



Tips, Tools, Training and Grants for Parents and Professionals

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Tips and Tools for Parents

1. **Fire Safety for Families** “A child under the age of five is twice as likely to die in a residential fire than the rest of the population.” From the U.S. Fire Administration comes this Campaign: “Prepare. Practice. Prevent the Unthinkable.” Read their tips for parents and caregivers at: <http://www.usfaparents.gov/>
2. **Returning Soldiers Bring Joy, Stress to Families** “Re-establishing a relationship with a child is not a simple task.” This article contains tips for families that are going through this “reconnection process.” Read this article from Connect for Kids at: <http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4196>
3. **Rhyme Away** Rhyming is a great way to help children learn pre-reading skills. Rhymes help children become familiar with the sounds, patterns and structures of language. Find a list of teacher recommended rhyming books at: http://www.literatureforliterature.ecsd.net/rhyming_books.htm
4. **How to Handle Your Picky Eater** Picky eating is quite common in the early years and usually reaches its peak during toddlerhood. How do you avoid turning mealtimes into power struggles? How do you know if your child is eating enough? From Zero to Three comes this helpful resource: http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ter_key_health_picky
5. **Tips for Controlling Anger** This short article is adapted from “Controlling Anger—Before It Controls You” from the American Psychological Association: <http://member.preventchildabuse.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=5777>

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

6. **Sharing Knowledge with Infant-Toddler Teachers and Home Visitors** “is a series of lessons [from the Early Head Start National Resource Center at Zero to Three] that focus on early development and quality services. The series contains information and opportunities for reflection and includes a Trainer's Companion manual that provides additional information and ideas for training activities.” <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/Professional%20Development/Staff%20Development/All%20Staff/SharingKnowledge.htm>
7. **Video on Developmentally Appropriate Practices** “The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has developed a 53-minute online video that illustrates developmentally appropriate practices in action. The video demonstrates teachers and children interacting in a classroom and provides input from experts on the practices being observed.” You may have to download Adobe Flash Player to watch it. Find the video at: <http://www.naeyc.org/dap/resources.asp>
8. **Resources for Family, Friend and Neighbor Care** Zero to Three has a series of helpful articles for caregivers with information about the following topics: supporting social-emotional development, discipline and limit-setting/building self-control, caregiver-child activities, and building strong relationships with parents. http://www.zerotothree.org/site/PageServer?pagename=key_FFN

9. **Native American FAQs for Kids** The Indian Education for All program of the Montana Office of Public Instruction has a link on its website to this site that is sponsored by Native Languages of the Americas. It answers questions that kids and educators often ask about Native Americans, such as: "What was Native American Culture like in the past? What is it like now?" "What does it mean when you say Native American languages are endangered?" and many others. <http://www.native-languages.org/kidfaq.htm#20>
10. **Brain Quiz** This is a fun little quiz (with a few trick questions!) about early brain development. The answer section provides a lot of good background information. <http://www.kidsgrowth.com/quiz/index.cfm?id=20>
11. **Making Friends: Assisting Children's Early Relationships** This 'snapshot' from the FPG Child Development Institute suggests ways for parents and teachers to encourage friendships among very young children with or without disabilities. Read the summary of the book chapter at: <http://www.fpg.unc.edu/~snapshots/snap55.pdf>

Training

12. **A Public Health Approach to Children's Mental Health: A Comprehensive Framework for Health**, TA conference calls, March 19 (archived), April 16, and May 21, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM Mountain Time, free. This is a series of three calls that presents a framework for a public health approach to children's mental health grounded in values, principles and beliefs. Find details and registration information at http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/programs/ta_center/tacalls2009.html
13. **National Summit on the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment**, in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, June 2-4, 2009 (registration deadline is March 31), \$275. To register, please visit: <http://endabuse.org/content/features/detail/1081/>
14. **Montana Council for Exceptional Children 2009 Conference**, April 15-17, Hilton Garden Inn in Missoula. This conference, titled "Heroes in Action", is a professional development opportunity for general and special educators, administrators, parents, and others concerned with topics and issues in the field of special education. Find details at <http://www.mtcec.org/conference.htm>.
15. **Developing Relationships with Professionals and Parents and Stress Management**, April 18, 2009, Billings, \$20 before April 1st and \$30 after. "On a daily basis, day care providers interact with parents and a wide variety of professionals who service children. This workshop will provide participants with opportunities to learn about various professional roles and to develop effective communication techniques for sharing information with professionals. In addition, the workshop will explore the tricky relationships between parents and day care providers. Parents are consumers of day care services. They are also very involved emotionally in the welfare of their children. What are the key factors in successful relationships with parents? What skills are needed to address areas of conflict? How can day care providers support parents and build strong collaborative relationships with them? All of these questions will be addressed in an interactive manner, using activities and case studies to deal with real life situations and problems. For more information, contact Michele Roselli-Hust at 247-4729 or mroselli@hrdc7.org. Register at www.hrdc7.org (click on "Professional Days" on left.)
16. **Cyberbullying: Tools and Tips for Prevention and Intervention**, A Stop Bullying Now! Campaign Webcast, April 22, 2009, 3.00-4.30 EST p.m. Experts in the field of bullying prevention will discuss cyberbullying - an emerging phenomenon among youth.

Traditionally, bullying has involved actions such as hitting, punching, teasing, name-calling, or intimidation. In recent years the popularity of technology has given children and youth a new means to bully each other. For more information about the webcast, contact Nicolle Grayson at Nicolle.Grayson@widmeyer.com. To register for the webcast, visit <http://www.mchcom.com/liveWebcastDetail.asp?leid=371>.

17. **Montana Child Abuse and Neglect (CAN) Conference**, April 21-23, at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in **Helena** (please note that the last e-newsletter had the wrong location). Conference agenda and registration form is available at <http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/cfsd/can/>. Registration is \$100 before April 8th or \$75 for students. Late registration is \$25 more.
18. **The Developmental Wisdom of Traditional Childrearing Practices**: Understanding the Impact of Early Experience of Early Experience in Shaping Child, Community and Culture, April 22, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, \$75. The development of a young child is profoundly influenced by experience. Experiences shape the organization of the brain which, in turn, influences emotional, social, cognitive and physiological activities. Insights into this process come from understanding brain development. Both trauma and neglect, the absence of essential developmental experiences required to develop the fundamental potential of a child, are pervasive problems in our culture... Better understanding of these issues will help us develop more effective solutions. For more information or to register, contact Cindy O'Dell at 406-275-4752 or cindy_odell@skc.edu or Mary Rudolph, mary_rudolph@skc.edu, 406-275-4771.
19. **Understanding Traumatized and Maltreated Children**, April 24-25, Great Falls, \$120 for first day and \$50 for second day. This workshop with Bruce Perry, MD, PhD will focus on extreme stress and its effects on brain development and what can be done to mitigate the pain and help the child grow into a healthy adult. A variety of break-out sessions will be offered the second day. For more information and to find a registration form, go to: http://pluk.mt.typepad.com/files/perry_registration.pdf
20. **Afterschool Conference "Investing in the Success of our Children"**, April 30-May 1, Helena, \$120 (\$25 more after April 3). Learn the latest developments and opportunities that are challenging this expanding field and successful program ideas from the people who make them work each day. Network with over 100 colleagues from across the state. Share proven best practices in the afterschool programming field and develop new ones. Focus on professional development and the challenge to grow in this profession. 18 provider workshops include a pre-registration session and many networking opportunities. Find the registration form and more information at: <http://www.mtafterschool.org/downloads/2009%20Conf%20Registration.doc>
21. **2009 Brain Institute "Open Minds to Open Doors"**, June 26-27, Salish Kootenai College, Pablo, \$150. Conference is geared for *all* educators and caregivers who work with learners from birth to adulthood. Trainer Eric Jensen (jensenlearning.com) will present on "Enriching the Brains of Poverty" and "Tools for Engagement." For more information or to register, contact Cindy O'Dell at 406-275-4752 or cindy_odell@skc.edu.
22. **2009 MBI Summer Institute**, June 22-26, Bozeman. For more information, contact <https://toto.mus.montana.edu.cs.mbi>

Funding and Marketing Possibilities

23. **Funds for local and national mentoring initiatives** are included in the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#). Find out more at : <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/recoveryact>.
24. **“The Verizon Foundation** targets philanthropic investments to partners and programs that achieve meaningful outcomes and measurable results in specific areas within each of [their] funding priorities: ...education, literacy, domestic violence prevention, healthcare and accessibility, and internet safety.” Unsolicited proposals are reviewed on an ongoing basis from January through October. Find the grant guidelines at: <http://foundation.verizon.com/grant/guidelines.shtml>.
25. **“May and Stanley Smith Charitable Trust...** provides grants to organizations that serve the needs of children, the elderly, the disabled, and the disadvantaged... in the following areas: general operating support, capacity building, program support, equipment, and tuition assistance.” Education and human services receive the most funding support. Proposals are accepted on an ongoing basis. Read more at: <http://www.adminitrustllc.com/foundations/mssct.htm>.
26. **The Literacy Empowerment Foundation** can provide schools and literacy projects with books from their Reading Resource Project for only the cost of shipping, handling, and administration. An assortment of 100 books would cost \$68. Find out more at: http://www.literacyhelp.org/reading_resource_project/
27. **Entice People to Join Your E-Mail List** Read five helpful tips from the Network for Good at: <https://app.e2ma.net/app/view:CampaignPublic/id:23141.1516581945/rid:aa032c10a61c0ffa8a3baf69f180d7dc#Story>.