



Celebrating Over 10 Years of Service
to Children & Families!

Spring 2010

Did You Know?

Family Resource Center programs help young children get the best start possible. Our programs expose children to new approaches to learning, enhance their language development and communication skills, and promote positive social and emotional development. In 2009...

88% of parents participating in Play & Learn groups reported that their children were encouraged to try new problem-solving skills.

90% of parents participating in Play & Learn groups reported that their children were encouraged to use increasingly complex and varied vocabulary.

98% of parents reported that Play & Learn groups provided an opportunity for their children to communicate and respond to other's emotions.

Save the Date

Reach for the Stars 2010

"Under the Bella Luna"

Sunday, April 25, 5 - 9 pm

Kilkarney Hills Golf Club, River Falls

Italian theme, \$35/person

Tasty dinner, auctions, and raffles

Plus stories from our participants

Your attendance supports all of our free programs.

More information on page 4.

Help us Reduce Cost and Paper Use

When you choose to receive this newsletter by e-mail, you help the Family Resource Center save money on printing costs and reduce our use of paper. Please notify us at (715) 684-4440 or e-mail info@frcscv.org to receive this newsletter electronically.

Local Family Values FRC Programs From Day One

It was December 21, 2009. Telephone registration for winter Play & Learn groups began at 9:00 am sharp. Just after 9:00, River Falls parent Angelina Symicek found herself cheering into the phone: She and her daughter, Ashley, would be returning to Play & Learn in River Falls for the winter.

In the fall, Play & Learn waiting lists prevented Angelina from registering for the River Falls group she had attended in the past. Waiting lists are common for most of the FRC's nine Play & Learn groups across St. Croix, Pierce, and Polk Counties, so parents have learned to call early on registration day before their nearest Play & Learn fills.

Limitations of funding prevent the FRC from adding any new Play & Learn groups. When groups fill and waiting lists form, Family Resource Center parent educators try to help parents find a Play & Learn that still has space available.

Last fall, when River Falls Play & Learn filled, Angelina signed up for the group in Spring Valley instead. "I'm happy there are multiple Play & Learns so there are alternatives if you can't get into one," she says.

Angelina has been involved with the FRC since before Ashley was born in 2007, when an FRC parent educator



River Falls parent Angelina Symicek has been involved with FRC programs since the birth of her daughter, Ashley, who is now two and a half.

met Angelina at River Falls Area Hospital and told her about the FRC's programs.

As a first-time parent, Angelina was interested in Baby & Me class because parent education options in her area were "very limited." Plus, she liked that it was a program "for parents and children together, not a program where parents and children are separated."

In Baby & Me, Angelina was grateful to learn about Ashley's development through discussions with other parents and developmental hand-outs from the FRC parent educator. "I don't know where else a parent would find readily accessible developmental checklists like that," she says.

After 12 months in Baby & Me class, Angelina and Ashley registered for Play & Learn and have been attending *continued on page 4...*

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The mission of the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is to *strengthen children, families, and communities by offering education, resources, and support.*

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Please notify us if your mailing address has changed. For an electronic version of this newsletter, email info@frcscv.org or call Mary @ 715-684-4440. Thank You!

From the Director's Desk

A new year is well underway, and we have spent much of the winter preparing and presenting information to families, calculating statistics, and coordinating programs to meet community needs.

With spring, we usher in the month of April, heralded National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Why is child abuse prevention so important?

Child abuse can happen in any home, in any neighborhood, within any family. According to statistics from Wisconsin Child Protective Services, 28,558 referrals for child abuse and neglect were made in Wisconsin in 2009.

Abused and neglected children do poorly in school, are more likely to become teen parents, and abuse alcohol and drugs. They are more likely to become criminals as adults and to suffer chronic health problems. Most children who are abused bear psychological scars—and in some cases, physical scars—forever.

Clearly, this is reason enough to explain why prevention is so important!

Twelve years ago, the FRC was established with prevention in mind. We believe our work makes a difference in preventing child abuse in the communities we serve and are grateful for your support of our mission. Please see more information about local child abuse prevention awareness activities on page 4.

The new year also means changes to our board of directors. I would like to thank **S. Mark Tyler, Shari Turvaville, and Tina Kippes**, for their service to the FRC. We are very grateful for our volunteer board members and appreciate their time and talent in service. **Thanks so much, Mark, Shari, and Tina!** Replacing the outgoing members of the Board of Directors are: **Sam Cari, Eric Johnson, and Rob O'Keefe**. Welcome, and thank you for your commitment to serve!

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to all of you to attend our 5th annual Reach for the Stars gala, scheduled for April 25, 2010 at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club in River Falls (more information on

page 4). Attending this event is one way to support FRC's mission, to do something during Child Abuse Prevention month directly related to families in your community, and celebrate with neighbors and friends who also believe in supporting families in the St. Croix Valley! If you would like more information about how to attend or how to donate items or service for Reach for the stars, please call or email us for further details.

Happy Spring!



Patty Draxler, Executive Director



Reach for the Stars 2010, our fifth annual fundraiser, will help the FRC maintain its free programs for local families.



Find us on
Facebook

We now use Facebook to post reminders and updates about upcoming classes, field trips, registration deadlines, and more. You can stay in the loop by becoming our fan today. Search for Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley when you're logged in to Facebook, or find a link to our fan page from our website, www.frscv.org.

You Can Help

Donated items from you help us help families! Whether in the office or teaching teen parent class, we are always in need of the following items:

Paper Towels	Dixie Cups
Gas Gift Cards	Board Books (new)
Diapers (all sizes)	Toilet Paper
Baby Wipes	

Volunteer Opportunities

The Family Resource Center is in need of volunteers for cutting, making copies, cleaning, organizing donated items/books/clothing, and more. Please call Mary, our volunteer coordinator, at (715) 684-4440 to learn how you can help.

Parenting in the Valley: One Stop for Parenting Resources Online

Now you only have to visit one website to learn about all the parenting classes and family resources in Pierce, St. Croix, and Polk Counties. The new website Parenting in the Valley includes information on Family Resource Center programs as well as services from other local agencies and organizations. Check it out for links to parenting information, resources, and a parent education events calendar. Find Parenting in the Valley at www.parentinginthevalley.com. The site is brought to you by University of Wisconsin Extension in cooperation with the St. Croix Early Childhood Interagency Council, of which the Family Resource Center is a member.

Minnesota Children's Museum Field Trip

"Dinosaurs—Land of Fire and Ice"
Friday, April 9, 10:15 am-12:15 pm
\$2.50/person (ages 1+)

Full payment is due at the time of registration. Make checks to the Family Resource Center. Registration deadline is Friday, March 19.

ACTIVITIES – March – April – May

CALENDAR FOR WINTER PLAY & LEARN GROUPS 2010

BABY & ME (Pre-registration is required by calling 715-684-4440)

A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants (Birth to 12 months).

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Amery | Mondays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at Amery Regional Medical Center, Classroom D – no class Monday, January 18 or Monday, February 15 |
| Baldwin | Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at FRCSVCV, 857 Main St. Baldwin |
| New Richmond | Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at Westfield's Hospital Conference Center, New Richmond |
| River Falls | Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C, River Falls |
| River Falls | (Baby & Me PLUS) Mondays 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C 715-684-4440 |

PLAY & LEARN (Pre-registration is required by calling 715-684-4440)

Play & Learn provides an opportunity for children to interact with their parents and other children their age. Parents can also discuss parenting strategies, dilemmas and everyday happenings with a Parent Educator and other parents going through similar situations.

Spring session groups begin the week of Monday, March 29, and run through the week ending Friday, May 28.

Spring Play & Learn Registration is Monday, March 22, 9:00 am, by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required.

MULTI-AGE PLAY & LEARN

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| River Falls | Mondays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ St. Bridget's Catholic Church, 135 E Division St. |
| Spring Valley | Tuesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ Spring Valley Village Hall, E121 South Second St. |
| Hudson | Tuesdays 9:30 pm – 11:00 am @ Bethel Lutheran Church, 920 – 3rd St. |
| Baldwin | Wednesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ FRCSVCV, 857 Main St. |
| New Richmond | Wednesdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 367 W River Dr. |
| Baldwin | Thursdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am @ FRCSVCV, 857 Main St. |
| Luck | Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ Luck Library, 21 – 2nd Ave W |

PLAY & LEARN IN COLLABORATION WITH AMERY SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

(Pre-register by calling Tracy @ 715-268-9771, x220)

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Amery | Mondays 9:30 – 11:00 am @ Lien Elementary School, 469 Minneapolis Ave. |
|--------------|--|

EVENING PLAY & LEARN

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| Baldwin | Mondays 5:30pm – 7:00 pm @ FRCSVCV, 857 Main St. |
|----------------|--|

Spring Play & Learn Fast Facts

Registration Date

Monday, March 22, 9:00 am, by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required for Play & Learn.

Dates of Session

Spring session begins the week of Monday, March 29, and runs through the week ending Friday, May 28.

...continued from page 1

for over a year. Now that Ashley is 2 and a half years old, Angelina sees that Play & Learn has been good for her daughter's social and emotional development. "If we didn't have a program like this, Ashley wouldn't have the opportunity for socialization," Angelina says.

"She's less shy now," Angelina observes. "It used to take her 20 minutes to warm up to others at Play & Learn. Now, it's only 5 to 10 minutes."

Play & Learn also gives Angelina ideas for educational activities to try with Ashley at home: "We have a 'how to wash your hands' craft project from Play & Learn that we still use at home."

She adds, "Sometimes we find books from Play & Learn at the library."

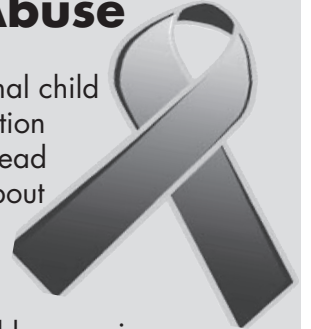
Angelina says that Play & Learn has also helped prepare Ashley for school. Becoming familiar with the standard schedule for every class, Ashley is gaining "more confidence, having that structure every time." She is also learning how to listen and follow directions from a teacher.

Those benefits for Ashley's future are, above all, why Angelina appreciates the FRC's programs so much that she cheered when she registered on December 21. "Being in all these programs, I value having Ashley develop confidence and learn to listen and respond. She's being prepared for later."



Get Involved to Help Prevent Child Abuse

April is national child abuse prevention month. To spread awareness about child abuse prevention, FRC parent educators will be wearing blue ribbon pins throughout the month of April and distributing pins to all participants in our programs. Consider how you can help prevent child abuse by getting involved with the local events below:



Polk County

BLUE RIBBON CHILD SAFETY EVENT
Thursday, April 29, 2010
5:30 pm in each school district in Polk County (Contact your local school district for location information.) Organized by Polk County's C.A.R.I.N.G Committee (Child Advocacy Referral Interagency Network Group)

St. Croix County

Look for a calendar of events on the St. Croix County website, www.co.st-croix.wi.us.

Pierce County

Look for a calendar of events on the Pierce County website, www.co.pierce.wi.us, or contact Megan Smith at 715-273-6766, ext. 6639.



Reach for the Stars 2010

"Under the Bella Luna"

Reach for the Stars features dinner, auctions, and stories from families who participate in our programs.

You are invited to help us help families!

Each year, Reach for the Stars brings in critical funding to help us maintain our free services to any family that seeks them. Attend Reach for the Stars this year to support and celebrate our work with local families.

Sunday, April 25, 2010

5 - 9 pm

Kilkarney Hills Golf Club, River Falls

\$35/person

Join us for an evening with a theme of Italy, including

- A tasty Italian meal
- Live, silent, and dessert auctions
- Raffles
- Plus stories from our participants

Advance reservations are required. Please call (715) 684-4440 for tickets or for information about donating items or services for our auctions and raffles. We are grateful for your support.

FRCSVC's Grandchildren Honor Roll



Grandparents	honoring their Grandchildren
Betsy & Brad Byker of Osceola, WI	Ava Schueller of New Richmond, WI
Kay & Glen Clayton of Spooner, WI	Brady Wainionpaa of Somerset, WI
Mary & Jim Croon of Barnes, WI	Riley & Mikayla Andersen of Prescott, WI
Becky & Rick Elsenpeter of Buffalo, MN	Haley Matzek of River Falls, WI
Cheryl & Gregory Gryskiewicz of Eau Claire, WI	Jack Todd of New Richmond, WI
Hege & Grant Herfindahl of Benson, MN	Halvard & Annelise Herfindahl of River Falls, WI
Carol & John Marnell of Hudson, WI	Vivian, Marchella, and Roman Suhanosky of New York, NY Clementine, Campbell, and Adelia Hawkins of Boston, MA Owen, Eveyln, and Charlie Marnell of Hudson, WI Elena Marnell of Roseville, MN
Laurie & Dick McConnell of Glenwood City, WI	Jerry Leonard of Glenwood City, WI
Cecil Mitchell of Chester, VA	Julian Mitchell of River Falls, WI
Marie Miller of La Crosse, WI	Zachary Miller of River Falls, WI
Stacy & Bruce Noll of Luck, WI	Isaac Noll of New Richmond, WI
Naomi & Blake Pacheco of Pueblo, CO	William Pacheco of River Falls, WI
Jackie Savall & Gerry Bauman of Chippewa Falls, WI	Avery VanAllen of River Falls, WI
Jane Schmid of Long Prairie, MN	Austin Schmid of River Falls, WI

Honor Your Grandchildren

Attention, all grandparents (and those in a grandparenting role)! Honor your grandchildren for their birthdays, for their special achievements or milestones, or simply for the joy they bring to your life!

Your name and your grandchild(ren)'s name(s) will appear in this newsletter when you donate \$100 or more to the Family Resource Center.

Join other grandparents by completing the pledge form in this newsletter, or contact us to contribute today. Your donation not only honors your grandchildren, it helps the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley support all children and families in Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix Counties.

FRCSVC Partners with the United Way's Success by 6

The Family Resource Center works closely with United Way St. Croix Valley to provide services promoting the goals of the United Way's Success by 6 Initiative.



The vision of Success by 6 is that all children in our communities by age 6, with the strong support of family and community, will have the necessary physical, mental, emotional and social development to successfully grow and learn. By increasing services and advocating for public policies to improve children's lives, Success by 6 raises awareness about the importance of early childhood development.

More information about the Success by 6 Initiative is available at www.unitedwaystcroix.org/success_by_6.htm.



Yes! I want to help the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley give children the best start possible!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Gift Amount:

_____ \$1000 _____ \$500

_____ \$250 _____ \$100

_____ \$50 _____ Other

My check, payable to FRCSVC, is enclosed.

Please charge my pledge of \$25 or more to: *(circle one)*
 Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Exp. _____

My employer will match my gift; please contact me.

Please contact me about making a gift through my will or estate plan.

I want my gift to fund:

_____ Greatest need

_____ Program support

_____ Grandchildren Honor Roll
(for a gift of \$100 or more, please send us the names and locations of the grandchildren you would like to honor)

_____ Permanent fund

_____ Other

Thank you for helping us "Grow Kids By Growing families!"

Detach Donation Form and mail to:
 Family Resource Center
 St. Croix Valley
 857 Main Street
 P.O. Box 2087
 Baldwin, WI 54002





FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER
ST. CROIX VALLEY

Growing Kids by Growing Families

857 Main Street
PO Box 2087
Baldwin, WI 54002

Phone: (715) 684-4440
Fax: (715) 684-5122
E-mail: info@frcscv.org

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We are grateful to the following local businesses who help us by sponsoring this newsletter:

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Shafer Financial Services
Valley Orthodontics - Hudson & Stillwater

Would you like to publicize how your business supports our community? Call Mary or Lauren at (715) 684-4440.



Family Resource Center Snapshot

A panel of student parents from St. Catherine University (St. Kate's) recently presented to FRC teen parents. The event, offered through St. Kate's Access and Success program for students with children, was aimed at encouraging teen parents to pursue some form of higher education after high school—and not necessarily at St. Kate's. The speakers shared tips on selecting a higher ed program and came with information on FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). FRC teen parents also shared their goals for higher education and listened to the stories of the St. Kate's student parents. "It's going to be harder because you have kids," said Abbie, a first-year student, "but it's so much more rewarding. You'd be amazed at what you can do. Your children become your drive."