

April, May  
and June  
2011



# NewsLink

## Spring 2011

Hold the Date!

### Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference

April 29-30, 2011  
Leadership Institute  
April 28, 2011.  
Contact Michelle  
Rollyson at  
[Rollyson1@frontier.com](mailto:Rollyson1@frontier.com)  
for more information.



Can the teachers come out to Play?  
Huntington Area Early Childhood Conference

**Link Child Care Resource & Referral**  
  
A Program of River Valley Child Development Services  
Funded through the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Children and Families, Division of Early Care and Education.



### West Virginia Family Child Care Association Would like to present the first state wide **FREE SPRING FLING CONFERENCE** For Family Child Care Providers Only!

When: May 28, 2011 from 8am - 4:00pm      Where: Big Bucks Bingo in Clarksburg, WV  
Key Note Speakers:    Brenda Ives    Saun Floyd    Diane Browning    Stephanie Geneseo

Hotel Information: Bridgeport Days Inn 304-842-7371 or 800-329-7466 \$60.00      (Participants wanting to stay the night can get their own room.)  
Bridgeport Sleep Inn 304-842-1919 or 800-627-5337 \$ 75.00      Rooms are reserved under the WVFCCA for the discounted rate stated.)

Every provider will receive a catered luncheon, training,  
information on the first RETIREMENT PLAN for family child care providers, and prizes galore!

**FREE EVENT!!**

RSVP's must be postmarked by May 6, 2011  
and sent to P.O.Box 2473, Parkersburg, WV, 26102

or call to register at (304)917-9697

Bring this invitation for an  
extra drawing!

50/50  
DRAWING

Latta's ~ Trails Van ~ Kaplan ~ The Felt Lady ~ Constructive Play Things ~ Birth To Three ~ James and Law ~ Lakeshore Learning ~ School Specialty ~ T.E.A.C.H. ~

**Would you like to Improve the Quality of your Program & Earn More Money?**  
  
To learn more about ACCREDITATION log on or call:  
  
**Family Child Care Providers** can log on at [www.nafcc.org](http://www.nafcc.org) or call 1-800-359-3817.  
  
**Child Care Centers** can log on at [www.naeyc.org](http://www.naeyc.org) or call 1-800-424-2460. Contact WVETCR to inquire about financial support for the application process at 529-7603 or 1-888-983-2827.

## Behavior Consultant Corner, by Shannon Taylor

I had the recent privilege to speak with Patti Nelson, Director of Kiwanis Day Care Center, located here in Huntington, WV about a wonderful new project taking place at her site. Misty Martin, a Parent Representative on the Kiwanis Board of Directors, was approached by Penny Watkins of Marshall University inviting Kiwanis to participate in the Marshall Artist Series Music Box Project. Misty eagerly agreed, and shortly thereafter a piano was donated by Spring Valley High School to Kiwanis Day Care Center! Furthermore, the Music Box Project paid the cost to pick-up, deliver, and tune the piano! Patti approached her staff members about potential ideas for the instrument, and Olivia, a part-time staff person (and full-time student at Marshall), volunteered

to give piano lessons to the pre-school aged children in the center. Her current focus is to teach them a few short pieces they can play for their upcoming graduation. The lessons are given 3-5 days a week and are completely free of charge. For many of these kids, this is an opportunity they may never be given outside of the center. Patti reports that the children are proud, motivated, and excited about the lessons, because they are getting individual attention as well as exposure to the arts...not to mention, they are all doing really well with them!

**Research shows that music helps develop listening skills, enhances memory, makes transitions in the classroom go smoothly, children cooperate, think and problem-solve.**



Shannon Taylor is the Behavior Consultant at Link. You can reach Shannon for a phone consultation or to schedule a site-visit at (304) 523-9540 Ext. 432 or 1-800-894-9540.

transitions in the classroom go smoothly, and helps children cooperate, think and problem-solve. Not surprisingly, the staff members at Kiwanis are seeing a decrease in many challenging behaviors from the pre-school aged children since the inception of these lessons! I wish to thank Patti and her staff for pioneering this project at

Kiwanis Day Care Center, and I am eager to see how it will continue to grow and affect our community in a positive light! This is one story that has left a permanent song in my heart!

Warmest Regards,  
Shannon

<sup>1</sup> Learning Through Music: The Support of Brain Research, Elisabeth Carlton, 2003

## Medication Administration Training

The following classes will be held in the 1st Floor Conference Room at Link:

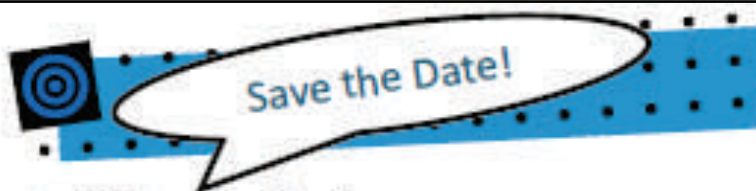
April 14<sup>th</sup> 4 pm-8 pm

May 19<sup>th</sup> 2 pm- 6 pm

June 4<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 1 pm

**You must be on the STARS Pathway in order to take the class.**

If your staff needs to be trained in Medication Administration, as per State Regulations, or other health and safety trainings please contact Glenna Bailey, Nurse Health Consultant with West Virginia Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources at (304)529-7603 or 1-888-983-2827 Ext. 402 to request a training at your center.



Wednesday, October 5, 2011

**What:**  
5th Annual Child Care Director's Meeting  
**Where:**  
Village Square, Clarksburg

*More information to come late summer!*



Division of Early Care and Education



**Interested In Making A Difference? The WV ACDS Program Is In Need Of Adult Education Instructors Statewide**



### Qualifications:

- Minimum BA degree in Early Childhood or related field *with emphasis in early childhood education.*
- Knowledge of and experience in: early childhood development; direct teaching of adult learners; direct support to early childhood staff.
- 1 year minimum experience working directly with young children.
- Be a registered STARS trainer on the WVSTARS system, or agree to become one before teaching for ACDS.

Please contact Sherrie Barrett, ACDS State Coordinator at [sbarrett@rvcds.org](mailto:sbarrett@rvcds.org) or Lisa Gladwell, ACDS Regional Coordinator at [lgladwell@rvcds.org](mailto:lgladwell@rvcds.org) or 304-523-0433. Applications can be obtained by visiting [www.wvacds.org](http://www.wvacds.org).

# Infant/Toddler Corner by Paula Stewart

## 1 – 2 -3 What Do They See?

Sit or lay on the floor of your classroom or Family Child Care Home, what do you see? How many pictures, posters or photographs are on display at your eye level? Are there mobiles or other colorful hanging objects to look at?

The West Virginia Early Learning Standards Framework: Infants and Toddlers (WVELS/IT) states a display of family photos helps promote self awareness and self concept in older infants. This gives caregivers a wonderful opportunity to talk frequently about who is in the pictures. Younger infants begin to show interest in other people's and drawings of faces; having these drawings where young infants can easily see them supports their self awareness and self concept.

Young infants benefit from looking at simple bright pictures and high contrast art such as black and white patterns with some red included.

ITERS-R addresses this as well. Subscale 5, Display for Children 5.4 states: "Staff talk to the children about displayed materials." You have a wonderful opportunity to help children make the connection between home and child-care when you have "Photographs of children in the group, their families, pets, or other familiar faces displayed at eye level"(Sub Scale 5,7.1). Protect the pictures with clear plastic or contact pa-



Paula Stewart is the Infant Toddler Specialist at LINK. You can reach her at (304) 523-9540 Ext. 228 or 1-800-894-9540 or Paula.l.stewart@wv.gov.

per and add new material or change the display at least once a month. Use the floor, backs of low shelves, and low wall space of low bulletin boards for your displays.

Add a little 3-D to the life of class or Family Child Care Home. Hang mobiles that move and make sound. Add a little green to your environment with a non toxic

hanging plant or two. Consider hanging bright objects in space that are different colors and shapes. Hang some higher and some lower. Be sure and talk to the children about what they see hanging from space. What color is it? Is it hard or soft? Which one is higher? Which is bigger? You will find more ideas about Display for Children in your All ITERS-R book pages 49-59. If you do not have an All About ITERS'R book make sure to give Erica and

Virena from TRAILS a call and they can lend you one from the van.

For more information on the Early Learning Standards for Infants and Toddlers keep an eye out for a training coming your way soon! There will be one in

Cabell County at the LINK Office, May 11, 2011 from 3:00 -5:00. Hope to see you there!

The next WVIT Class in the Cabell—Wayne area is scheduled to begin in July.

Please contact Paula Stewart (see contact information to the left) to register for this class.

Space is limited, so call today!

# Early Care & Education Modules by Jennifer Conkle

Training Modules	Date	Time
Extreme Makeover: Space & Furnishings	Tuesday, April 26	12:30 – 4:30
Not Just Routine	Tuesday, May 3	12:30 – 4:30
For the Love of Literacy	Tuesday, May 10	12:30 – 4:30
Implementing Your Curriculum	Tuesday, May 24	12:30 – 4:30
Recipe for Relationship	Tuesday, May 31	12:30 – 4:30
Building Blocks: A Program's Structure	Tuesday, June 7	12:30 – 4:30
Including All Children: Providing for Children With Special Needs	Tuesday, June 14	12:30 – 4:30
Communication is the Key	Tuesday, June 21	12:30 – 4:30

The Components of Quality Care and Education Modules (CQCE) are being offered in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room at Link CCR&R this upcoming quarter. These modules are a great opportunity to either introduce you to key concepts in working with young children, or refresh your memory in how to build strong classroom environments. Each participant must be STARS registered, and work with young children from ages 2 ½ to 5. A pre and post site visit will also be provided by the early childhood specialist for each participant. The modules are eight weeks long, and upon completing all eight modules

you will receive resources to use in your program. Each participant will also receive 32 hours of STARS registered training hours. The registration deadline for the modules is Tuesday, April 12. If you are interested in registering for the modules please contact Jennifer Conkle at 304-523-9540, ext.430 or 1-800-894-9540. You may also email @ [Jennifer.l.conkle@wv.gov](mailto:Jennifer.l.conkle@wv.gov).

I would like to let all **Family Child Care Providers** know about a wonderful future training opportunity. We will soon be offering the WV Elements of Family Child Care Series (WV EFCCS). These are a series of 7 four hour trainings designed specifically for Family Child Care Providers! These trainings will cover topics such as building a firm foundation for your business, child development, organizing your day, and making strong relationships with families. You will also learn how to create a professional portfolio, and strategies for communicating with young children and families. In addition to the 7 trainings you will receive 2 one hour site visits from the early childhood specialist. After completion of all 7 trainings in the series and the site visits you will have accumulated 30 hours of STARS registered training hours. You will also receive resources to use with the children in your care if you are **registered** with the WV STARS Career Pathway. Please keep this series of trainings in mind and if you are not already registered prepare now by becoming a registered Family Child Care Provider with the WV STARS Career Pathway. More detailed information will be provided as time for the series grows nearer.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Conkle

# Training Calendar & Training Information

## IMPORTANT TRAINING INFORMATION

1. All trainings begin promptly at the scheduled time. Please arrive before the session begins. If you miss 15 or more minutes during the course of any training session, you will not receive credit for that training.
2. If you are disruptive or prevent the Trainer from staying on task, you will be asked to leave and your Regulatory Specialist will be notified.
3. If you sign up for a training and do not call to cancel at least 24 hours in advance, your Regulatory Specialist will be notified.
4. No cell phones or electronic devices may be used during the training sessions.
5. You may not bring children to any Link training session.
6. You must bring a picture ID to all trainings.
7. You are responsible for keeping your training certificates on file. All trainings are registered with WV STARS.
8. You must register for training sessions at least 24 hours in advance.

**Family Child Care Providers** must complete eight (8) hours of training in at least two (2) different core competency areas (see box on right) each year according to the date on your individual certificate of registration.

**TO REGISTER** for a training or to cancel your registration, please call Link at (304) 523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540 or e-mail Kerry.L.Carnegie@wv.gov or Nikki.C.Rabel@wv.gov. When e-mailing or leaving a message, please clearly state the date and location of the session(s) you wish to attend and leave a contact phone number. Thank You.

## **\*Codes for Training Chart\***

- \*Core Competency\*
- CGD Child Growth and Development
  - HSN Health, Safety and Nutrition
  - PIR Positive Interactions & Relationships
  - COA Child Observation and Assessment
  - PM Program Management
  - FC Family and Community
  - C Curriculum
  - P Professionalism









- \*Tier\*
- Tier I Beginner level
  - Tier II Intermediate
  - Tier III Advanced

- \*Targeted Age/Area\*
- IT Infant/Toddler
  - PRE Pre-School
  - SAC School Age Care
  - CB Center Based
  - FCC Family Child Care Providers
  - ADM Administration
  - ALL Targets All Areas



**For additional Training Opportunities in our region and throughout the state check out the WV Early Childhood Training Connections and Resources (WVECTCR) Training Calendar at <http://ww.earlychildhood.org>**



Date of the Training	Title of the Training	* Core Comp *	* Tier *	* Targeted Age/ Area *	Location of the Training	Time of Training
<b>Cabell and Wayne Counties</b>						
Fri., April 1	Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS-R) 	PM	III	All	RVCDS/Link Office 611 7th Ave., Huntington	9:00—11:00
Tues. April 12	All You Need is Love	PIR	I	All	C-K Library 1200 Oak St., Kenova	10:00—12:00
Beginning April 26	Components of Quality Care and Education Modules. (See bottom of page 3 for details).	All	III	PRE	RVCDS/Link Office	
Mon. April 25	Making a Difference: Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse 	HSN	I	All	Barboursville Library 728 Main St., Barboursville	9:00—11:00
Wed. May 11	Infant Toddler Early Learning Framework Standards (ITELFS) 	CGD	III	IT	RVCDS/Link Office	3:00—5:00
Thurs. May 19	Oh, The Things you can Think 	CGD/C	III	PRE	C-K Library	1:00—3:00

Date of the Training	Title of the Training	* Core Comp *	* Tier *	* Targeted Age/ Area *	Location of the Training	Time of Training
Mon., May 23	To Market, To Market: Preparing Healthy Meals	HSN	I	All	RVCDS/Link Office	6:00—8:00
Wed., June 15	Building Supportive Environments	C	II	All	RVCDS/Link Office	4:00—6:00
Thurs. June 16	Making a Difference: Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse 	HSN	I	All	C-K Library	3:00—5:00
Mon., June 27	Early Learning Standards Framework (ELSF's) 	C	I	All	RVCDS/Link Office	3:00—5:00

### Logan, Mingo and Boone Counties

Wed., April 27	Family Child Care Environmental Rating Scale (FCCERS-R) 	PM	III	All	Logan Library 1 Wildcat Way, Logan	12:00—2:00
Mon, May 9	For When You're Dragon: Stressed Out and Burned Out!	PM	II	All	Boone Madison Library 375 Main St., Madison	10:00—12:00
Thurs. May 12	Making a Difference: Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse 	HSN	I	All	Logan Library	11:00—1:00
Wed., June 8	I Spy with My Little Eye	COA	II	All	Mingo Co. DHHR 205 E. 3rd. St., Williamson	11:00—1:00
Thurs. June 23	Five, Six, Pick Up Sticks: Extending the Learning Environment Outdoors	C	I	All	Logan Library	1:00—3:00

### Lincoln County

Mon. April 25	Making a Difference: Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse 	HSN	I	All	Lincoln Day Care 9544 Straight Fork, W. Hamlin	6:00—8:00
Thurs. June 16	Infant and Toddler Routines and Rituals	CGD	II	IT	Hamlin Library 7999 Lynn St., Hamlin	3:00—5:00

### Mason County

Thurs. May 12	Knock Out Bullying	PIR/C	II	All	Mason County Library 508 Viand St., Pt. Pleasant	10:00—12:00
---------------	--------------------	-------	----	-----	---	-------------

### Putnam County

Tues., April 5	I Spy with My Little Eye	COA	II	All	First Baptist Academy 2335 Main St., Hurricane	5:00—7:00
Mon., June 6	Making a Difference: Reporting and Preventing Child Abuse	HSN	I	All	Lighthouse 2440 Rt. 60, Hurricane	1:00—3:00
Sat., June 25	1-2-3 Grow with Me: Child Development from A-Z <b>(4 HOUR TRAINING)</b>	CGD	II	All	Winfield CDC 3632 Winfield Rd., Winfield	<b>4 HOURS</b> 8:30—12:30

## Family Child Care Food Program

For more information on enrolling on the Family Child Care Food Program to help with the costs of meals and snack you serve the children in your care, please contact the following agency in your area:

**Central Child Care**  
Serving Boone County  
304-382-0797

**Pride of Logan County**  
Serving Logan County  
304-752-6868 or 304 752-1047

**River Valley Family Day Care Food Program**  
Serving Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Putnam, Mason and Mingo Counties  
523-3031 or 1-800-581-3031



In accordance with the Federal Law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability. USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The Child Care Food Programs funded through the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is administered by the West Virginia Department of Education.

## Family Child Care Provider Grants Available

Family Child Care Providers are eligible to apply for grants of up to **\$250**. Grants can be used to purchase resources required in regulations or curriculum materials. We also have the following items in stock: First Aid Kits, Fire Extinguishers, Flash Lights, Digital Ear Thermometers, Carbon Monoxide and Smoke Detectors. You must turn in receipts for the money you spend. Failure to do so will make you ineligible for future Family Child Care Grants and other grants that may become available through Link. Contact Mary Bridgette at Link (304) 523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540 with questions or to request an application.



The Cabell Wayne Family Child Care Association would like to invite everyone to join us. All of our meetings are registered with WV STARS and you will receive 1 or 2 hours credit. We also offer other trainings, from time to time, which are STARS registered. We would like to see more providers take an active role in the association. Please come join us and if you have any questions feel free to call Kathy Baker, President, at 304-529-6246.

June 11—10:00 - Link Office Normal meeting  
August 13—10:00 - Link Office Normal meeting  
Each session is registered for 2 hours of STARS credit.

## T.E.A.C.H. First Graduate

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA is pleased to announce the first graduate of 2011 on the scholarship model program. A Reception was held to honor early childhood teachers across the state who are in the process of completing their education in early childhood. T.E.A.C.H. recipients, center directors, college and university professors from 11 participating WV programs, and WV Legislative members attended in support of the success of our early childhood professionals. The first to graduate from the degree program is Jamie Lynn Price, a teacher and assistant director at Discovery Corner Daycare in Elkins, WV. Jamie has completed her Associate in early childhood education at Pierpont Community & Technical College and has enrolled in the Bachelor's program at Fairmont State to continue her education. Jamie has also been awarded the Terri Lynn Lokoff National Teacher award and will be presented this honor at a ceremony in Philadelphia, PA. Jamie stated "I am honored to represent my state and the early childhood teachers we have who many times go unnoticed. I hope my accomplishments will resonate through the state and display what dedicated early childhood teachers we have in West Virginia." The investments made by T.E.A.C.H. WV gave me the opportunity to complete my education and support the children in my classrooms, and the families I reach each day. I encourage other early childhood teachers to begin their educational journey with T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WV."

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA scholarship project was developed to upgrade the level of education of teachers working with young children while making the educational process affordable, increasing wages and reducing turnover. The project started in North Carolina in 1990 and has spread across 22 states, including WV.

"The investment in early childhood teacher education allows classroom design and delivery to focus on intentional certified instruction across the early childhood classrooms of West Virginia," said Stephanie Geneseo, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist. We are honored to have 22 committed teachers on our scholarship model and invite early childhood professionals working 30 hours per week in a licensed child care center, Head Start facility, or a registered Family Child Care Home to apply today. River Valley Child Development Services operates T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA under WVECTCR and is funded by grants from Pew Charitable Trust, WV DHHR and The Board of Trustees of the Prichard School. Established in 1972, RVCDS has a solid history of providing a myriad of quality child development services throughout the state. Its current services include School Age Programs, Resource and Referral agencies, Birth to Three Regional Administrative Units, the Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialist Program, T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA and WVECTCR.

For more information, or the opportunity to invest in the early childhood scholarship program, visit [www.wvearlychildhood.org](http://www.wvearlychildhood.org) or contact Stephanie Geneseo, T.E.A.C.H. Specialist at (304)529-7603 Ext. 118 or [sgeneseo@rvcds.org](mailto:sgeneseo@rvcds.org).

### T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® WEST VIRGINIA

T.E.A.C.H. WV will be sponsoring a STARS approved training for Registered Family Child Care providers interested in pursuing their college education for fall 2011. If you would like more information contact the T.E.A.C.H. office.

Telephone: 304-529-7603 Ext: 118

[sgeneseo@rvcds.org](mailto:sgeneseo@rvcds.org)

## First Aid and CPR Classes

This list of agencies offering First Aid and CPR is made available to you for resource purposes only.

**Link is not responsible for the following trainings or registration for these trainings.**

**Boone County** First Aid and CPR available at **Kanawha Co. Red Cross** (see below) or by request at **Charleston** 340-3650.

**Cabell County** First Aid and CPR available at **Triad Tech** 431 5th Ave. Huntington—529-7020.

First Aid and CPR (Heartsaver class) available at **St. Mary's Medical Center**— 529-1302.

CPR with First Aid available at **American Red Cross**. 1111 Veteran's Memorial Blvd. 304-526-2900.

First Aid and CPR available at **Salt Rock Fire Dept.** Instructor—Darrell Ennis. 733– 9040.

**Logan County** First Aid and CPR available at **LEASA County Public Rescue** 26 1/2 Main Ave, Logan—752-0917.

Classes also available at **Logan Regional Medical Center** 831-1556.

**Lincoln County** For First Aid or CPR Contact Dorothy or William Frazier 778-3873.

**Mason County** **Pleasant Valley Hospital** offers First Aid and CPR Classes. Call 675-4340 to make an appointment.

CPR 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Mason County Health Department. Call (304) 675-3050 to register.

**Mingo County** **Williamson Memorial Hospital**—Contact Tracey Booth at 235-2500, Ext. 147.

**Putnam County**

First Aid and CPR available at **Red Cross Building in Kanawha Co.**—340-3650 or [www-redcross.org](http://www-redcross.org). Evening classes are available.

Classes also offered at **Red Cross Building in Putnam County**—3268 Winfield Rd. (Rt. 35) — 586-0238 or 340-3650

CPR and First Aid is offered by Tina Kyle. 561-4674.

**Wayne County** First Aid and CPR available. Instructor Kathy Parsons. 486-5991.

**You can contact local Hospitals or Fire Departments for other options.**

**Remember all of these fees are tax deductible.**

Revised Dec. 2010

### T.R.A.I.L.S. Corner

Happy TRAILS to You!

Hello, my name is Erica Johnson. I am happy to join Virena on the T.R.A.I.L.S. Van as the new Early Childhood Specialist. I completed my Bachelor's degree at Marshall University and I am currently working on my Master's degree in Preschool Special Needs. I have met many of our providers this past month and look forward

to meeting many more and working with you. Feel free to contact me anytime at 304-523-9540 ext. 112.

What is the T.R.A.I.L.S. Program? TRAILS stands for Traveling Resource and Information Library Service. T.R.A.I.L.S. is a lending library system for bringing various child care resources to registered or licensed West Virginia child care providers who accept subsidy certificates, including family child care homes, facilities, child care centers, head starts, and Pre-K's. The T.R.A.I.L.S. Van has developmentally appropriate materials for children from birth through age twelve. The available materials include books, games, educational/developmentally appropriate toys, videos, CDs, resource books, assistive technology materials for children with special needs, and art supplies. The TRAILS



You can reach Erica or Virena at 1-800-894-9540 or (304) 523-9540 for more information about TRAILS Services.

Specialist is available to assist providers with onsite technical assistance. This includes selecting and using developmentally appropriate materials, as well as to answer any child care

questions you may have. We cover the following counties: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putnam, and Wayne. We would love to visit you. Please call our

office at 304-523-9540 or 1-800-894-9540 ext. 122 and an appointment will be scheduled to visit your site during our next visit to your area. We will expect you to sign a lending agreement, that states that all items you check out are in acceptable condition and you agree to care for and use the materials properly and to reimburse LINK for lost or damaged items.

**Enjoy Spring with Children:**

Finally! It's time to shout goodbye to the cold days of winter and welcome the warm days of spring. We're all ready to shrug out of those heavy clothes of winter and feel the wind on our short sleeved arms. It is a good time for you and your children to make plans for spending more time outside exploring. An added benefit of increased outdoor time is the

opportunity for spontaneous outdoor play, which the lack of has found to be a leading cause of obesity in children. The outdoors offer a rich learning experience. Memories of playing outdoors will last a lifetime. Help children shape those memories by offering some fun activities.

Take advantage of the wonderful spring weather. Plant some flowers, watch them grow. Play in water, and explore the surroundings. Just get outside! Splash it up! Children love the water and wet sensations. Find safe items to wash and examine. Like what happens to a leaf when it is washed? How about a rock? Set up a water station in an area that can get wet and let children wash, rinse, dunk, and splash!

We look forward to serving you.  
Virena Elkins, T.R.A.I.L.S. Early Childhood Associate  
and Erica Johnson, Early Childhood Specialist.

Date	Time	Location	Training
April 1	8:30 – 2:00	Link Office Huntington	
May 2	8-10 & 12-2	Link Office Huntington	
May 19	1:00– 3:00	Hamlin Library	The Thanks you Can Think
June 1	8:30 – 2:00	Link Office Huntington	

Link Child Care Resource & Referral  
c/o River Valley Child Development Services  
611 7th Ave., Suite 200  
Huntington, WV 25701

**Link CCR&R**



NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE

**PAID**

PERMIT NO. 43  
HUNTINGTON, WV

Change Service Requested

Link Child Care Resource and Referral Child Care

**Providers' Newsletter and Training Information**

A Program of River Valley Child Development Services.

Visit us on the web at [www.wvdhhr.org/Link](http://www.wvdhhr.org/Link)