



Kids and Kin Connection

A newsletter for relative care providers

January, February, & March 2014

Provider Spotlights

Gracie Perdue is in Butler County's spotlight this month. She is a retired school teacher with 20 years experience in the classroom! She joined the Kids and Kin Program over seven years ago and has completed both levels of VCP. Ms. Gracie is a mother to one daughter and two sons and a grandmother to four! She is a member of the New Bethel Christian Church (Discipline of Christ) and is a member of the Butler County Optimist Club. Her focus has always been on children.

The Jefferson County spotlight shines on Vanessa Walker Hale. She is the grandmother and aunt to six children; ages ranging from three weeks old to 11 years old! She is currently participating in VCP and looks forward to completing all of the trainings being offered. A big thank you to Mrs. Hale for providing the Kids and Kin Program in Jefferson County with one of the door prizes recently used.

Macon County spotlights Ms. Angela Huggins. She cares for her two very active nephews and has been attending the Kids and Kin Program in Tuskegee for more than one year now. Angela is very talented. She designs and makes beautiful homemade quilts, soaps, and candles. She majored in graphic design at ASU, volunteers at ACES in Tuskegee, and stated that church is a very important part of her life. Thank you Angela for attending the Macon County Kids and Kin Program and sharing your talents with us.

Wilcox County spotlights Ms. Arzula Barge who successfully completed the VCP Program last year. She has a son, daughter and six grandchildren. Congratulations Ms. Barge, as one of your twin grandchildren is expecting twins herself in March. Ms. Barge will then have seven great-grandchildren! Ms. Barge enjoys sewing and says she is now a "computer freak" after taking computer lessons

at the center in Pine Apple. Congratulations Arzula!

Cassandra Newby is in the Barbour County spotlight. Cassandra is a very proud grandmother and enjoys spending most of her time with her grandchildren. Ms. Newby said she is very appreciative of the trainings and incentives she has had the opportunity to obtain through the Kids and Kin Program. Cassandra has been a supportive part of Kids and Kin for over ten years and encourages other relative providers in Barbour County to become active members in the Kids and Kin Program.

In the spotlight for Clarke County is Ms. Hannah Jackson. She has completed both Levels I and II of the Voluntary Certification Program and is currently an Ambassador participating in the Fall Incentive Program. Ms. Jackson has been instrumental in helping the Kids and Kin program with recruitment and last year's Recognition Day. Thank you for all that you do!

Tuscaloosa County spotlights Annie Lee. She is the mother of two daughters and one son, who have given her six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Annie Lee is a *full time* grandmother, caring for four of her grandchildren daily. The twin two year old girls keep her very busy during the day and two of her grandsons are ready to play when they arrive after school. Annie Lee stated that when she finds time for herself she enjoys relaxing and reading her Bible. She has been a dedicated participant in the Kids and Kin Program for the past three years. She is always smiling and supportive. She serves as a positive role model for the children and other relative care providers. Ms. Annie Lee is an example of a loving grandparent who is actively involved in the nurturing of children.



Make Numbers Count!

How do you involve children in number and counting activities?

- ◆ Play Simon Says. Say, “Simon says clap your hands 5 times” or “Simon says take 3 steps forward.” Make sure everyone has a turn being Simon.
- ◆ Read stories that include counting and numbers such as The Three Bears.
- ◆ Repeat nursery rhymes such as “One, Two, Buckle My Shoe”.
- ◆ Sing songs with numbers such as “This Old Man”.
- ◆ Point out written numerals while cooking, “This recipe calls for 1 cup flour and 2 cups of milk”.
- ◆ While grocery shopping point out signs that include numbers, aisle numbers, or shopping lanes.
- ◆ While playing say, “ See how many scoops of sand it takes to fill that bowl” or “How many blocks can you stack?”



Teaching children the connection between the written number and the symbol of that number is an important step in learning to read and count.

Valentine's Day Poem For Grandparents



Grandma and Grandpa, you're my Valentine;
You make a difference in my life each day;
Because I have your unconditional love,
You've given me a gift I can't repay.

If I could make the world a better place,
If there were just one thing that I could do,
To make each person happy and at peace,
I'd give them all grandparents just like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



How to Make a Purple Cow

Adults and children alike can enjoy this treat!

Blend together:

1/2 cup grape soda

2 cups vanilla ice cream

1 tsp. vanilla

Ice cubes

Enjoy!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to our two \$50 Wal Mart gift card winners drawn from our annual survey this past October.

Our winners are Quandra Crosskey from Montgomery County and Angela Merritt from Greene County.



Ground Hog day is a fun holiday celebrated on February 2nd each year in the United States and in Canada. According to legend, if the groundhog emerges from his burrow on February 2nd and sees his shadow, he will supposedly return into his burrow for another six weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow he will emerge from his burrow because winter will soon end.

“TELL ME A STORY”

We know it is very important to read to our children daily, but “story-telling” is also important.

You can tell a story while waiting in line, driving in the car, in a waiting room, almost anywhere! This will help build your child’s vocabulary and will help them realize that some of the fears or feelings they are experiencing are normal and that you felt them too when you were young.

- ◆ Tell them a story about when you were their age.
- ◆ Tell them a story about a time when you ate something sour.
- ◆ Tell them a story about something that you were afraid of when you were a child.



NO - COST Alabama Weatherization Association



The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) was created in 1976 to assist low-income families efficiently weatherize their homes. WAP operates in all 50 states and in each of Alabama’s 67 counties. It is a federally funded program administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs-Energy Division.

WAP helps individuals cut their utility bills by making homes more energy efficient. This **No-Cost** program gives priority to the elderly, those with disabilities and low-income residents with small children. Those who qualify for this program may receive attic or wall insulation, minor roof repairs, replacing exterior windows or doors, window caulking, minor wall and floor repair, and weather stripping. In addition to these obvious benefits, the Weatherization Program also increases property values and reduces the incidence of fire. Most importantly, it helps improve the health and safety of our families.

For more information contact:

Alabama Weatherization Association/Community Action Association of Alabama
601 19th St. North
Birmingham, AL 35211
205-323-6674



Family Guidance Center of Alabama
2358 Fairlane Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36116

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Winter Time Reading

- *When Winter Comes* by Robert Mass
- *The Jacket I Wear in the Snow* by Shirley Neitzel
- *Frozen Noses* by Jan Carr
- *Goodbye Geese* by Nancy Carlstrom
- *The Mitten* by Jan Brett
- *Big Snow* by Berta Hader



Did you know?

According to usatoday.com, the lowest recorded temperature in the state of Alabama was -27 degrees Fahrenheit, recorded on January 30, 1966.

Hawaii is the only state to never have recorded a below zero temperature.

To update your contact information or to be removed from our mailing list, please e-mail bbriscoe@familyguidancecenter.org or call 800-499-6597 and ask for the Kids and Kin Program.