



Infant/ Toddler Info/ Tattler

Early Intervention Services News-July 2004

EDIS Early Intervention Team Newsletter

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**Happy
Independence Day**

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services

*Early Intervention Services
Arnn Elementary School
Sagamihara Housing Area
267-6545
and
Bldg. 989, Rooms 125 & 126,
Shirley Lanham
Elementary School,
NAF Atsugi
267-6545*

*IT² is a free publication. For additional
copies, questions or comments, please contact
us at either of the numbers listed above*

www.atsugi.navy.mil/medical/EDIS/index.html

Around the Neighborhood

Summer Excursion III

Sagamihara Greenwave Park:

Take Two

Date: July 9

Let's try to pet and hold the
animals this time!

Join the bus at

Zama Club at 9 a.m. or

Arnn Elementary at 9:15 a.m..

Basewide Screening

Are you concerned about your child's
development or do you have
questions about how to provide them
with developmental opportunities?

No need for an appointment, just stop
by. Our professional team would be
happy to answer any questions.

Shirley Lanham Elementary School

September 23, 8 a.m. till noon

Autism Support Group

EDIS is sponsoring a supportive
parents group for parents of children
diagnosed with autism spectrum
disorders. Please call 267-6545 for
information.

ICC Members Needed

The Interagency Coordinating
Committee is looking for parent
members. The ICC is a public forum
in which all agencies involved with
children with special needs meet to
discuss how we can improve
services. Any parent who wishes to
participate on this committee please
call 267-6545 for more information.

KID'S CARE

Preventing Summer Injuries

Summer seems to be a very popular
time for children to visit emergency
rooms. With many children out of
school and often in need of adequate
adult supervision, the summer
months can be the most dangerous.

In a study by the National Safe Kids
Campaign, children will be rushed to
emergency rooms nearly three jillion
times for serious injuries over the
summer months. Bike and scooter-
related injuries are among the leading
causes of children being rushed to
emergency rooms with nearly half of
those kids having what are
considered to be a serious head
injury. The best way to help your
child prevent a head injury is to wear
a helmet. Studies have shown that
wearing a helmet can reduce severe
head injuries by as much as 88%.
Make sure your child is wearing a
properly fitting bike helmet while on
a bike or scooter. Also make sure
your child wears a helmet while
skateboarding, roller-skating or roller-
blading.

Kids need to be active and enjoy the summer, but we want them to do it safely. Parents need to start explaining safety to their children when they are young. For school-aged children, praise them when they follow safety rules. Communicate the consequences in advance when they do not. For example, you could tell your child, "If I discover that you are NOT wearing your helmet while biking or skating, you will LOSE your biking or skating privilege." At this stage they can understand consequences and are developing an understanding of serious injuries and even death. Letting them know that you are assessing their ability to be more independent while staying safe.

By instructing children in some simple safety precautions, they can have a healthy fun-fill and safe summer.

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

FUN WITH FOOD

Applesauce Delights

16 graham crackers
Applesauce

Use four graham crackers for one serving. Spread three crackers with applesauce and stack one on top of the other. Top with the fourth cracker and spread applesauce over the top and edges. Refrigerate ½ hour before serving.



THE READING RUG

This month's featured books are:

Hats Off for the Fourth of July by
Harriet Ziefert

See how one community celebrates the 4th of July in this simple story. (*Preschool-K*)

Happy Birthday, America! by
Marsha Wilson Chall

Colorful story about a traditional small-town celebration, with a parade, a family reunion, a big birthday cake with candles, and spectacular fireworks over the water. (*Preschool-Grade 2*)

Apple Pie Fourth of July by *Janet S. Wong*

A Chinese-American girl fears no one will patronize her parent's restaurant on the 4th of July unless they serve American food instead of the traditional Chinese dishes. (*Preschool-Grade 2*)

PARENTING TIME

Reality Bites

By Sonya Freeman Cohen

Question: My 17 month-old daughter, Caroline is biting the other children at family day care. She often bites other kids if they have a toy she wants to play with, but she also bites people for no apparent reason. I've given her a two-minute time out and I've even tried gently biting her back, but nothing stops her. My care provider now says she'll take Caroline only if my daughter stays in the playpen all day. Cecilia Johnson, Boulder, CO

Answer:

One thing we have noticed by watching biters in child-care centers is that they haven't had any intimate contact with an adult for a few minutes before the bite. Often just before the event, the child is wandering about without any focus. Caroline needs to be focused constantly on activities that interest her and should be given frequent attention. And you should choose another caregiver, one who provides more freedom to explore and bestows more pats and admiration. Caroline needs to have firm-yet-gentle limits set on her behavior. She also needs help in learning how to become a communicator rather than acting on impulses.

A time out is OK if an adult sits with her and uses words and gestures to show that it's a no-no. Caroline also needs guidance in finding other ways to express frustration. She is not going to learn anything isolated in a crib. In fact, like other children who bite, she probably needs more nurturance and to spend more time playing on the floor practicing interactive communication. Even a child as young as your daughter can learn playful and communicative interaction, such as making sounds and gestures. Give her the opportunity to pursue activities that involve appropriate oral motor activity, such as blowing bubbles, and

the chance to control her behavior through things such as a copycat games in which she beats a drum harder, then softer and softer still.

No one solution is going to work with every child. Some children curb their behavior if they're given their own rubber toy to bite on, have privileges taken away, or are shown that biting hurts the victim. Biting Caroline only encourages her to learn to hurt back in response to being hurt.

Caroline needs to know that people do not want to be with her when she bites and that this behavior will not get her what she wants. If she bites you, give her a sharp reprimand, and perhaps also a shout, "ouch!" loudly, to startle her into realizing that what she did hurts. Putting her in a playpen at day care as a time-out for a minute and a half may be appropriate, but using it to isolate her from the others is not.

CRAFTS

Patriotic Bike Parade

Let kids celebrate America's birthday by dressing up their bikes in red, white, and blue and riding in a Fourth of July parade.

- Weave colorful crepe paper through the wheel spokes.
- Tape lengths of ribbon to the handgrips and string the ends with beads or mini bells.
- Make a flag out of construction paper.

Instead of drawing fifty stars on each side, apply silver star stickers. Trail glue along the left edge of the finished flag, roll about 1 ½ inches of the paper around a thin dowel rod or branch and hoist it up.

Sgraffito

A potter's term, sgraffito means scratching through one layer of color to get another. A crayon version of this simple etching technique is especially satisfying for young kids. Have your child start by covering a piece of paper with a rainbow of crayon colors. Then, apply black or dark finger paint over it and let your child fingerpaint his design, revealing the colors underneath.