A free monthly publication written by members of The Children's Center Consumer Council.

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WHY READING IS **IMPORTANT** 



CURRENT

(The reading clinic)

### **Reading Develops Important Language Skills**

Whether it is books, magazines, or E-books, reading can help cement a child's language skills. Exposure to language helps a child to further develop their vocabulary in a way that every day conversation cannot. Even at early ages when a child does not understand everything they read, they are able to come to conclusions about new words from the context of material.

### Reading is Especially Necessary with Today's Technology

Where some thought that the advent of computers would make the reading less important, the exact opposite is true; it has made reading even more important. Gathering information on the web or even communicating via email and social media all require reading and writing. Even texting requires reading and writing skills!

#### **Reading Opens Up the World**

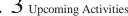
Very few of us are world travelers and even those who are can only see so many places in one's lifetime. Being able to read opens the world up to a child. They can learn about different cultures, histories, and societies. It shows life in a different way, both real and imagined. It can inform about the past, present, and future. In short, reading can take a child to the stars and back without ever leaving their home.

#### **Reading Can Enhance Social Skills**

This may sound like a contradiction since much of a person's reading is done in solitary. Consider this; early in life a child's reading consists of being read to or going to "story time". This makes books and reading something to be shared. It builds a relationship with reading. As time goes on and a person does more individual reading it can become a conversation piece much like a popular television show. A person who has just read a great book wants desperately to share the story with someone else. How many times have you read a book and couldn't wait to lend it to someone else? In addition, being someone who is "well read" is still a positive attribute in society as it often implies increased intelligence, being better cultured, and having a more interesting background for debates and conversations.

#### **Reading is Fun!**

Like a good movie, a book can be loads of fun. You can get whisked off to a world of wizards or trek through the galaxy on a spacecraft. Regardless of your child's interests, reading can be a great past time.



### FATHERS MATTER

If you are a father or male caregiver that is looking for a way to connect with your child or would like to have support of other fathers in becoming a better parent please contact Rodgers A. Washington, Fatherhood Coordinator at 313.324.8331.

## Literacy at Head Start

On November 19 from 4:15-6:00p.m. TCC Head Start Academy education staff will be hosting Literacy Game Night. Literacy and Language are key with the development of children in the very early years of their life. Head Start Academy offers a time when families can come enjoy "games" that promote both Pro-Social Skills and Literacy.

## Foster Parent Appreciation

You are invited to the Annual Event to acknowledge our foster parents. November 20, 2015 Hilton Garden Inn 26000 American Drive Southfield, MI 48034 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. RSVP required to: Shereen Youngblood at (313) 221-1440

## Parent Support Partners

A Parent Support Partner is a parent/caregiver of a child with emotional, behavioral or other mental health challenges. A PSP brings their own life experiences, skills and knowledge to support and empower other parents who are facing challenges and barriers. The Parent Support Partner is a member of the treatment team and is a critical part of the service planning and implementation. A PSP always believes that parents should use their voice and should have all the resources to make informed choices and be able to act on them. Ask your clinicians for more information.

## The Children's Center Consumer Council

The Consumer Council is designed to encourage families whose children are clients at The Children's Center to be involved in, and participate fully, in decisions related to their care and services. The council uses consumer ideas to improve services and agency management practices by:

- Serving as an advocate for children, youth and families at The Children's Center by being a voice for those we serve and providing recommendations to the organization and its staff.
- Helping new clients and their parents understand services and resources provided by The Children's Center.
- Improve community awareness of services and resources provided by The Children's Center.

Meetings are held 12 times a year on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 12:30 - 2:30 pm. All are welcome to join. Call Susan Thomas for more information 313-262-1175

## Parent Spotlight: LaKingna Simmons



LaKingna Simmons has two children, both with autism, who receive services from The Children's Center. Her son, age 13, is diagnosed with autism at the age of 18 months and after she moved back to Michigan from Georgia, he began receiving services at age 3. When her daughter, age 8, was also diagnosed with autism complicated by a diagnosis of ADHD, she was totally caught off guard because the condition is four times greater for boys than girls.

LaKingna acknowledges that her son is on the higher functioning end of the autism spectrum, while her daughter has difficulties with eating and sensory processing that require medication. In addition to being in school full-time, both children have rigorous regimens which include clinical services that complement their individual treatment plans, group therapy to enhance social skills, as well as speech, and occupational therapies which are navigated through supports coordination.

LaKingna is a graduate of Henry Ford College, a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society Fraternity, and attends The University of Michigan-Dearborn in which she studies psychology and social work. She is a Wayne County Systems of Care Parent Resource Trainer, Department of Human Services Community Representative, serves on The Wayne County Parent Advisory Board, and a member of The Wayne County Trauma Advisory Committee. She is currently serving her 2nd 3 year term on the agency's Board of Directors, is Chairperson of The Consumer Council, serves on the agency's Head Start Governing Board, Sustainable Funds Committee, as well as their Programs Committee.

As Chair of the Consumer Council, she and other adults, whose children are clients at The Children's Center, help new clients and parents understand services and resources provided by The Children's Center, and improve community awareness of the services and resources offered.

## Across the Spectrum



## What can your Supports Coordinator do for you?

Support Coordinators can help you with; school, housing, utility, food, clothing, finding resources for legal advice, community services, etc. They would even meet with you at your house, school, or community. Be proactive, and contact them for help with all this needs.

ASSESSING the needs, wishes, and desired outcomes of each individual

DEVELOPING an Individual Support Plan (ISP) with the assistance of the individual, their family, and those identified as part of the team

LOCATING the supports and services identified in the ISP so as to meet the needs of the individual and their family

LINKING the consumer and family with service providers and generic community resources COORDINATING the identified supports and services as requested by the individual and their family

### MAINTAINING

eligibility information and assisting individuals to apply for assistance for which they are eligible

### ADVOCATI

for needed supports and services not readily available to the individual

### **Focus on Safety**

Let us get a plan going to keep our children safe. Please make sure your kid has an ID on them all the times, with the following information; name, picture, I'm autistic, who's their caregiver, emergency contact information.

If your child is a runner or a wanderer... check out the GPS Trackers found at:

- ✓ Autism Alliance 1-877-463-1166
- ✓ Walmart
- www.angelsense.com

Some devices may have a cost.



IEP = Individualized Education Program EI = Emotional Impairment CI = Cognitive Impairment ASD = Autism Spectrum Disorder D-B = Deaf/ Blind SLD = Specific Learning Disability SLI = Speech Language Impairment TBI = Traumatic Brain Injury

### **Autism Parent Group**

Did you know that the Autism parent support group is new to The Children's Center? The group facilitator, Jasmyne Burbridge, a Supports Coordinator in the Developmental Disabilities Services

The group metson Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in building 101 while social skills group is in session. Let your Supports Coordinator know if you are interested, so they can include you in the next cycle of groups.

### upcomingACTIVITIES

Join us for activities at the **The Center for Discovery** 

November 4th & 18th Art Adventures

Every Wednesday 4pm – 6 pm Homework Help Days

For More Information contact Kelsey Hubbell at <u>khubbell@thechildrenscenter.com</u>

# Holiday Shop Program

All families that completed an application for Holiday Shop will be notified of their acceptance status via mail by the end of November. Families meeting qualification requirements will receive a letter containing a scheduled shopping date and time.

Distribution days are December 7-10th for pre-qualified families BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

If you have a story or suggestions for future articles, we'd like to hear from you.

Contact Susan Thomas at (313) 262-1175 or sthomas@thechildrenscenter.com

## CONSUMET CURRENT

The Children's Center (TCC) specifically disclaim all responsibility for any liability, loss or risk, personal or otherwise, which is incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the information or resources provided in this newsletter. The Consumer Current is intended to provide general information and to help consumers more easily access information about services and supports available at TCC.



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