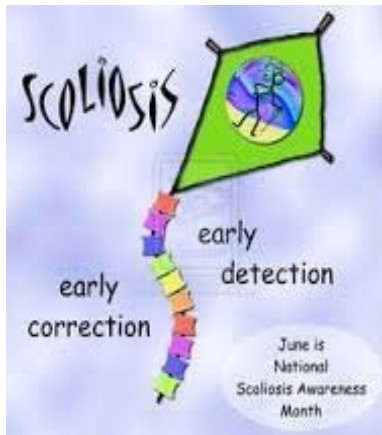


# MAKING CONNECTIONS

## Upcoming Health Awareness Months



*Deanna Warner*  
 Parent Partner  
 Region 5  
 1200 Harrison Ave  
 Suite 220  
 Elkins, WV 26241  
 1-800-449-7790

*Nikki Davis*  
 Parent Partner  
 Region 6  
 PO Box 1610  
 Lewisburg, WV

### Region 5

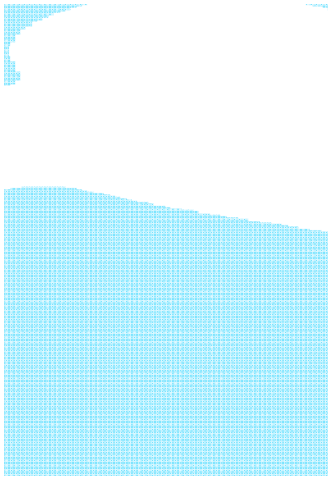
Barbour  
 Lewis  
 Preston  
 Randolph  
 Taylor

### Region 6

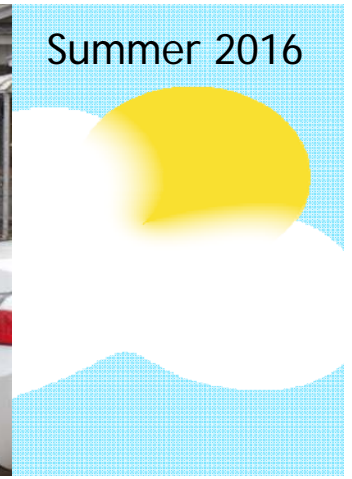
Braxton  
 Greenbrier  
 Monroe  
 Nicholas  
 Pocahontas



# *Birth to Three helped our child!!*



Summer 2016



In April of 2013 our son Robert was born. His first year went smoothly, although we saw some not quite normal behaviors such as: moaning when he heard loud noises, frightened by the presence of any known or unknown person, or flapping his arms in a circular motion as he watched some object. When he was about a year and a half, he started walking on tiptoes. What worried us was his limitation to communicate when he needed something. He would take us by the hand and lead us to where he wanted to go and to what he wanted. He would push us towards the object he wanted. He would never tell us that he was hungry or thirsty or if he was hurting. He repeated everything he was told. Almost always he spent hours repeating the same word or phrase he had heard among other things.

During the two years that he came into our lives we long-awaited help for him. Then the family doctor referred us to the Birth to Three program, they swiftly and quickly answered the referral. On 12 May 2015 we were visited by Stephanie Hoover, who is a coordinator with the program. She took all the information about the case for Robert's condition. We asked questions and listened carefully and patiently to everything she had to communicate to us. Her presence in our home was a relief for us, because from that first moment we felt that she understood perfectly our anguish.

That same week we received a copy of all the information and the next week when she returned, she had us choose the team that we wanted to work with our son. The program provided a very complete team; a psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapist and developmental specialist. Within a few days we began the evaluation process and the diagnosis showed that he needed all therapies as it was within the autism spectrum and he had a significant portion of carrier delays in each area.

For us it was traumatic to hear that our son had autism, but the team assured us that Robert's therapies could improve considerably and it did. With the arduous, continuous, and the professional care provided by each therapist, we have seen firsthand how their work has helped our little boy to improve. After therapy, Robert is like any another child, he is able to tell you what he wants and tries to communicate with more functionality, he is more sociable, allows touch, helps to dress himself, takes more ownership to all his toys and his play is now more creative and he is no longer afraid of people. We appreciate the guidance and the work done by each professional of this program.

To Birth to Three, we give our heart filled thanks for the help, emotional support, guidance, patience, commitment, dedication, and the resources; not only for Robert but also for us. Thank you for making this journey with us and helping us believe in the great potential of our son. May God continue to bless your work and each of your families. Continue to touch and encourage the lives of children in need and in the families who are struggling to better the lives of their children's health.

Always grateful: The Howard Family



# Baby Blue Birds

Summer 2016

Here's what you'll need

- plastic egg (one half for each bird)
- Construction paper
- Paper plate
- Brown paint
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Glue

Here's how you make it...

1. Paint your paper plate brown. If your plate has a waxy finish on it you may need to put on 2 coats of paint.

2. Now you will make your baby birds. Fold a small piece of orange construction paper, cut out a triangle on the fold, this will make the bird's beak.

3. From construction paper cut out two wings for each of your birds. Make a small fold at the bottom of each wing, this will give you a place to put the glue.

4. Glue your beak and wings onto your birds.

Most plastic eggs have air holes on them, which will look great as your bird's eyes. If your eggs don't have air hole, you can draw some on with a permanent marker.

5. Put some glue on the bottom of your eggs and glue your birds into their nest.

6. Cut some brown strips of paper.

7. Glue the brown strips around the lip of the paper plate.



## Ants on a Log Snack

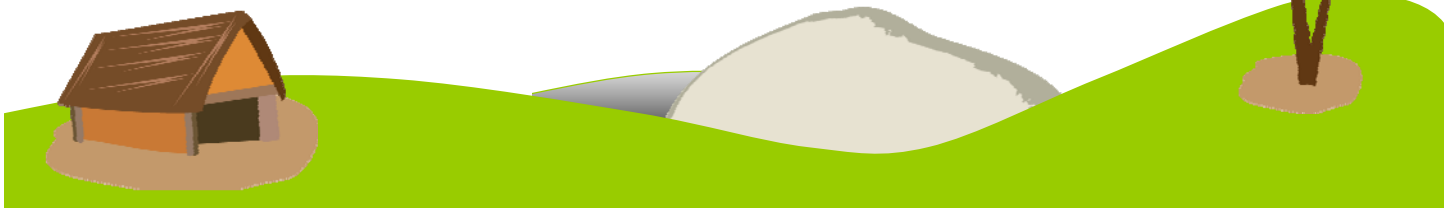
What you will need:

- Celery sticks
- Peanut butter
- Raisins

Directions:

1. Wash the celery and cut it into pieces (about 5 inches long).
2. Spread the peanut butter in the u-shaped part of the celery, from one end to the other.
3. Press raisins into peanut butter.

There you have it.... Now you can enjoy your ants on a log!!!!  
(Peanut butter can be substituted for your choice of spread)





Summer 2016



### What is Camp Gizmo?

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 & Where is Camp Gizmo?

Typically camp is held in July 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. (Preference will be given to children who have not previously attended camp.) Professionals and other caregivers involved with these children are encouraged to attend the camp. Labs and workshops will be available to Camp participants daily. Parents attend workshops on subjects that will help them better meet the needs of their child. Professionals and students attend workshops of interest that meet professional/educational needs or assist the "focus" family. Teams will meet daily to observe, discuss and implement strategies for the "focus" child.

### Do children attend?

Kids camp will be held in conjunction with Camp Gizmo. All children attending the camp with focus families or other participants will participate in Kids Camp educational and recreational activities. Kids Camp is a safe, fun camp experience for children with or without disabilities.

### Can I receive CEU credit?

Yes, graduate credit, WV Birth to Three contact hours and others.

### How much does it cost?

Camp Gizmo is an interagency funded learning week. Registration includes meals, sleeping accommodations, and Kids Camp. Participant costs:

Focus Families: \$50 - child and two parents/\$25 - each additional family member

Other Camp participants: \$75 per person/\$25 each additional family member

