

January 2019

South County Community Partnership Parent Dispatch



Upcoming Events



raising a reader educational playgroups

We hold Raising a Reader educational playgroups in Dudley, Charlton, Oxford, & Webster. This program is offered FREE for families of children ages 2-5. Registration is required as space is limited. We currently have openings in Webster on Wednesdays - all other groups currently have waiting lists. Please register or add yourself to our waiting list on our website or at acelona@oxps.org.



Snow STEAM Workshop

Snow STEAM comes to the Charlton Library on Tuesday, January 22nd from 6:00 - 7:00 pm! Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math are explored through messy activities with a snow theme. FREE for families of children ages 2-5. Registration is required as space is limited! Please contact us at acelona@oxps.org for details!



Parent Cafe

Join us for coffee and conversation! Our Parent Cafe series begins on Tuesday, February 19 from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the Charlton Library! Our topic for February will be The Importance of Play.

Parent Cafes are small group discussions concerning topics in parenting and early education. They are open to parents & caregivers of children ages 0-8 in our community, with the goal of education and support through the sharing of experiences!

Register at acelona@oxps.org.



AGES & STAGES: INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT?

South County Community Partnership, as a CFCE grantee, is able to offer the Ages & Stages Questionnaire to parents at any time throughout the year! The Ages & Stages Questionnaire® (ASQ®-3) pinpoints developmental progress in children between the ages of one month to 5 ½ years. Any family interested in participating in this developmental screening tool is invited to contact Amy Celona at acelona@oxps.org.

For more information, please see <https://agesandstages.com/products-pricing/asq3/>



Let's Play: How Your Child Learns and Grows Through Play from Birth to Three

By Rebecca Parlakian and Sarah S. MacLaughlin

Source <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/2144-let-s-play-how-your-child-learns-and-grows-through-play-from-birth-to-three#chapter-1492>

When you make time to play each day, you are giving your child a big dose of love and learning.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." 1 Wise words from Mister Rogers. Play is serious learning. It's more than just fun. It's a very important part of growing up. And it happens from day one of a child's life. Even small babies play. Here's what you can expect as your child grows and develops.

Birth to 12 Months

Babies this young don't need toys to play. They love simple exchanges with you.

What She Can Do

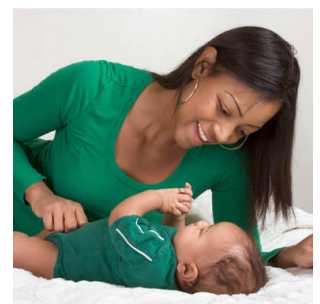
Your baby uses her body to explore. She makes discoveries and learns largely through her senses. Baby uses her eyes, ears, nose, hands, and mouth (especially her mouth!) as tools to explore her surroundings.

What's She's Learning

As your baby grows, she will also begin to reach and grasp. This builds her eye-hand coordination. She's starting to understand cause and effect. She is learning that shaking the rattle will produce a fun sound. Your baby is also learning to communicate. By the time your baby is about 8 months old, she will have lots of ways to communicate. She may "talk" using gazes, gestures, facial expressions, and sounds. This is her way of telling you what she's thinking and feeling, and what interests her.

How You Can Help

You don't need toys to play with babies this young! They love simple exchanges. Try peek-a-boo or holding her while dancing. You can also coo and "talk" to your baby. Imitate her sounds and wait for a response. Encourage her to copy you, too. Remember that it's perfectly normal for her to put toys in her mouth. Offer only baby-safe objects to explore and watch babies closely as they play.





12–24 Months

Toddlers this age have a lot of energy and a drive to explore!

What He Can Do

Your toddler likes to investigate spaces, toys, and everyday objects. He will learn to stand, walk, jump, and climb. He's also able to use his fingers and hands to play in more complex ways. He's learning to push buttons, open boxes, and turn pages. Your toddler also loves repetition as he figures out how things work. For example, he might fill and empty a bucket over and over.

What's He's Learning

Your toddler's play helps him learn new concepts. He will discover up and down, full and empty, in and out. He is also using imitation to begin learning about the world of pretend. He will pretend to talk on the phone or copy how you use a spoon to stir a pot. Your toddler is developing new language skills. These skills help him understand and communicate more than ever before. These new skills boost his self-confidence, which means he will want to do more "all by myself."

How You Can Help

Follow your child's lead. Let your child decide what's fun (within safe limits) and join in. Every child is different, and yours will have his own preferences. His play doesn't always have to be full of action. He might prefer quieter activities. Perhaps he likes to look at books, build with blocks, or listen to music. It's important to offer a variety of types of play. This approach gives your child the chance to learn and practice skills like building, jumping and climbing, pretending, and matching. Different activities grow different parts of the brain. Be understanding if your child moves quickly from one activity to another. Toddlers this age have a short (but growing) attention span and a drive to explore!

24–36 Months

A growing imagination leads to creative play ideas for older toddlers!

What She Can Do

Your child will use her imagination more. She may act out stories like driving a truck, going to "work," or baking a cake. Your child might make up stories and rules for her games. In fact, when you play together, she may really enjoy telling you what to do! Your child may also bring conflicts and emotions to her pretend play. For example, after a trip to the doctor, she may act out the appointment with her teddy bear. Toddlers are also developing more mature problem-solving skills. They may now enjoy different types of blocks, puzzles, and construction toys as fun challenges.

What's She's Learning

Older toddlers are beginning to show interest in playmates. Months earlier, she may have just watched others playing or played side-by-side with peers. Now, she is beginning to play with friends. Sometimes even without arguments! Playing together provides great opportunities to learn, communicate, share, and resolve conflicts.

How You Can Help

Your older toddler still loves to play with you. As you play, help her expand and build on her ideas. Ask how the stuffed dog feels or wonder together why the block tower fell down. Model new vocabulary. ("These blocks are equal—they are both same length.") Offer new challenges to explore. Create an obstacle course, build a blanket tent, or try a new puzzle together. Try musical games like "Freeze" and "Hokey-Pokey." These games offer opportunities to listen, follow directions, and practice self-control. They also allow children to move their bodies. Don't be surprised when your child has strong feelings or a temper tantrum when it's time to stop playing. This is typical behavior for 2-year-olds. Sometimes it helps to give her reminders that playtime will end. Offer a countdown that it will be over in "5 minutes, 2 minutes, 1 minute."

Your Child and Play

Play is practice for real life. It gives young children an opportunity to learn and practice new skills. It offers an outlet for expressing themselves and working through powerful feelings. Most important, play brings joy. And you are a big part of that fun! What makes play so special is that your child has your full attention. When you make time to play each day, you are giving your child a big dose of love and learning.

For more parenting resources, or for more information on positive parenting approaches, visit Zero to Three at www.zerotothree.org.

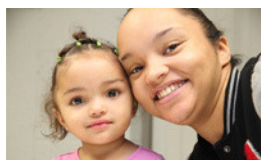
Looking for Information on Child Care, Early Education Programs, or Out-of-School Time Care?



CHILD CARE RESOURCES

A Children's Aid & Family Service

Connecting Families to Quality Licensed
Child Care



Resources for
Parents & Families

The Child Care Resources (CCR) Program at Seven Hills provides resource and referral services to assist families in locating affordable, quality child care programs & to:

- * Ensure families have access to high-quality information, resources and referrals to meet their child care needs
- * Educate families on the cost, quality and availability of early education and out-of-school-time care
- * Promote provider development and support, with ongoing access to training and technical assistance



Resources for
Child Care Providers

By adopting the Brain Building in Progress approach, and building upon the Strengthening Families Framework, the Seven Hills CCR Program works in partnership with Coordinated Family Community Engagement Programs and the Educator and Provider Support System to promote quality of care and to help the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) fulfill its mission. With a reputation of excellence in the provision of quality child care services to the families in the Central and Metro West areas of Massachusetts for more than 40 years, Seven Hills has the professional expertise to meet the diverse needs of parents and child care providers.



Child Care
Policy & Advocacy

CHILD CARE RESOURCES - GREATER WORCESTER

799 West Boylston St., Worcester, MA 01606

Phone: 508.856.7930

Hours: M.T.Th.F., 7:00 am – 4:30 pm; W., 7:00 am - 6:00 pm

** visit <http://www.sevenhills.org/programs/child-care-resources> **



SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

SCCP is funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement (CFCE) grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education & Care (EEC)



South County Community Partnership



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