their soon to be or precious little one. There are information booths, refreshments, door prizes, and so much more. There are no income requirements! Contact your local Family Resource Network Director (FRN) for more information in other counties. We have two coming up for the following counties:

Doddridge Baby-Toddler Expo

Doddridge Residents Only who are pregnant or have a child 3 years or younger. September 28 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Preschool Center is Smithburg Dinner and Childcare is provided. Please RSVP to Melanie Britton (304) 873-3955 or (304) 266-8949

Pleasants County Community Baby Shower

Pleasants Residents Only who are pregnant or has a child up to the age of 12 months. October 27 from Noon to 2 p.m. at Belmont Volunteer Fire Department Training Center Please RSVP to Debbie Thompson, Pleasants County Family Resource Network Director (COFI) at (304) 684-3962



What is "Toddler Tuesday" or "Tuesday is for Toddlers?"

These two programs are offered by Meadowbrook Mall and Grand Central Mall. Make sure to mark your calendars and join in the fun for story time, character visits, crafts and so much more.

Tuesday is for Toddlers is held at Meadowbrook Mall every Tuesday morning from 11am until Noon for free activities for your toddler! Please visit the Mall Guest Service Desk for details.

Toddler Tuesday is held at Grand Central Mall the 2nd Tuesdays of every month thru December at 11 a.m.

9/12 - The theme for this Toddler Tuesday is MOMMY & ME! Now that the big kids are back in school it's time for special time for just mommy and your little ones. A representative from "Let's Rock Wood County" will be here to paint rocks with everyone and then hide them around the mall.

*Reminder - Paw Patrol will have a Meet & Greet at Center Court on 9/16 - 9/17. Please see the invite on Grand Central Mall's Page for details.



Ages and Stages of Play: Part 1 - Ball

For little kids, playing is everything and vital for their growth and development. It's how they explore the world and learn critical skills such as crawling, talking, walking, building, singing, drawing, making friends, etc... Have you noticed your child loves to play with simple toys such as a ball or wooden blocks? Why do we go out and buy expensive toys? "Classic toys are more versatile because they don't ask for a specific response from your child. These toys grow with your child and increase imagination and creativity because there is no right or wrong way to play.

Information Provided by: <http://www.parents.com/toddlers-preschoolers/development/growth/ages-and-stages-of-play/>

Fun Ball Play:

6 Months: Your baby will stare intently at the ball. They will enjoy grasping and feeling the ball.

12 Months: Your child can sit on the floor and roll the ball back and forth with you. The child may be able to throw it.

18 Months: Your child now enjoys throwing the ball.

2 Years: Your child is now able to start to kick and dribble a ball with their feet.



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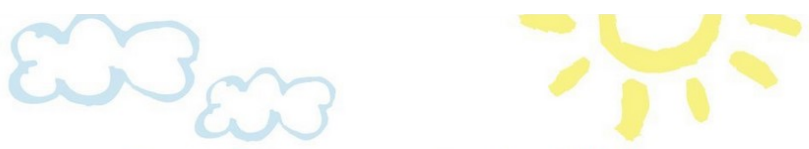


Call- 1-304-485-2000 or
1-866-401-8919
www.wvdhhr.org/birth23



Thank You, Families, for your Assistance

As children transition from WV Birth to Three when they reach their third birthday, the state WV Birth to Three office, sends a survey for families to complete. It is important the survey be completed and returned. Your feedback is very important to us. Each survey is carefully reviewed in order to ensure the best quality services are provided for children and their families. Thank you in advance for your time and assistance.



EARLY EXPERIENCES Last a Lifetime

Check Out Our Facebook Page
WV Birth to Three has created a Facebook page for friends and families. This Facebook page keeps you posted on events, pictures, and other important information to your child's development. If you have a Facebook account, you can look up WV Birth to Three, Region 2 or <https://www.facebook.com/WVBirthToThreeRegion2>