



Kids and Kin Connection

A newsletter for relative care providers

January, February, March 2015

Provider Spotlights

The **Wilcox County** spotlight is on Mrs. Grace Dean who has been a faithful relative care provider since Kids and Kin began its program in Pine Apple. Not only is she faithful to attend, we thank Grace for having the room open, clean, and ready for us when we arrive for our training program. She has one daughter and five grandchildren. When she is not working at the Partners in Progress location, she enjoys shopping and visiting with friends and family, as well as caring for others. Thank you, Grace, for all you do for the Wilcox County Kids and Kin Program.

The spotlight for **Jefferson County** is on all the participants who are enrolled in the Fall Incentive Program. This program is for providers who have already been through the VCP Program. These folks are life-long learners who enjoy doing, sharing, and telling others about the program. These providers have helped to grow the program in Jefferson County. These participants include Judith Hatch, Ruth Ruffin, Elaine Streeter, Veranita Purifoy, Bernadine Roby, Linda Vinson, Gloria Allen, Nola Rives, Elizabeth Alvarez, Tesiha Whitt, and Yolanda Vines. Thank you so much for your participation.

In August of this year, the **Macon County** Kids and Kin Program began meeting at Greenwood Missionary Baptist Church, located at 1510 Washington Ave. in Tuskegee. Thank you to all of the wonderful relative care providers who have been so faithful through the years and have given a warm welcome to the new relative care providers. Also, a very special thank you to Rev. Lusk and Ms. Glover for giving Kids and Kin the opportunity of meeting at your church and for making us feel at home.

The **Tuscaloosa County** Kids and Kin Program recognizes child care provider, Rosa Bishop. Mrs. Bishop has faithfully participated in the program for eight years. She is the mother of two children, one son and one daughter, who have given her three beautiful grandchildren. She has one granddaughter who is age seven, one grandson age six, and the newest addition to the family is her four week-old granddaughter. Mrs. Bishop and her grandchildren enjoy walking and playing in the park, playing games, and cooking. Mrs. Rosa Bishop is a member of the Elizabeth Baptist Church where she sings with the mass choir. Thank you, Mrs. Bishop, for your dedication in making a difference in the lives of children.

Ms. Darnisha Dickinson is **Clarke County's** spotlight provider. She works for Coffeeville Head Start and has been in the Kids and Kin Program for three years. She has three nieces and nephews that she adores. Ms. Dickinson helps plan our Kids and Kin meetings; thank you for all that you do!

The **Barbour County** spotlight is shining on Minister Doris Beasley. Minister Beasley is the mother of five children and is the proud grandmother of 23. She spends most of her time loving and nurturing her eight year-old twin grandsons. She serves as Minister at Star Missionary Baptist Church and is the host of a morning radio show on 97.9 WYDK. Minister Beasley has been a part of the Kids and Kin family for two years. She loves the program and stated, "I enjoy learning new things about childcare and the wonderful fellowship. I realize just how much has changed since raising my five children!" The Barbour County Kids and Kin Program extends an invitation to other relative care providers to join in the fun!

Shirley Kilough is in the spotlight in **Butler County**. She has participated in the Kids and Kin Program since 2010. She has completed both Level I and Level II of VCP and has been actively involved in Fall Incentive. She encourages the children to attend, and participate in, Butler County's summer reading program. Shirley has been married to her husband, Bobby, for 42 years. They have two children and four grandchildren. Even though Shirley had breast cancer and had a car accident, she has not missed a Kids and Kin meeting! She is always cheerful, invites others to attend, and is willing to help with the program any way she can. She said she enjoys the educational portion of the training as well as the social interaction.

Child Care Partner Spotlight:

Kim Broyles is the Kids and Kin Child Care Partner for **Limestone, Madison, and Morgan Counties**. Kim and her husband have a grown daughter, a son in college, and a daughter in high school. When not working or taking care of her family she enjoys spending time with her girlfriends, volunteering in the community and being on the water. When she began working with Kids and Kin two years ago, she made a major shift in her career path. Prior to joining the Family Guidance Center of Alabama, Kim was editor of *Life on the Water* magazine. She still does freelance writing for several local publications.



Benefits of Arts and Crafts



Developmentally appropriate arts and crafts are fun and educational!

Developmentally appropriate arts and crafts are not only fun activities to share but they can be an educational tool for children. They can help the development of fine motor skills as well as aid in teaching the alphabet, numbers, and colors. Older children can see scientific processes like glue and paint drying in action. Arts and crafts provide a foundation for future learning through a variety of learning styles and by helping develop higher thinking skills. Other benefits include building self esteem and confidence in their abilities. Both boys and girls can express their own creativity and will achieve a sense of accomplishment. Arts and crafts also allow children to create their own entertainment as well as express their ideas in something to keep, entertain others with, give as gifts, or simply create a beautiful treasure to look at.

Rainy Day Fun

When cold winter days make us want to stay inside where it's warm, these quick and easy indoor ideas will keep children active and engaged for hours.

A puppet show is a creative way for kids to communicate. Puppets can be made out of cotton socks or paper bags. Homemade puppets can be decorated with stickers, markers, or crayons. Keep all of the puppets, and the supplies to make and decorate them, in a special box.



Building a fort out of sheets or blankets draped over furniture will never grow old for children! Create a special pass word that allows each child to come inside the secret hideaway. Items to have inside could include a flashlight or battery operated lantern, sleeping bags or blankets and pillows, books, or your child's favorite toy.

Creating a chest of dress up clothes can be a fun way for children to use their imaginations. In a storage or cardboard box, collect interesting old clothes from your closet, the dollar store or the thrift store. Include scarves, hats, costume jewelry, shoes, shirts, or dresses. Take out your dress-up chest on rainy or cold days for hours of fun!

Another fun project is to help your children create thank you cards for their other caregivers, neighbors, or friends. This project will help kids feel that their time and efforts are worthwhile-saying thank you to someone they love.

Reading

Reading aloud to your baby builds listening and memory skills as well as their vocabulary. According to kidshealth.org, the more stories you read aloud, the more words your child will be exposed to and the better he or she will be able to talk. The different sounds and emotions you use when you read aloud fosters social and emotional development. Your baby improves language skills by imitating sounds, recognizing pictures, and learning words. Most importantly, reading aloud to your baby makes a connection between the things your baby loves the most-your voice and closeness to you! Read aloud for a few minutes at a time, but do it often. Don't worry about finishing entire books, just focus on the pages that you and your baby enjoy. It doesn't take special skills or equipment, just you, your baby, and some books!



Reasons to Love Music



Children who are actively involved in music do better in reading, coordination, goal setting, and concentration, according to kidshhealth.org. They are also more likely to do better in math and science because music helps build reasoning skills and cognitive development. But the best reason to encourage a love of music is that it's fun! Listening to a variety of music with your child helps improve their ability to analyze and comprehend it. Music is inherent in all of us, so encourage the love of music each day!

Kids and Kin is on the Web!

You can now view the Kids and Kin newsletter, calendar, and more on the Family Guidance Center's website. Visit www.familyguidancecenter.org, click on Services then click on Early Childhood Services. You can also like Family Guidance Center of Alabama on Facebook!



Help Your Child Become Aware of Letters and Words

When children become aware of the written word it is time to help them learn how to recognize common letters and numbers. Help your child recognize the letters in his or her first name. Write the letters in their name on flash cards made from index cards or use magnetic letters on the refrigerator or on a cookie sheet for children to practice putting the letters in the correct order.

Give your child opportunities to recognize and name the letters of the alphabet by finding the letters that spell their name in signs, magazines, or books. While reading a book, ask your child to go back and locate a particular letter, one at a time.

Encourage your child to "read" familiar signs from newspaper ads, menus, or grocery store ads. Help children "read" road signs and other billboard signs as you drive. For more information visit www.pbskids.org.



Snowman Marshmallow Pops

These snowman marshmallows are easy to make and delicious to eat!

What you need:

1. White Chocolate
2. 1-2 tsp vegetable oil
3. Large white marshmallows
4. Mini M & M's
5. Red licorice strips
6. Bamboo skewers

An adult should supervise melting the white chocolate. Once melted, stir the vegetable oil into the chocolate until it is smooth.

Thread three marshmallows onto each skewer.

Dip the marshmallows in the white chocolate to coat and allow the excess chocolate to drip away.

Before the chocolate sets completely, decorate using the mini M & M's for the eyes, nose and the snowman's buttons.

To update your contact information, or to be added to our mailing list, please e-mail bbriscoe@familyguidancecenter.org or call 1-800-499-6597, ext. 211



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Books Are Fun!

Suggested titles to read:

Winter Day by Douglas Florian

Snowballs by Lois Ehlert

A Charlie Brown Valentine

by Charles Schultz

Martin Luther King Day by

Linda Lowery

The Wind Blew by Pat Hutchins

St. Patrick's Day in the Morning by

Eve Bunting



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your child builds
listening and
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DID YOU KNOW?

At 2,405 feet, Cheaha Mountain in Cleburne County is Alabama's highest point above sea level. It is the oldest continuously operating State Park in our beautiful state. For more information on Mt. Cheaha and other Alabama state parks visit www.alapark.org.



Libraries are great places! Visit your library often to discover additional books for your family to enjoy. The library offers a variety of books, magazines, as well as audio and video materials for your family to make learning fun!