

# Center for Early Childhood Education

## Newsletter

Our Mission: To help all children in Howard County to be successful when they enter school.

Issue 67, May 15, 2009

### Developing Early Reading Skills

It is well known that developing early reading skills is crucial to a child's success in school.

Children who enter school with large vocabularies have a "jump" on those who haven't been exposed to a rich language environment. How do you, the parent, help your child have a large vocabulary?

Talk and read to your children every day!



That may seem like a silly suggestion – talk and read to your child! But it is also well known that some parents say very little to their children except for telling them to do something such as come to eat, go to bed, go play with your toys, or stop making so much noise! Many parents spend very little time reading to their children. I have seen many cars go by me where the parent is on the telephone and the child is either watching a video, playing with an electronic game, or sleeping.

By pointing out what you are seeing from the car windows to your children, you are exposing them to

language they may not know. You can talk to them about things that happened at home before you left, or plans for what you are going to do that evening when you get home from work. Talk about what your child might be going to experience at the childcare center.

When you go to the grocery store, take your child with you and talk to your child about things in the store that you are seeing such as shopping carts, shelves, and display cases. Talk about the differences in colors of food, sizes of food, types of food – fruits, vegetables, meats, dairy products. Talk about the difference between a cooler and a freezer. Point out that ice cream has to be in a freezer, but milk and cottage cheese have to be in a cooler. Talk about weighing items. Talk about pounds and ounces.

When you are watching TV with your child, make sure your child knows the names of things they are seeing such as mountains, rainbows, deserts, lakes, oceans, and clouds.

Read lots of books to your child. Read to your child at least once every day. Show them the pictures as you read the book and be sure they know what they are seeing. Ask your child if they know what something is, if you think



it is a new word such as "caterpillar." It is important that you, the parents, reach out and help children get the early literacy foundation they need to succeed in school. Our children are our future. Invest in the future now by talking and reading to your children.

### Make Your Own "Clay"

Mix 2 cups of flour

½ cup salt

½ cup water in a large bowl until it forms a soft dough.

Divide into several small portions and add food coloring by kneading the food coloring into the dough. Store it in empty baby food jars.



### Little Learners Child Care

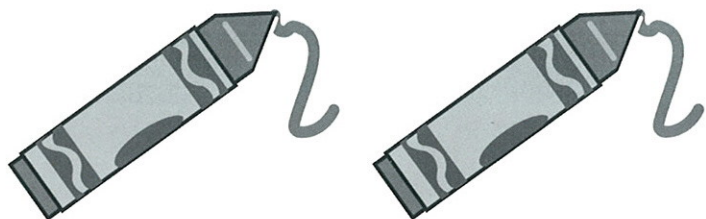
Did you know that the Little Learners Child Care program on the IU Kokomo campus is open to the public? The program serves toddlers (ages 1-2) and preschool children (ages 3-6). Call (765) 455-9306 or e-mail [childcare@iuk.edu](mailto:childcare@iuk.edu) for more information.



# Make Your Own Chunky Crayons From Scraps

Save your child's broken crayons and even small pieces that might break off the tip of a crayon. Be sure and remove all paper from the crayon pieces and then put them into the cups of a muffin pan. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and place the pan inside for about 3 to 5 minutes. When the crayon scraps are mostly liquid and a few chunks remain in the center, remove the pan from the

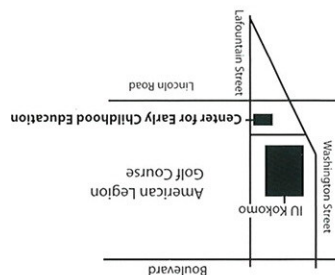
oven and let it cool to room temperature. This may take about a half hour. Then place the pan in the freezer for another half hour. Pop the pieces from the pan and let your child begin coloring again.



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