



## **Tips, Tools, Training and Grants for Parents and Professionals**

**(Scroll down below Index to find short descriptions and website links)**

### **Index:**

#### **Tips and Tools for Parents**

1. From Baby to Big Kid
2. Favorite Books for Preschoolers
3. Easy as 1, 2, 3: Introducing Young Children to Math
4. Activities and Advice
5. GrandCare Toolkit: Resources for Grandparents Raising Children

#### **Tips and Tools for Professionals (including home visitors and child care providers)**

6. From Baby to Big Kid
7. Positive Solutions for Families
8. Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes
9. Find Youth Info
10. Free Parent Education Handouts now in Russian
11. Activity Tubs Available for Checkout in Missoula Area

#### **Training**

12. Take It Outside, July 15, Missoula
13. Families and Learning Conference, August 13-14, Missoula
14. "Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Children", August 19, Missoula
15. Statewide Prevention Conference, September 23-24, Missoula
16. Building Blocks for Literacy, Online Training
17. American Indian Youth: Current and Historical Trauma and Trauma Treatment Needs of Children and Families in Rural Communities, Archived Webcasts
18. Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals, Online Training

#### **Funding Possibilities**

19. Brighter Future for Children and Youth
20. Wells Fargo
21. Sparkplug Foundation
22. Reiman Foundation
23. Causes on Facebook: Everything You Need to Know About Using Facebook as a Nonprofit Marketing Tool

#### **Tips and Tools for Parents**

1. **From Baby to Big Kid** Zero to Three offers this e-newsletter that provides information about development, parenting challenges, play activities and relevant research for every month from

- birth to three years old. Parents can subscribe to receive the e-newsletter every month at: <http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FromBabytoBigKid>
2. **Favorite Books for Preschoolers** Sick of all your books at home? Visit the library this summer and check out these books that are recommended by the experts at greatschools.net: <http://www.greatschools.net/cgi-bin/showarticle/3607>
  3. **Easy as 1, 2, 3: Introducing Young Children to Math** “You don’t have to be mathematical yourself in order to introduce...[children] to the nuts and bolts of math... The key is to start thinking about how math is a part of what we do naturally and to emphasize it with our children.” Read more at: [http://www.guiderlandschools.org/district/Parent\\_corner/preschool/math.htm](http://www.guiderlandschools.org/district/Parent_corner/preschool/math.htm)
  4. **Activities and Advice** This website offers ideas for a variety of engaging activities to do with children of different ages: <http://fun.familyeducation.com/activities-center/toddlers-preschoolers-K12children/?detoured=1> Or read the message boards for advice from other parents: <http://forums.familyeducation.com/forum>
  5. **GrandCare Toolkit: Resources for Grandparents Raising Children** This resource from AARP offers information and resources in many categories: where to find help, legal issues, finances, work, education/training, health, home and safety, family relationships and child-rearing, care for the caregiver, and more. Find the Toolkit at: [http://www.aarp.org/family/grandparenting/articles/grandcare\\_toolkit.html](http://www.aarp.org/family/grandparenting/articles/grandcare_toolkit.html)

## **Tips and Tools for Professionals (including home visitors and child care providers)**

6. **From Baby to Big Kid** Zero to Three offers this e-newsletter that provides information about development, parenting challenges, play activities and relevant research for every month from birth to three years old. Professionals can download all the archived e-newsletters at: [http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FromBabytoBigKid\\_Archive](http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FromBabytoBigKid_Archive)
7. **Positive Solutions for Families** This workbook from the Center on Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning is part of their parent training modules about promoting healthy social-emotional development in children. Some of the activities could complement work that **home visitors** are doing with families. You can find the workbook at: [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/parent/family\\_workbook/positive\\_solutions\\_workbook.pdf](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/csefel/parent/family_workbook/positive_solutions_workbook.pdf)
8. **Talk, Listen, Connect: Deployments, Homecomings, Changes** Sesame Workshop has developed this “multimedia outreach program... to support military families with children between the ages of two and five who are experiencing deployment, multiple deployments, or a parent's return home changed due to a combat-related injury.” Find it at: <http://archive.sesameworkshop.org/tlc/index.php>
9. **Find Youth Info** This website from allows you to search by specific risk or protective factors to find evidence-based programs that help families increase resiliency. You can also search for programs by keywords. Programs for young children are included. Access the Program Tool at: [http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/cf\\_pages/programtool-rf.cfm](http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/cf_pages/programtool-rf.cfm)
10. **Free Parent Education Handouts now in Russian** “ ‘On the Go’ materials [from Washington Learning Systems] include activities designed to be used [by parents] outside the home: in the car, while walking, during bus rides, etc. The activities encourage early language and literacy development from birth through preschool... Each of the twenty activities includes an activity description, and hints for making the activity fun and developmentally appropriate.

In addition to the activities, you can download an activity checklist that helps parents and caregivers notice their children's skills, and also cues adults to examine and grow their own interactions with children.” Find the Russian handouts (as well as English and other languages) at: <http://www.wlearning.com/parent-tools/on-the-go/>

11. **Activity Tubs Available for Checkout in Missoula Area** Child care providers in the Missoula area can check out free activity tubs from the Healthy Start Council. The tubs include books and fun literacy activities to do with young children that will enhance your curriculum. Themes for the tubs include: nature, insects, gardening, music, and Native American culture. Two tubs are also available that help teach children about social skills and feelings. For more information, e-mail [sbarmeyer@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:sbarmeyer@co.missoula.mt.us).

## **Training**

12. **Take It Outside**, Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, at the City Life Center, 1515 Fairview in Missoula. This free training, sponsored by Missoula Active Kids and the Missoula Forum for Children and Youth, will look at how children are becoming disconnected from the natural world and how to get children outside and engaged with nature. Fun ideas for structured and unstructured outside activities will be discussed. Register by calling Nina Cramer at 721-3000, ext. 1023 or by e-mailing [ncramer@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:ncramer@co.missoula.mt.us). Early childhood credits will be available upon advance request.
13. **Families and Learning Conference** Thursday and Friday, August 13-14, Missoula, Hilton Garden Inn, \$150 before 7/1, \$195 after. Keynote speakers will be: Margaret Wheatley, Ed.D., who will speak about organizing and accomplishing our work in chaotic times by attending to the quality of our relationships and looking to community for answers; Bliss Browne, who presents nationally and internationally on civic engagement, leading and managing systemic change, and developing the generative capacity of communities; and Howard T. Rainer, who will bring a message of hope and inspiration to Native Americans who want to hear and read about positive self-discovery, personal advancement, and the rewards of valuing Native and non-Native education. Conference sessions will focus on: early learning, economics of education, school readiness, parent leadership, statewide networking, and school-family-community partnerships. More information about the sessions and registration is available at: [http://montanapirc.com/Upcoming\\_Events/2009-conference.php5](http://montanapirc.com/Upcoming_Events/2009-conference.php5).
14. **“Consuming Kids: The Commercialization of Children”**, Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 PM, at the City Life Center, 1515 Fairview in Missoula. This free showing will be the Montana premiere of the “Consuming Kids” film from the Campaign for a Commercial Free Childhood. A facilitated discussion about media and children will follow the film. Free! Register by calling Nina Cramer at 721-3000, ext. 1023 or by e-mailing [ncramer@co.missoula.mt.us](mailto:ncramer@co.missoula.mt.us). Early childhood credits may be available upon advance request.
15. **Statewide Prevention Conference**, September 23-24, Missoula. Save the date! Dr. Richard Catalano, one of two lead researchers who developed Risk and Protective Factor Theory, will be the keynote speaker. There will also be multiple workshops pertaining to prevention topics on both days of the conference, relevant for anyone who works with or advocates for children and youth. Watch for more information from the Missoula Forum for Children and Youth.
16. **Building Blocks for Literacy** “This successful (and free) 12-hour program uses play to develop sound awareness, shared book reading and speech-to-print understanding. After a

decade in Vermont, the program is going nationwide.” You can register at:

<http://www.buildingblocksforliteracy.org/>

17. **American Indian Youth: Current and Historical Trauma** This is one of the training sessions from the Culture and Trauma Speaker Series offered by the National Center for Child and Adolescent Trauma. You will need to register but you can receive free CEs. <http://learn.nctsn.org/> (Click on Continuing Education section overview, then click on Culture and Trauma Speaker series, and scroll down to this training) There is also a training from Appalachia titled **Trauma Treatment Needs of Children and Families in Rural Communities** that has some relevant information for Montana.
18. **Open Wide: Oral Health Training for Health Professionals** This “series of four modules [are] designed to help health and early childhood professionals working in community settings... promote oral health in the course of promoting general health for infants, children, and their families... The modules present professionals with information about tooth decay, risk factors, and prevention; explain how to perform an oral health risk assessment and oral health screening; and highlight anticipatory guidance to share with parents.” <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/openwide/>

## Funding and Marketing Possibilities

19. **Brighter Future for Children and Youth** The Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church “offers grants of up to \$4,000 for projects and programs addressing the needs of children and young people between the ages of 5 to 18 in the areas of violence prevention, anti-abuse and relationship abuse.” Application deadline is July 1, 2009. Read more at: <http://hbs.qbgm-umc.org/umw/money/grants/abrighterfuture/>.
20. **Wells Fargo** Wells Fargo supports “organizations working to strengthen communities. The company directs its giving to areas that it believes are important to the future of the nation's vitality and success: community development, education, and human services.” Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Read more at: <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/index.jhtml;jsessionid=Q1CKDF2OHOF3WCQ10CLE3NQKLAJCEUM0>
21. **Sparkplug Foundation** Sparkplug is a small foundation that gives one-time grants up to \$5000 to nonprofits and individuals who can show that the money will have a big impact. Sparkplug funds in the areas of education and teaching, grassroots organizing, and music. The deadline for a preliminary telephone inquiry is September 25, 2009, and applications are due by October 9, 2009. Read more at: <http://www.sparkplugfoundation.org/>.
22. **Reiman Foundation** Based in Wisconsin, this foundation has no application form per se but asks applicants to provide a “clear picture of your intended project, why you are proposing it, who will benefit from it, and how it will be administered.” The Foundation funds projects in the areas of healthcare, education, and children. There is no application deadline. Read more at: <http://www.reimanfoundation.org/>.
23. **Causes on Facebook: Everything You Need to Know About Using Facebook as a Nonprofit Marketing Tool** This archived teleconference from the Network for Good explains in simple terms the basics of creating a Cause on Facebook. Download it in MP3 format or read the transcript, notes, and slides at: <http://www.fundraising123.org/article/causes-facebook-everything-you-need-know-about-using-facebook-nonprofit-marketing-tool>.

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