

**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

*Sandy Davis*  
Rock Falls Dist.#13

*Mary Emyre*  
Sterling Dist.#5

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

*Kathy Wolf*  
Erie Dist.#1

*Laura Woodfall*  
Rock Falls Dist.#13

**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

**Funded By**  
State Board of Education  
Erie Dist. #1  
Prophetstown Dist.#3  
Sterling Dist.#5  
Morrison Dist.#6  
East Coloma Dist.#12  
Rock Falls Dist.#13  
Riverdale Dist.#14  
Montmorency Dist.#145

# 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

January 2002

## Parent to Parent



### Cookies

A house should have a cookie jar,  
For when it's half past three,  
And children hurry home from school  
As hungry as can be,  
There's nothing quite as splendid  
As spicy, fluffy, ginger cakes,  
And sweet milk in a cup.

A house should have a mother  
Waiting with a hug,  
No matter what a boy brings home  
A puppy or a bug.  
For children only loiter  
When the bell rings to dismiss  
If no one's home to greet them  
With a cookie and a kiss.

Submitted by Suzan Trad

## Preschool Screening

During the months of February and March, your local school district will offer free developmental screening for 3-5 year olds. This is an opportunity for you to find out how your child is progressing in his development.

Many school districts in Whiteside County have preschool programs funded by the Illinois State Board of Education. If you would like your child to be considered for placement in a class next fall, she must attend the screening in your school district. Call your local school after the holidays for screening dates and appointment information.

## Why do we offer home visits to enrolled families?

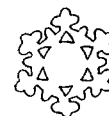
Whiteside County Parents As Teachers is based on the belief that parents are their child's first and most influential teachers. It is our goal to help you give your child the best possible start in life.

**Personal visits** individualize the program for your family. During these visits, you and your home visitor can discuss child development and child rearing issues that come up at various ages. Your parent educator will help you know what to expect as your child grows so that as you observe your child's accomplishment, you can appreciate how significant they are. She will try to answer your questions or find the answers for you. Each time she visits, she will share an age-appropriate activity and book with you and your child. She will bring written materials about what to look for in your child's development and things you can do to encourage their growth.

## What do we ask of you?

**Please be there** for your scheduled visit. If you or your child are sick, please call your parent educator and let her know. She will be glad to reschedule the visit whenever possible.

**Please provide a quiet place** to visit. This will enable you and your parent educator to hear your child clearly and concentrate on the discussion.



# Taking Care of Your Day Care Provider

The following article is an excerpt from *Taking Care of Your Family Day Care Provider*, a publication developed by the Child Care Resource Services at the University of Illinois. Although it was written for families with children in home day care settings, much of it applies to any parent-caregiver relationship.

- Say “thank you” or let your provider know you appreciate what she does, especially when she does a little extra — washes out soiled clothes, celebrates the child’s birthday, sees that children get to class on the first day of school, etc.
- Show that you care for your provider as a person. Think of her with candy, cards, or small gifts on special occasions such as her birthday, Mother’s Day, and holidays.
- Offer to lighten her load occasionally by donating services, goods, money, or time. Bring a special snack for the day care children. Offer to volunteer or substitute in the family day care, or to assist on field trips. You may have skills that would benefit the family day care — carpentry, sewing, baking, music-making, photography. You may have access to services or goods like copy machines or recycled paper that would be of value to the family day care.
- Recognize that your family day care provider is a working parent too (if that is so), and that balancing work and family responsibilities is just as difficult for her as it is for other parents. You may want to offer to watch the provider’s children after family day care hours so that she can do holiday shopping or have a night out with her spouse, for example.
- When your child runs to give your provider a hug at the beginning or end of the day, tell her how happy you are to see the affection between them. Remember, research shows that children remain strongly attached to their parent while having the added advantage of developing a additional attachment with their caregivers!
- Talk to the other children in the family day care and treat them as you would want your child to be treated.
- Recognize that providers are human beings. Don’t expect them to perform like machines—totally consistent day in and day out. There will be occasional bad days (lots of good days, too, of course). Show the same understanding that you would like extended to you when your day has been a rough one.

## Free and Inexpensive Resources for Parents

### LEKOTEK

If you have a child with a disability and are looking for up-to-date information on toys and play, call the free Lekotek Toy Resource Helpline at 800-366-PLAY.

You can also get information about one of the forty toy lending libraries and family play centers with trained Lekotek Leaders across the country. Call on a week-day, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

## CHOOSING TOYS

From *How to Develop Your Children’s Creativity* by Reynold Bean

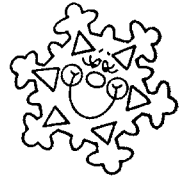
- Children use their environment as a source of playthings. They’ll play with almost any object lying around, if they see it as useful. Sticks and twigs can become as important to them as the most expensive electronic wizardry.
- It is important to distinguish between the kinds of toys that children *need* in order to express their feelings and imaginations, and the toys that they *want* simply because of their current popularity.
- Children can make the most beautiful and expensive playthings look like pieces of junk in the blink of an eye. Therefore, the most beautiful and expensive toys are not necessarily the best. Usefulness is a far better criterion.
- Sometimes the simplest toys are the best. Children around the world like to play with objects that allow them to imitate adults: toys that can be used to simulate cooking, cleaning, building or gardening, for example. Such toys are not usually very complicated. In fact, they may be common household items. Many manufactured toys, on the other hand, are so unrelated to children’s everyday experience—so cutesy—that many children can’t figure out what to do with them.
- Creative playthings are not necessarily expensive, and affluence is not required in order to provide children with excellent resources for creativity. Parents shouldn’t confuse their *wish* to give their children lovely things with their *children’s* needs.





# January Parent/Child Activities

For families with children 1 - 3 years old



## Can we fix it? Yes we can!

**Date:** Friday, January 18  
**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.  
**Place:** Room 20  
Wallace Educational Center  
Sterling

Join us for an hour of fun with *Bob the Builder and Friends* activities. We will work together reading books, doing crafts, creating a house, playing a game, and building with blocks.

Hosted by Sue Austin and Mary Etnyre

## Lapsit: Snow

**Date:** Thursday, January 24  
**Time:** 10:15 - 11:00 a.m.  
**Place:** Community Room  
Rock Falls Public Library

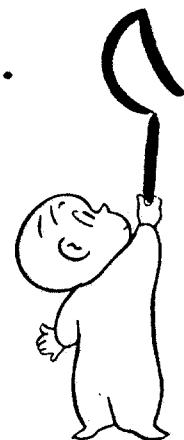
Lapsit is a play time designed especially for parents and their children ages 1-3. You and your toddler will enjoy songs, fingerplays, a simple activity, and time to share books. Feel free to bring siblings along.

Hosted by Pat Rhodes

For families with children 3, 4, and 5 years old.

## HAROLD *and the* PURPLE CRAYON.

**Date:** Friday, January 11  
**Time:** 10 - 11 a.m.  
**Location:** Merrill P.A.T. Library - Rock Falls  
and  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 29  
**Time:** 1 - 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Wallace Education Center- Room 21 - Sterling



HAROLD and the PURPLE CRAYON, by Crockett Johnson, will be our featured story. Parents and children will explore the color purple with hands-on activities to teach color mixing, counting, patterning, shapes, and smallest to largest. Children will make a book about the story to take home.  
Hosted by Debbie Klein

# January Parent/Child Activities



These group meetings have been planned as family events. There will be activities for all ages, so bring the entire family.

## *Ride, Slide, and Hide*

Date: Tuesday, January 8  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Erie Elementary Gym

Bring the family for an evening of fun riding, sliding, and hiding in tunnels and tents. Children may bring a small ride on toy from home.

Hosted by Debbie Klein and Kathy Wolf

## *Family Gym Night*

Date: Thursday, January 10  
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.  
Place: Dillon Elementary Gym  
Rock Falls

Join us for an evening of fun in the gym. There will be bikes, balls, and hula hoops available. If you like, bring your own bike or roller skates.

Hosted by Sandy Davis and Laura Woodfall

## *Winter Fun*

Date: Thursday, January 10  
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.  
Place: Washington School Gym  
Sterling

Join us for snowman and winter activities, crafts and snack.

Hosted by Janie Atilano

## *Ride, Slide, and Hide*

Date: Monday, January 14  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Prophetstown Elementary Gym

Bring the family for an evening of fun riding, sliding, and hiding in tunnels and tents. Children may bring a bike or skates.

Hosted by Debbie Klein and Amy Lanphere

## *Run and Play in the Gym*

Date: Tuesday, January 22  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: East Coloma School Gym  
Rock Falls

Come run and play with us in the gym. Bring your little ones and let them exercise their muscles and their need to move. Relax while they play or join in the fun. Refreshments will be served.

Hosted by Linda Berentes

## *Ride, Slide, and Hide*

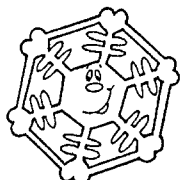
Date: Tuesday, January 22  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Northside Elementary Gym  
Morrison

*and*

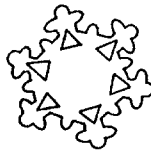
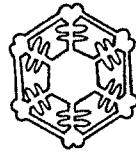


Date: Thursday, January 24  
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Tampico Elementary Gym

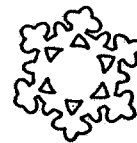
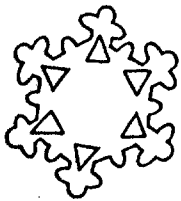
Bring the family for an evening of fun riding, sliding, and hiding in tunnels and tents. Children may bring a bike or skates.

Hosted by Debbie Klein and Laura McCullough



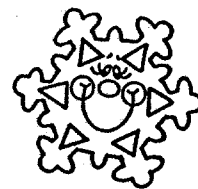
# January Lending Library Hours

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Erie</b></p> <p>The toy lending library is in the preschool room, which is now located in the old high school annex. Times you may visit are listed below.</p>	<p><b>Morrison</b></p> <p>A toy lending library is available in Morrison. Please ask Laura about its location and when you may use it.</p>	<p><b>Library Closed</b> Winter Break</p>	<p><b>Library Closed</b> Winter Break</p>	<p><b>Library Closed</b> Winter Break</p>		
<p><b>6</b></p> 	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Linda</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie Wallace library/center 3:30-5:30p.m./Janie</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Laura</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p> 
<p><b>20</b></p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day No School Library Closed</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sandy</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Mary</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Erie library 9-10 a.m. Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Linda</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Merrill library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Debbie</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Wallace library/center 10 a.m.-noon/Sue</p>	<p><b>Prophetstown</b></p> <p>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.</p>	<p><b>Tampico</b></p> <p>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.</p>



## Oh, the weather outside is frightful...

When the schools are closed due to bad weather, all P. A. T. activities will be cancelled and the lending libraries will be closed. If you should have questions about any of our scheduled activities, please call your parent educator or Pat at 625-1495.



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

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