

Fall 2025

MAKING CONNECTIONS

WV BIRTH TO THREE - QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A Message From Your Parent Partners :

This time of year reminds us that change can be both exciting and beautiful. Just as the days shift and routines settle, our little ones are learning and growing in their own unique ways. We're honored to support your family through each new chapter - celebrating milestones, navigating challenges, and sharing in the joy of discovery. Here's to a season filled with growth, connection, and fresh opportunities.

April Waybright, Region 5
Samantha Modley - Region 6

Regions 5 & 6

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Did you know that anyone can make a referral to our program?

- No income guidelines
- Services provided at no cost to our families.
- Services provided in the child's natural environment.



Scan the QR code to submit a referral electronically!

Learn more about WV Birth to Three services in your area: 1-866-321-4728
www.wvdhhr.org/birth23



Tiffany Dauwel



Tiffany plays a crucial role on the Region 6 team as the dedicated Office Administrative Associate.

Her main focus is managing and maintaining accurate, up-to-date records for every child and family we serve.

By carefully entering data and verifying information, she ensures that the program's operations run seamlessly and that providers have the reliable information they need to deliver quality services.

Get to know Tiffany:

I'm married with two awesome kids who keep me busy with their sports schedules. When I'm not cheering them on, you'll usually find me relaxing with my Kindle. I've been with WVBTT for three years now, and I genuinely love what I do.

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Deanna Warner



Deanna is an essential part of the Region 5 team, serving as the dedicated Office Administrative Associate!

She keeps everything running smoothly behind the scenes, making sure all the important information about children and families we serve is entered accurately and kept up to date.

Get to know Deanna :

Hi, my name is Deanna, I'm a mom to 2 boys, one of which was a WVBTT baby! When I am not at work I enjoy hanging out with my family, buggy riding, and bow hunting. I first learned about birth to three after my oldest son fell extremely ill causing major regression in his development. He was enrolled at 9 months and stayed solid in the program until they transitioned us into pre-k special needs at 3. Once he graduated from the program, I became an OSC, leading to my becoming the parent partner for almost 3 years. My son's increasing medical needs caused me to have to become a stay-at-home momma to him. After he passed away, I found my way back to the program as an administrative office associate, I knew that I needed to get back and work in the field that helped my family greatly! Anyway, I can be found at the RAU and am likely the first contact you'll receive from the program. I can answer most questions should any needs arise!

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FAMILY SUCCESS STORY



“Both of my children needed Birth to Three. Each experience was fantastic!! Sam Modley and Megan Morgan were nothing short of amazing! They immediately recognized my children’s struggles and came up with a game plan! Every month milestones were met with the dedication and love that they pour into the system! There ladies were also very accommodating to meet my busy schedule as a working mother. I can’t speak highly enough of this program, and I highly recommend any parent with children with delays to get involved and help your children grow!”

-Vanessa Fox, Parent

ADVICE FROM THE FIELD



Building Flexible Routines

As the seasons change, so do family schedules—especially with the return of school, earlier sunsets, and new activities. Routines provide comfort and predictability for young children, but it’s equally important to keep them flexible.

A simple approach is to keep the “what” consistent (mealtime, play, rest, connection) but be open about the “when” and “how.” For example, if dinner is later than usual, move story time up or have a “picnic dinner” to keep things fun. Flexibility helps children adapt to change and reduces stress for everyone.

Tip: Try creating a visual schedule with pictures or symbols. Even toddlers benefit from seeing what’s coming next, making transitions smoother for the whole family.



-WVBTT Direct Service Provider

Co-Parenting - Being on the Same Page is Important

Most of our young children have more than one person who acts in the role of parent. We often hear the term “co-parenting” when families divorce or separate. However, it is really more about the process of partnering around parenting. Whether it is Mom, Dad, Grandma, an Aunt, a babysitter, or even a foster family in the mix, consistency across caregivers is essential for our little ones. When expectations are the same in those different “homes” it will help you to grow healthy, confident and productive little people! What are some things to consider when you are sharing the all important job of raising children together?

Open communication is key between all caregivers. Children are having to adjust between different places and expectations. Work with all the people caring for your child to decide how you will all co-parent them. A meeting between the caregivers to decide on the big stuff helps to keep the best interest of your child in the forefront of everyone’s mind.

- What are the basic rules? Examples:
 - When is bedtime?
 - What time do we eat meals – what foods does the child eat, how much and how are they fed?
 - What are the child’s chores?
 - How much tv/game time is allowed?
 - How are we going to potty train?
- What are consequences when a child pushes the boundaries? When it becomes necessary to discipline a child the adults who are sharing the responsibility of caring for them must be on the same page. Limits and consequences must be the same across caregivers.
 - Discuss all perspectives on discipline
 - Agree on what strategies might be used when and stick to it!
- Have one another’s back! Don’t let the child manipulate or play caregivers against one another. No means no and help the little one understand that this is not ok and the decision stands. This also goes to reason that all caregivers should be supporting the decisions of you as their parent! Ultimately you are guiding this process for your child.
- Have it all written down. Whether it is a paper calendar, or an app, keep track of where kids are and who they are with, including who is going to get them there. Also, all the decisions about the shared expectations – write them down and share with everyone!
- Effective communication can take many forms but use the same one consistently. Texts, instant messaging, an electronic or paper notebook – whatever you choose, make sure that it goes back and forth between “homes” and ensure that everyone knows what they need to be sharing with the other caregivers. This should include important care activities (i.e., how many bottles today, when they were last fed, how long was their nap) and a way of sharing pictures and those sweet stories of what happens during the day.

Handle disagreements with maturity – When there are adults trying to agree on what’s best, there will be disagreements! Keep baby in mind and be respectful of the idea’s others have. Come to an agreement everyone can live with and support. It’s important for the child to see their adults in a unified front. Don’t throw their other folks under the bus – that frustration will impact the child’s feelings about the other person.

Express gratitude, always! Say thank you and remember that you have an amazing group of people coming together to love your little one. Being a parent involves countless decisions and is exhausting! Having a group of caregivers to have your back and your baby’s can make all the difference.

References Boy’s Town (n.d.). Co-Parenting: two different households, one parenting approach. Retrieved from: <https://www.parenting.org/article/Pages/co-parenting-two-different-households-one-parenting-approach.aspx> Daughtry, T (n.d.). How to raise children between two homes. Retrieved from <https://www.imom.com/how-to-raise-children-between-two-homes/> Kinsner, K. (August 14, 2019). Coparenting: are you on the same page? Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/coparenting-are-you-on-the-same-page/> Parlakian, R. (August 19, 2019). Coparenting tips when you’re no longer together. Retrieved from <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/coparenting-tips-when-youre-no-longer-together/> Smolarski, A. (January 27, 2024). Two homes, two sets of rules. Retrieved from <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/cooperative-co-parenting-for-secure-kids/202401/two-homes-two-sets-of-rules>

QUARTERLY RESOURCE

FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORK & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTERS

FRN & FSC

What is a Family Resource Network (FRN)?

Think of FRNs as the roots of a strong community tree. They bring together local agencies, service providers, and neighbors to strengthen support systems for children and families. By coordinating resources, identifying needs, and growing partnerships, FRNs make sure families can access what they need to thrive—season after season.

What are Family Support Centers (FSCs)?

FSCs are like a cozy gathering place on a crisp fall day—a welcoming spot where families can go for hands-on help, connection, and learning. Whether it's parenting classes, developmental screenings, mentoring, or just a safe space to turn for resources, FSCs meet families right where they are and help them grow stronger together.

FUN FACTS!

- FRNs connect agencies and families, with over 90% of partners saying they improve access to services and adapt to changing needs.
- FSCs offer direct, hands-on support in 54 WV counties, helping families set goals, build resilience, and access urgent resources when needed.
- Many FRNs have community members who've been involved for 5+ years, showing their deep roots in supporting families.



GET CONNECTED!

Discover your nearest Family Resource Network or Family Support Center here:
www.wvfrn.org/counties

WHATS IN SEASON?

Fall 2025

- **PUMPKIN-SHAPED SQUISHIES** – SOFT, SQUEEZABLE, AND PERFECT FOR LITTLE HANDS TO EXPLORE.
- **LEAF-TEXTURED MATS** – LET KIDS FEEL THE DIFFERENT PATTERNS AND SURFACES OF AUTUMN LEAVES.
- **CORN KERNEL SENSORY BINS** – SCOOP, POUR, AND DIG THROUGH BINS FILLED WITH DRIED CORN FOR A CLASSIC FALL EXPERIENCE.
- **ACORN RATTLES OR SHAKERS** – GREAT FOR DISCOVERING SOUNDS WHILE SHAKING AND ROLLING.
- **CINNAMON-SCENTED PLAYDOUGH** – BRING THE COZY SMELL OF FALL INTO SENSORY PLAY.
- **NATURE DISCOVERY KITS** – FILL SMALL CONTAINERS WITH LEAVES, PINECONES, AND SMOOTH STONES FOR SORTING AND EXPLORING.
- **TEXTURED SCARVES IN FALL COLORS** – WAVE, TOSS, AND WRAP UP IN SOFT ORANGE AND BROWN FABRICS.
- **MINI AUTUMN SENSORY BOTTLES** – WATCH GLITTER AND FALL-COLORED OBJECTS SWIRL FOR A CALMING VISUAL EFFECT.
- **HARVEST-THEMED FIDGETS** – TINY PUMPKINS, APPLES, AND GOURDS THAT ARE FUN TO TWIST AND SQUISH.
- **WARM, TEXTURED FABRIC SQUARES** – COZY AND COMFORTING, PERFECT FOR CALMING SENSORY INPUT.



A decorative garland of stylized leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and red, strung along a black line with black dots at the ends.

FAMILY FALL ACTIVITY

Leaf Hunt & Texture Rubbing

Take a walk together and collect leaves of all shapes and colors. At home, place a leaf under a sheet of paper and gently rub over it with crayons or pencils to reveal the textures. It's a fun way to explore nature, practice fine motor skills, and create seasonal artwork.



The page is framed by a decorative border of stylized pumpkins in shades of orange and red, interspersed with autumn leaves in yellow, orange, and red. The pumpkins have simple black outlines and vertical ridges. The leaves are simple shapes with veins.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Fall 2025

1. Watch for changing weather –

Fall days can start warm and end chilly. Dress children in layers so they stay comfortable as temperatures drop.

2. Check outdoor play areas –

Clear fallen leaves from sidewalks and play spaces to prevent slips, and watch for wet or uneven surfaces.

3. Be visible –

As it gets darker earlier, add reflective tape or bright colors to jackets and backpacks for evening walks.

4. Stay healthy –

Encourage good handwashing habits and keep tissues handy to help prevent seasonal colds.

5. Practice fire safety –

Keep candles, bonfires, and heaters out of children's reach and always supervise when in use.

INTERACT

**Want to provide
feedback from your
experience?**



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