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*Sandy Davis*  
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**Resource Center Coor.**  
*Debbie Klein*

**Resource Centers and  
Lending Libraries**  
Erie Elementary  
Prophetstown Elementary  
Tampico Elementary  
Wallace Education Center  
Southside School  
Merrill School

**Administered By**

# *Whiteside County* **PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

*1001 West 23rd Street*  
*Sterling, IL 61081*

A Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Publication November 2000

*Office Phone 625-1495*

*Library Warm Line 625-6331*

## **From the Coordinator**

If you have not yet had a chance to visit one of our toy lending libraries this fall, I hope you do so this month. We appreciate the school districts who provide space for these libraries and encourage you to take advantage of this service. Remember, our libraries are a great place to go and play when the weather prohibits you from playing outdoors. You are not obligated to check out toys when you come to the library, just drop in and play. There will be a new "do-together" activity at the table each week for you and your child to enjoy.

We were blessed with beautiful weather for our pumpkin patch visits. Around 100 parents and children attended the two locations and everyone had a good time. Our plan is to have a variety of group meetings throughout the years by alternating the ones that have the best attendance. For those of you who have enjoyed the halloween party and parade in the past, we will plan to have one next year. If you have a suggestion for a group meeting, please mention it to your parent educator. We are always looking

## **Whiteside County Parenting Project**

The mission of the Whiteside County Parenting Project is to offer an umbrella of parent education and support services, which meet the needs of Whiteside County families and lay a strong foundation for children's future success in school.

**Parents As Teachers** is a parent education and support program for families with children birth through age 5. The only requirements for enrollment are that the family lives in Whiteside County and has a child birth to age 5. We also will enroll a family who is expecting a child within 3 months. You may refer a family by calling Pat at 815/625-1495.

**Even Start** is a home-based family education program for parents with children birth through age 7 who want to work toward a GED or improve English skills.

**First Years** is a voluntary home-based family education program for parents with children birth through age 3 in

# November Parent/Child Activities

Designed for children under age 4

## Down on the Farm

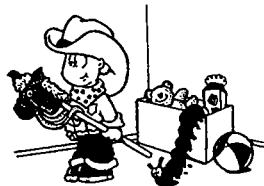
Date: Friday, November 10

Time: 2 - 3 p.m.

Place: Preschool Room  
Erie Elementary

Join us for a pretend day in the country. We will read a farm story and have "do together" activities for you and your child to explore.

Hosted by Kathy



## Let's Go Camping

Date: Wednesday, November 15

Time: 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Place: Odell Public Library, Morrison  
and

Date: Friday, November 17

Time: 10 - 11 a.m.

Place: Preschool Room  
Tampico Elementary

Experience the great outdoors--indoors. Parents and children will enjoy "do together" activities, songs, and snack, all with a camping theme.

Hosted by Laura

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## Family Reading Night Pajama Party

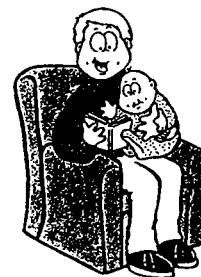
Stories for all ages.

(Wear your pajamas if you would like.)

Date: Thursday, November 16

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Merrill School Gym  
Rock Falls



Parents and children may choose to listen to one or all of these bedtime favorites:

*The Napping House*

*Ten in the Bed*

*Maisy's Bedtime*

*D.R. Bean's Birthday Party*

# November Parent/Child Activities

Designed for children 4 and 5 years old

## Down on the Farm

*A pretend day in the country.*

We will read a farm story and have several farm "do together" activities for you and your child to explore.

Down on the Farm will be held in three locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 8

**Time:** 1 - 2 p.m.

**Place:** Room 4 - Merrill School  
Rock Falls

**Date:** Friday, November 10

**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.

**Place:** Preschool Room  
Prophetstown Elementary

**Date:** Friday, November 10

**Time:** 2 - 3 p.m.

**Place:** Preschool Room  
Erie Elementary

## Let's Go Camping

*Experience the great outdoors-indoors!*

Parents and children will enjoy "do together" activities, songs, and snack, all with the camping theme.

Let's Go Camping will be held in three locations. Please attend the activity that best fits your schedule.

**Date:** Wednesday, November 15

**Time:** 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

**Place:** Odell Public Library  
Morrison

**Date:** Thursday, November 16

**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.

**Place:** Room 20  
Wallace Ed. Center - Sterling

**Date:** Friday, November 17

**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.

**Place:** Preschool Room  
Tampico Elementary

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## Gifts from the Kitchen

Activities for all ages, so bring the entire family

**Date:** Monday, November 27



# Whiteside County Parents As Teachers

## Number Lending Library Hours

Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 The toy lending library is in the preschool room. Please call about when to use it.		1 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie  Wallace library/center 3:30 - 5:30 p.m./Janie	2 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy	3	4 
5 Merrill library/center Debbie	6 Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Dawn  Erie library 6-7 p.m.	7 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	8 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue	9 10	11 VETERANS DAY
12 Merrill library/center Debbie	13 Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie  Erie library 6-7 p.m.	14 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary	15 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue  Merrill library/center 4 - 6 p.m./Linda	16 17	18
19 Merrill library/center Debbie	20 Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Dawn  Erie library 6-7 p.m.	21 LIBRARY CLOSED THANKSGIVING BREAK	22 THANKSGIVING DAY  LIBRARY CLOSED	23 	24 25
26 Merrill library/center Debbie	27 Erie library 9-10 a.m.  Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy  Erie library 6-7 p.m.	28 Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie	29 Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary	30 Prophetstown The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.	Tampico The toy lending library is located in the Pre-school Room. You may use it any school day before or after classes or when you attend an activity.

# AGAIN AND AGAIN

## *Young Children Thrive on Repetition*

*Three-year-old Robert's teacher watched him building a tower out of colored blocks. It looked very much like the tower Robert had built earlier in the morning and very much like one his teacher had seen him build yesterday with the big wooden blocks.*

Young children thrive on such repetition. Put yourself in their shoes for a minute. To begin with, children are just starting to sort out which aspects of the world are predictable: What can be counted on to remain the same? What will change?...“Is the school's copy of A Very Hungry Caterpillar exactly like the one I have at home? I'd better look at it over and over to be sure.” Repeating an experience gives children a chance to confirm that what they learned earlier still holds true—and to build on their understanding.

For years parents have been told to expose their children to as many different experiences as possible in order to broaden their knowledge

and stimulate their ability to think. What is sometimes sacrificed in following this advice, however, is the opportunity for children to repeat valuable activities.

Children who are allowed to repeat experiences gain confidence and a strong foundation upon which future learning can be built. When a situation is familiar, a child is free to apply new knowledge and new skills, to experiment and understand, to clear up misconceptions, and to recreate what was previously satisfying.

For this reason, early childhood classrooms stock certain predictable, traditional materials such as playdough, blocks, sand, and balls. Simple materials, but ones that can be used in many ways. Still, from an adult's viewpoint, it may seem needlessly repetitious to offer these toys throughout an entire year and into the next.

Children don't necessarily see it that way. The next time you visit your child's center, watch how the

children use blocks or playdough. Then look again, later in the year. And again next year.

You'll see that by repeating experiences with familiar toys, their play has grown. It's become more elaborate. The same predictable materials are slowly being used in more challenging ways. By the end of the year Robert's tower had become a sturdily built and symmetrically designed castle. The same child, the same blocks, but an entirely different learning experience.

Early childhood programs do, of course, encourage children to broaden their horizons, and try new things, but they also respect their need for repeating (and repeating) the familiar. Why? Because they know that all areas of development and learning are shaped by a child's experiences—and that includes familiar, predictable experiences as well as new ones.



**LET US GIVE THANKS**

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