

Efforts to improve literacy sprout from SEEDS

7/18/2008

Post-Bulletin

Plant the seeds of literacy and help them grow with tips and techniques from next week's SEEDS of Early Literacy Training for Parents. Sponsored by Child Care Resource & Referral and First Steps, the workshop offers ideas for turning everyday experiences into learning experiences, fun and creative ways to help children learn letters and sounds and tips for helping children prepare for school.



In addition, the training also offers age-specific techniques for getting the most out of reading with your child as well as specific ways to interact with your child to encourage a higher level of thinking and develop problem-solving skills.

"We know that parents are busy. We hope to show them some everyday moments they can capture and use to build literacy with their children," says Tanya Goretzki, early literacy coordinator for CCR&R. Goretzki adds, when most people think of literacy they think of reading, however "literacy is not just reading, it's writing and talking too."

The two-day workshop's interactive format offers plenty of time for questions. And although geared toward parents of children ages newborn through preschool, the training is open to parents of older children, grandparents and caregivers.

"Literacy begins at birth and parents can support literacy development through everyday interactions," says Karen Trewartha-Weiner, early literacy coordinator for CCR&R. "Through this workshop, parents develop an awareness of and an intentionality to their actions."

Trewartha-Weiner, who is presenting at the workshop, notes that parents often have an "ah ha moment" after realizing "I always did this (read, talk to their kids), now I know why it's so important."

SEEDS facts

- Businesses interested in providing a SEEDS of Early Literacy Training for Parents workshop for their employees should contact Raelene Ostberg of First Steps, 282-1027. Trainings take place at the business and can be scheduled during business hours.
- Childcare providers interested in attending a SEEDS of Early Literacy training should call CCR&R for dates and times of upcoming workshops or check out CCR&R's online professional development catalog at www.c2r2.org/pdf/R_R/CatalogueFall2008.pdf.

If you go

What: SEEDS of Early Literacy Training for Parents

Where: Christ Community Church, 4400 55th St. N.W.

When: Tuesday July 22 and July 29, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

E-mail: barbm@c2r2.org

Phone: 287-2020 ext. 215

On the Web: www.c2r2.org; www.firststeps.us