

Project Administrator
Gary Steinert
Regional Supt. of Schools

Project Coordinator
Pat Rhodes

Parent Educators
Janie Atilano
Sterling Dist.#5

Sue Austin
Sterling Dist.#5

Linda Berentes
East Coloma Dist.#12
Riverdale Dist.#14
Montmorency Dist.#145

Dawn Brown
Rock Falls Dist.#13

Sandy Davis
Rock Falls Dist.#13

Mary Etnyre
Sterling Dist.#5

Laura McCullough
Prophetstown-Lyndon-
Tampico Dist.#3
Morrison Dist. #6

Kathy Wolf
Erie Dist.#1

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 Regional
Superintendent's Office

Whiteside County **PARENTS AS TEACHERS**

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

A Whiteside County Regional Office of Education Publication

Office Phone 625-1495
Library Warm Line 625-6331

July 2001

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Thanks to all who completed and returned the program evaluation. If you have not had time to fill it out yet, it's not too late! Please take a few minutes now to do so and return it in the attached self-addressed envelope. This information helps us plan next year's program and acquire the necessary funding.

Do you have a neighbor, friend, or relative who would like to be a part of Parents As Teachers? If so, this summer would be a good time to introduce them to the program by bringing them to one of the park activities.

Each year we have families leave our program because their youngest child is entering kindergarten in the fall. This enables the parent educators to enroll new families into the program.

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.

Check the enclosed activity schedule for

Help Your Baby Learn About Talking

The following activities are suggested for babies around the age of six to twelve months. Remember, your baby understands words and phrases long before he uses them.

Time to Practice. Your baby needs to practice making sounds. Try not to interrupt him when you hear him talking after he wakes up, or when he's playing by himself.

Your Talking. Use gestures with words to help her understand better what your words mean. For example, say, "Bye-bye" and wave your hand. Give your baby time to respond when you talk to her, but don't pressure her to do so.

Listening. Help your baby learn to listen. Playing music for him is one way to begin. Hold your baby and dance to the music. Clap your hands or his hands to the time of the music.

Playing with Things. Provide objects that she can handle, maneuver, and safely chew on. This will help her learn about likenesses and differences and give you something right at hand to talk about. Combining language with her playing is most important.

Imitation Games. Older babies enjoy imitating. For example, your baby might enjoy imitating your tongue movements, rolling a ball back and forth, clapping hands, or playing peek-a-boo.

Reading. Show books and magazines to

T H E

Well-Centered CHILD

Who Counts?

Who's counting? Is it the toddler who pulls a sock on each foot? The three year old who cries "Eight, seven, ten! Here I come!"? The preschooler who announces that there are eleven racing cars when there are really only ten? Or the kindergartner who carefully and correctly counts a long row of pennies? The truth is, all three of them are counting. They're just at different points along the way.

In fact, it's now known that even fairly young babies are aware of numbers. Some research has shown that babies can tell when the number of objects they're looking at has been changed.

Toddlers, too, are beginning to figure out mathematical ideas. They realize that you can only put one shoe on each

ever played hide-and-seek with a young child knows, they often don't have a clue as to the order to say them in.

Herbert Ginsburg in his book *Children's Arithmetic* writes that one of the problems in learning to count is that "...people are very fussy about how you say these words. You have to say 'four, five, six'; you cannot say 'four, six, five.' Children become confused: what's wrong with 'four, six, five?' Aren't they exactly the same words as 'four, five, six?'" Ginsburg compares it to learning a song with meaningless words.

From a young child's viewpoint, the whole thing is made more complicated by what happens as soon as they've figured out "four five six"

After a while, children begin to make the connection between the number words they're saying and objects to be counted. Your child watches you count and realizes that often you touch things as you say the words. So she tries it, too. Sometimes she skips an object, though, and sometimes she touches it twice. All young children make these mistakes. Figuring out how to attach numbers to things takes lots of time. Years, in fact. Counting ten pebbles is a lot more complicated than finding two mittens for your two hands. But maybe that's why kids find it so interesting.

The big thing you can do is support that interest. Remember that kids will keep on trying when they're not worried about making mistakes. Give your child

WHITESIDE COUNTY PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Parent/Child Activities for ALL P.A.T. Families

PARK IT WITH A BOOK

Story and play time for you and your children. Families attending will receive a copy of the "Book of the Week" to take home.

All activities will be cancelled if it is raining.

Book of the Week #3 - *"Jamberry"*

Story and pictures by Bruce Degen

Date: Tuesday, July 10
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Sinnissippi Park - Sterling

Date: Wednesday, July 11
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Kelly Park - Morrison

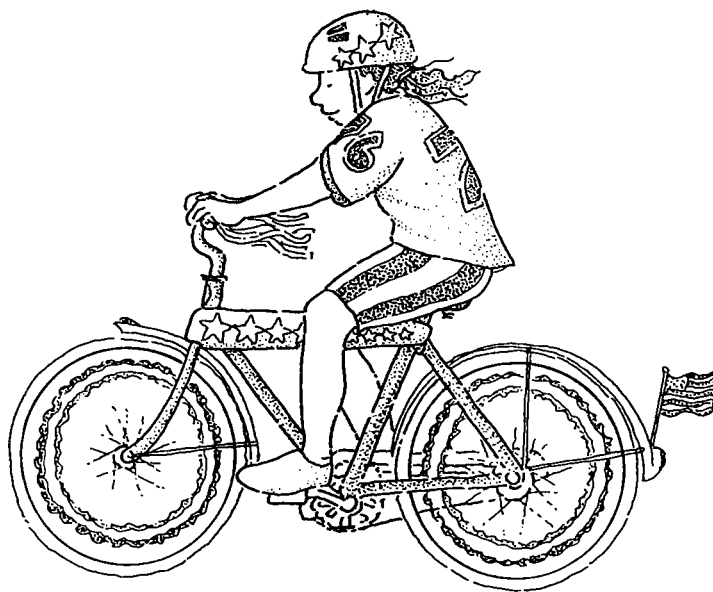
Date: Thursday, July 12
Time: 10 - 11 a.m.
Place: Booth Park - Tampico



Book of the Week #4 - *"Frog's Lunch"*

Written by Dee Lillegard

Illustrated by Jerry Zimmerman



Gary J. Steinert
Regional Supt. of Schools
1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Morrison, IL 61270
Permit No. 93