

SUMMER 2024

WV Birth to Three RAU 2

BTT BITS

WV Birth to Three - Region 2

The Arc of Mid-Ohio Valley

1917 Dudley Avenue

Parkersburg, WV 26101

Local: 304-485-2000

Toll free: 1-866-401-8919

Counties served: Calhoun,
Doddridge, Gilmer, Harrison, Pleasants,
Ritchie, Wirt, and Wood

NOW HIRING

WV BIRTH TO THREE REGION 2

PARENT PARTNER

Qualifications

- Parent of a child who received services from WV Birth to Three or Pre-School Special Education Services.
- Must have reliable transportation
- Can work well individually and with a team
- Must be able to compose written materials for distribution using Microsoft word and other software
- Proficient with social media- sharing resources
- Communication/personal skills for presenting resources at in-person events



WVBTT WEBSITE



WVBTT REGION 2
FACEBOOK

To Apply

Submit your resume by email or fax to:

Jennifer Chase, Director, WVBTT Region 2

Email: jennifer.chase@thearcmov.org

Fax: 304-865-2072

For questions call 304-485-2000 Ext 109



Featured Family: The Price Family

March 2020

Before the pandemic, Connor was just another typical toddler who spent most of the day at a childcare center while his dad and I worked.

Early March, when I went to pick him up, a woman handed me a slip that said "developmental delay, refer To BT3".

"They did evaluations today and it looks like he qualified for Birth to Three." "Ok, thanks."

I grabbed the paper, shoved it in his backpack and headed out the door. What the heck was my kid needing an evaluation for? Sure, he's not really saying any words yet, but he's only two. The following week, the entire world would close due to Covid 19. We were stuck at home, which meant constant interaction and lots of time on our hands.



The call that changed our lives

I read over the paper carefully. Highlighted in red "Speech Delay". I immediately called the number listed and was greeted by a woman named Michelle. I expressed how confused I was by the evaluation done at his daycare and concern for a possibly needing help. She explained everything Birth to Three could offer and helped set up a meeting with an Occupational and Speech Therapist.

The next year would be filled with therapists flowing in and out of our home each week and many more evaluations. We added a Behavioral Therapist and a Child Psychologist to our list of providers. Connor would be diagnosed with Autism in March 2021. By the time Connor was 3, he had 5 team members helping us facilitate a new life we would have never imagined.

Making the call for services was the start of the silver lining to his story and our journey with autism. The emotional support and guidance Birth to Three gave us was exactly what my family needed to help grow and heal through this life altering diagnosis. The providers became a family that would help guide us with resources in our state we would've never known about otherwise.

Thank you to Whitney Price for her family submission. If you would like your family featured in a future article, please contact us at 304-485-2000 or submit a story to jennifer.chase@thearcmov.org



SUPPORTING YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN MAKING THE MOST OF FAIRS, FESTIVALS, AND PARADES

WEST VIRGINIA INFANT/TODDLER MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



Spring, summer, and fall in West Virginia often include lots of fairs, festivals, and parades. This is a great time for young children to explore different foods, music, animals, and fun new experiences. It can also mean that young children may experience unfamiliar sounds, smells, lights, and crowds. Preparing young children in advance, and a little pre-planning, will help to make the experience enjoyable for all! Fairs and festivals are a great way to explore the state, both in your own area and beyond.

WWW.NURTURINGWVBABIES.ORG



To access more resources of the West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association, please scan the QR code.

Start with a plan. Begin with making sure the festival, fair, or parade is the right fit for your family. Other considerations could be the time when you attend, how long you attend, and what activities your family would be interested in seeing. Visit the areas that your family is most interested in first, in case you need to leave early. Depending on the length of time you will be staying, you may want to bring:

- comfort item for naptime,
- snacks to stretch between meals,
- sunscreen for hot days,
- jackets for cooler evenings, or
- change of clothes for water rides.

Consider sensitivity to sounds, lights, and costumes. Some children LOVE loud noises, bright flashing lights, and characters in costumes. Others do not. If your child is sensitive to these things, you may consider:

- bringing ear plugs or head phones, or leaving the event earlier before all the loud noises begin.
- avoiding activities with bright lights, or attending in the daytime when the lights are not as bright.
- redirecting the child away from an area that has characters in costumes. Children should not be made to interact with characters in costume if feeling anxious or afraid.

Recognize your child's need to have some quiet time if feeling overwhelmed. Signs that your young child is feeling overwhelmed:

- irritable or crying,
- anxious,
- agitated, or
- clingy behavior.

Plan for breaks and look for quiet areas. Sometimes, fairs and festivals will offer a sensory room that offers young children a quiet place to rest and recharge.

3 REASONS

GOOD INFANT MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS



BRAIN ARCHITECTURE



We have a shared stake **to make sure babies develop sturdy brain architecture**, because this foundation supports a lifetime of learning and productive participation in society. A reliable caregiver who is responsive to a baby's needs is the base for secure attachment, which allows an infant to explore and learn.



BODY & HEALTH



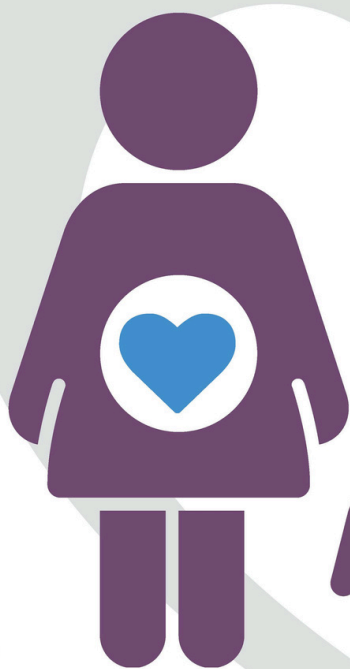
Toxic stress from broken caregiver-infant relationships can push a baby's stress hormones into overdrive. When constantly present, these hormones disrupt brain and physical development. And babies can't learn if their brains and bodies are working against them. **The antidote to toxic stress?** Affection and protection by a nurturing caregiver.



BEHAVIOR & RELATIONSHIPS



Secure attachment is a fundamental building block of social function. Children need relationships with sensitive caregivers to self-regulate, get along with others, solve problems, and be productive -- the basis for civic and economic prosperity.



INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

is the optimal social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of children ages 0 to 3, developed by secure and stable relationships with nurturing caregivers.



West Virginia Infant/Toddler
Mental Health Association

Supporting the social and emotional well-being of children

304.697.0876 | nurturingwvbabies.org



West Virginia Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association is a member of the
**Alliance for the Advancement of
Infant Mental Health**

mi-aimh.org/alliance