



FAMILY MATTERS

Celebrating Over 10 Years of Service
to Children & Families!

Fall 2009

Are You a Fan Yet?

When we prepared this newsletter, we had 16 fans... how many will we have by the time you check out our page? Go to our website, www.frscv.org, to find a link to the Family Resource Center's Facebook page, or search for "Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley" when you're logged in to Facebook. Facebook is a registered trademark of Facebook, Inc.

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Our Newsletter is Online

Visit our website, www.frscv.org, to read current and past newsletters or to share them electronically with a friend.

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@frscv.org to receive this newsletter electronically.

Did You Know?

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



Tiffany Laper, right, former Family Resource Center teen parent program participant and current teen parent mentor, speaks with teen parent Mia Porter, holding daughter Carly, in 2000.

When seventeen-year-old Tiffany Laper found out that she was pregnant in 1998, her dad told her, "You need to get out of my house." In the next nine months, Tiffany moved out of her family's home, married her boyfriend, and gave birth to a son, Gage.

When Gage was one month old in July of 1999, Tiffany received a home visit from Sharon Rezyer, a St. Croix County Public Health Nurse. Sharon invited Tiffany to participate in a teen parent group made available through a young non-profit organization in Baldwin: the Family Resource Center.

Before Tiffany and her husband attended the teen parent group, Tiffany remembers, "We were at odds on how to discipline. He thought hitting was okay, but I convinced him to come to teen group, and the teacher gave him some reasons not to hit. He also has a bit of child development background now. We've both grown and become more competent in our parenting skills."

For Tiffany, one of the major struggles of being a teen parent was confronting negative stereotypes. "Everyone looks at you as a teen parent and not as a parent," she says. "But just because you're a teen doesn't mean you're any less of a parent."

After growing up with a father who was physically and emotionally abusive, Tiffany set a goal to avoid parenting as she had been parented. "It didn't come naturally to me because that's not what my parents did." With the birth of her daughter, Hailey, Tiffany started attending a Family Resource Center Play & Learn group, where the community of other parents offered Tiffany a chance to discuss her parenting concerns and learn from other parents' experiences.

In 2002, Tiffany became the Family Resource Center's teen parent mentor—a role she has had ever since.

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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

Hope you are all enjoying summer and the opportunity to be out and about without winter coats! Summer has traditionally been a great time for Family Resource Center staff to take stock of the past year's programming and make changes accordingly, and this year is no exception. I would like to draw your attention to a couple areas of change that I am excited to announce:

- First, we recently decided to implement all fall Play & Learn groups with the two-teacher model and extend each group to a length of an hour and a half. We are thrilled with the opportunity to integrate this model and work collaboratively with community partners to make it happen. Please see specific information on page 4 for more details.
- Second, we have a new Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley page on Facebook. It is exciting to watch our fan numbers rise each day. Facebook provides another communication outlet to the families we serve and donors we appreciate. Check out more information on our new modes of communication on the front page of this newsletter.

Take time to smell the roses...the snow will be flying soon!


Patty Draxler, Executive Director

Free Toddler Screenings Coming Up This Fall

Do you have a child who will be between the ages of 12 months and 33 months this fall? United Way St. Croix Valley Success By 6 and the Birth to 3 programs in Pierce and St. Croix Counties are offering free developmental screenings to children of that age range.

During the 30-minute screening, your child will be screened by an early childhood professional in all areas of development—motor skills, learning, social-emotional development, adaptive skills, and communication.

Screenings are free, but appointments are required.

To make an appointment, please call Norma Vrieze in the St. Croix County Birth to Three at (715) 246-8248 or e-mail her at normav@co.saint-croix.wi.us.

Screening Dates

Thursday, October 22, 2009
Trinity Family Center

614 Badlands Rd.
Hudson, WI
8:00 – 10:00 am and
3:00 – 5:30 pm

Thursday, November 5, 2009
Little Adventures Childcare

708 Whitetail Blvd.
River Falls, WI
8:00 – 10:00 am and
3:00 – 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 14, 2009
WITC

1019 S Knowles Ave.
New Richmond, WI
8:30 am – 12:30 pm



Proud to support our community



ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF RIVER FALLS:

New Richmond
1656 Dorset Lane, Ste. 100
(715) 246-5533

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(715) 262-5000

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Find us on
Facebook

Find us on Facebook

We now use Facebook to post reminders and updates about upcoming classes, field trips, registration deadlines, and more. Make sure you stay in the loop and become 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 at our website, www.frscsv.org.

Find Directions Online

Check our website, www.frscsv.org, for directions to any Family Resource Center group meeting. Just click on the "locations" tab, where you'll find a link to a complete map of all meeting locations.

Order Scholastic Books Online

You can order Scholastic books online at <http://pcool.scholastic.com/parentordering/login.jsp>. Class/username is frscsv; password is Family. Orders are due by September 24.

ACTIVITIES – September – October – November

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

Baldwin Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm at FRCSVCV, 857 Main St.

New Richmond Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at Westfields Hospital Conference Center

River Falls Fridays 10:30 am – 11:30 am at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C

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

A play and discussion hour for parents and their infants (Birth to 18 months).

River Falls Mondays 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm at River Falls Area Hospital, Classrooms B & C

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.

Fall session begins the week of September 14 and runs through the week of December 17. Please note: there will be no Play & Learn the weeks of October 19 and November 23.

Fall Play & Learn registration is August 31, 9:00 am by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required.

Winter Play & Learn Registration is December 21, 9:00 am by calling 715-684-4440. Pre-registration is required.

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

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 am – 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 am – 11:00 am @ Luck Public 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.
September 14 - November 16

POSITIVE PARENTING (Pre-registration is required by calling 715-684-4440)

This series will help you identify what you do well as parents and learn skills to strengthen what you would like to improve.

Hudson Thursdays 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, October 22 – November 12 @ St. Croix Valley YMCA

Balsam Lake Mondays 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm, September 21 – October 26 @ Polk County Government Center-Public Health Conference Room

Office will be closed Monday, September 7 (Labor Day) and Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving).

story continued from page 1

Tiffany enjoys working at Teen Parent Program group meetings alongside Family Resource Center teen parent program facilitator Betsy Byker. Tiffany says that teen parents can relate to her, and she can relate to them. "I've been where they are. Just because you're a teen parent doesn't mean that you can't accomplish what you wanted to accomplish before you had a child. Yes, it will be more difficult, but you can do it."

Tiffany exemplifies that message. This fall, she is starting classes at Chippewa Valley Technical College. She will use those credits to transfer to a bachelor's degree program at UW-Stout, where she plans

to study psychology. She hopes to earn a master's degree and eventually work as a counselor—or maybe even a parent educator. "It intrigues me to hear other people's problems and be able to help them. I thought, 'that would be a good profession.'"

Right now, Tiffany's educational goals will not keep her from returning as the teen parent mentor when teen parent groups begin to meet again this fall. After ten years of involvement, Tiffany needs only one reason for remaining a part of the Family Resource Center: "It changed my life, and I'd like to do that for somebody else."

Two-Teacher, 90-Minute Play & Learn Becomes the Norm

In response to the requests for more parent education opportunities from families that participate in Family Resource Center programs, all Family Resource Center Play & Learn groups will now be 90 minutes in length—one hour of play and learn activities and 30 minutes of parent education discussion led by a Family Resource Center parent educator.

"We've had Play & Learn parents requesting more parent education opportunities," Betsy Byker, Family Resource Center program coordinator, said. "And, we know that the 90-minute model improves the quality of Play & Learn groups." In the past, 90-minute Play & Learn groups have been successful in several communities that the Family Resource Center serves.

Led by a Family Resource Center parent educator, Play & Learn groups are weekly one-and-a-half-hour group sessions that provide parents the opportunities to observe their children interacting with other children, receive expert advice from a Family Resource Center parent educator, and discuss parenting challenges with their peers. Family Resource Center parent educators plan Play & Learn group sessions according to Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards.

A typical Play & Learn group session operates on the following schedule:

- 30 minutes – Guided parent-child play
- 30 minutes – Group "circle time," children's activity, snack, and story time
- 30 minutes – Parent education discussion topic, facilitated by a Family Resource Center parent educator

Parent education discussions may include a range of subjects, such as positive discipline, healthy sleep habits, raising a reader, or other parenting topics.

Two teachers will now be involved in every Play & Learn group—at least one Family Resource Center parent educator to facilitate the 30-minute parent education discussion as well as another teacher whose focus will be the children and their needs.

The change in Play & Learn length means that Play & Learn groups in Baldwin, Hudson, and New Richmond will now be thirty minutes longer than in previous years, while groups in Amery, Luck, River Falls, and Spring Valley—which have already been operating under the 90-minute model—will continue under the same schedule as last year.

All Play & Learn groups remain free and available to any family. Registration for fall Play & Learn groups begins by phone at 9 am on Monday, August 31. Please call us at (715) 684-4440 to register.



FIELD TRIP:

Circle K Orchard

Friday, October 2, at 10 a.m. (rain or shine)
Circle K Orchard
N7653 – 650th St, Beldenville, WI 54003
715-273-7799

Deadline to register is Thursday, September 24, at 3 pm.

\$4 per person—*must be paid upon reservation (children under 1 admitted free)*
Please make checks payable to FRCSCV.

Tour includes a bag with 2 apples and the chance to pick 1 apple from a tree, a tour of the packing facility and cider room, a wagon ride tour of the orchard, apple cider sampling, and a children's maze to go through after the tour. There are no picnic tables, but feel free to bring a blanket and bag lunch for after the tour.



FRCSCV's Grandchildren Honor Roll



Grandparents	honoring their Grandchildren
Chuck and Mary Sue Ash of Hudson, WI	Christian and Charlie Ash of Fridley, MN Elizabeth and Gracie Strandberg of Duluth, MN
Denny and Mary Handrahan of Glenwood City, WI	Owen and Gavin Cassellius of Roberts, WI Alex, Joe, and Mikaela Handrahan of Chisago City, MN
Melvin and Vivianna Hanson of Downing, Wisconsin	Bridget Draxler, Iowa City, IA Breanna Draxler, Nantes, France Brooke Draxler, Decorah, IA Trish Meyers, Madison, WI Christopher Hanson, New Richmond, WI Rhonda Rassbach, Downing, WI Bo Standaert, Downing, WI Treena Bonte, Whitewater, WI Tara Bonte, Menomonie, WI <i>And Great Grandchildren</i> Izabella and Peyton Rassbach, Downing, WI
John and Carol 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
Lou and Kathleen Williamson of Amery, Wisconsin	Hans Peter Williamson, Amery, 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.

FRCSCV 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 FRCSCV, 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

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Help us With Our Wish List

The Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley is always in need of the following items to continue our work with families:

- Monetary donations
- Tissues
- Wet Wipes
- Copy Paper
- Card Stock
- Stamps
- Nutritious Snacks
- Garbage Bags (13-gallon)
- Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins
- Plates, Plastic Tableware
- Current Parenting Books
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Puzzles
- 100% Juice
- Gas Cards
- Diapers (all sizes)
- Dress-up Clothes
- Scrapbooking Supplies

While we try to find a use for all donated items, we may sometimes give them to other local charitable organizations.

**Baby & Me
Classes**
\$800 – \$1,000
per 10 week
session!

**Play & Learn
Groups** \$6,000
– \$8,000 per
group per year!

Home Visits
\$1,600 per
family per
year!

Have You Visited Us Online?

Check out our website,
www.frcscv.org, for our entire

- schedule of programs and events
- newsletter archives and other resources
- online giving

Donate Online Today

We receive no direct state or federal funding, so we rely on your help to maintain our free services. Help us support local families by giving online today.

