



# Activities for Direct Care Giving Staff

## Thank You!

### Early Care and Education programs which were featured in the 2010/2011 Central Key News Link

- The Children's Learning Center at Penn College– Lycoming County
- Susquehanna Valley Child Development Center– Columbia County
- Stepping Stones– Tioga County
- Sonbeam Early Learning Center– Juniata County
- Begin with Us–Blair County
- Blessed Beginnings– Lycoming County
- Cambria County Child Development Corp.-Cambria County
- YMCA of Centre County Bellefonte Branch– Centre County
- Juniata College Early Childhood Education Center– Huntingdon County
- Gordon Thompson Learning Center-Columbia County
- Growing in Faith-Centre County
- Little Lambs Preschool– Lycoming County

**Little Lambs Preschool**, Williamsport, Lycoming County started with the Keystone STARS Program in 2004 with the very basics. We have been able to improve our school immensely with the added funds rewarded for meeting the state standards. Our favorite addition is our outside play yard which we would not have had the funds to afford without the help. Our most recent excitement is the monies provided to my staff for completing their degrees in the early childhood education field. We have added so many wonderful manipulative toys to our program as well as child size furniture. What a total blessing the STARS program has been for us!

*Article and pictures submitted by Holly  
Tillman, Director Little Lambs Preschool*



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## Little Lambs Activities:

Pictures below are of the children in the summer program. This month's theme is Exploring and Discovering. Their focus is on dinosaurs and working on science notebooks. One of the things they are observing in their notebooks is how plants change as they grow. The staff acquired plants from "Wisconsin Fast Plants". The plants grow under a special light and go through the whole growth cycle in 14 days which makes it easier for PreK age children to observe.



*STANDARD 15.1.1: Constructing and Gathering Knowledge-Curiosity and Initiative*



*STANDARD 3.1a.3: Biological Sciences: Living and Non-Living Organisms- Life Cycles*



*STANDARD 1.8.2: Research- Location of Information and Citing Sources*



*STANDARD 10.5.3: Concepts, Principles and Strategies of Movement: Fine Motor Development- Use of Tools*

**WANTED:** “Engaging Families” activities and/or ideas to help Early Care and Education programs create or enhance family engagement within their sites. The 2011/2012 volume of The Central Key News Link will no longer have the Activities for Direct Care Giving Staff section, it will be replaced with an Engaging Families section. If you are interested in sharing what is working your program around family engagement with the Central Regional Key population, please send a description of the activities and/or ideas to [mjohnson@stepcorp.org](mailto:mjohnson@stepcorp.org). When at all possible include pictures. Thank you!





## *Infant Toddler Tidbits*

### **Fun Floor Touch Mats**

Toddlers love to explore different surfaces and touch them with their hands. Here's a great way for them to do that on the floor. Take a piece of tinfoil and tape it to the floor. Let your toddler touch it, step on it, hit it with a wooden spoon! Then put just a teaspoon of water in a ziploc baggie and tape that to the floor next to the tinfoil. Then take a baby washcloth and tape that to the floor. Let your toddler explore all the different textures with her hands or feet!

### **Cookie Sheet Slider!**

Toddlers love to see things slide and make noise. Here's a fun way to do both and learn at the same time. Take your cookie sheet and a big pot. Put the big pot next to your couch and then prop up the cookie sheet on top of the pot leaning against the couch like a slide. Next let your toddler put some different toys, books, or objects at the top of the slide and watch them slide down into the pot at the bottom. Listen to the sound they make as they slide and when they drop into the pot!

### **Baby Talk**

During the 6-12 month developmental stage, the infant usually begins to make audible sounds in an attempt to "talk."

The caregiver should always acknowledge the babbling of the infant. This acknowledgement usually encourages the child to continue trying out sounds.

The caregiver can "have a chat" with the child by making comments, such as, "Are you having fun right now? Do you like that toy?", etc.

### **Hidden Objects**

When a child is able to sit on the floor, or in a high chair, the caregiver should place objects in front of the child on a regular basis.

Each object should be small enough for the infant to pick up with his hand(s) and large enough that the child cannot place the entire toy in his mouth.

The object should also be engaging enough to spark the infant's interest.

Choosing articles that will not roll away and will keep the toy in front of the child when it is dropped. This will allow the child to pick up the object numerous times.

### **DIAPER CHANGING PROCEDURE TO MINIMIZE SPREAD OF GERMS**

- ◆ **Prepare** supplies (wipes, diaper, plastic bags, etc)
- ◆ **Clean** the child's diaper area with disposable wipes
- ◆ **Dispose** of diaper and used wipes in hands free trash can
- ◆ **Disposable wipe** used on adult's hands
- ◆ **Disposable wipe** used on child's hands
- ◆ **Dispose** of used wipes in hands free trash can
- ◆ **Clean diaper** put on child
- ◆ **Wash** child's hands with soap and running water
- ◆ **Clean and sanitize** diaper changing surface
- ◆ **Wash** adult's hands with soap and running water
- ◆ **Sanitize sink** if used for purposes other than diapering

