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PACE Approved!

Check out these websites
for early learning
resources:

- www.uwma.org
- www.preschoolfirst.com
- www.autism-society.org
- www.nccp.org
- www.nectac.org
- www.nieer.org
- www.gafcp.org

Inside this issue:

Month of the Young Child	1
From SPARK to PACE	1–2
PACE News & Need to Know	2
Family Literacy Activity: Buenas Noches Luna	2
Parent Pullout: Activities for families (English & Spanish)	Insert
Calendars of PACE Activities	3
Hub Contact Information	4
Tips for Parents: Teaching Values	4

Partners Advancing Childhood Education (PACE) 2011 Newsletter

Month of the Young Child



In 1971, the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) established one week in April to be celebrated nationally as Week of the Young Child. Since then, most states have expanded the celebration to last the entire month. MOYC is a time for child advocates to encourage individuals and communities to recognize the rights and needs of young children and their families.

Communities around the nation hold their own tailored events to promote early learning activities during this celebratory month. In 2010, several Gwinnett community organizations (in partnership with United Way) hosted a free Family Festival for all residents of the county. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness for children and their families in the focus areas of income, health and education.

In Georgia, supporters display yellow ribbons signifying children as Georgia's "Ray of Hope" and each year, the Governor, signs a proclamation stating April as the month of the young child.

For more information or to view a calendar of MOYC events in Georgia, visit the Georgia Association of Young Children (GAYC) website at www.gayconline.org.

From SPARK to PACE

SPARK Georgia, a United Way school readiness program funded through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, is now PACE (Partners Advancing Childhood Education).

PACE, formerly known as *Early Learning Community Based Partnerships*, is funded through the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta and provides technical assistance and resources to 7 of

the 13 metro counties to address the early learning needs of young children by implementing a parent engagement and school transition program model, coordinating services and advocating for policy and systems change.

The foundation for PACE is SPARK (Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids). Through SPARK, United Way developed highly-focused partnerships and

strategies to help children in DeKalb and Gwinnett counties to improve school readiness skills and smoothly transition into kindergarten relying heavily on the research and best practices of the Ready Child Equation conducted by the National School Readiness Indicators Initiative.

(Continued on page 2)

From SPARK to PACE (continued)



These efforts have resulted in the following:

1. increased parent participation and leadership in early education and schools
2. increased parental awareness of child developmental stages and improved parenting practices and
3. the creation of School Readiness Councils and KinderCamps to generate dialogue between childcare providers and elementary schools and to familiarize children and families with the transition to Kindergarten.

The SPARK model serves as a roadmap for the PACE initiative and through community hubs, community hub coordinators work with parents, community leaders, schools, early learning centers and various partners to support early learning for children birth – 5.



PACE News & Need to Know

We're almost at the end of the year! Time flies when you're having fun!!

End of Year & Financial Reports Due:

May 31, 2011 (*budget and narrative reports*)

Upcoming PACE Events:

April 15th—16th—Language & Literacy Symposium
(Loudermilk Center & Zoo Atlanta)

May 23rd—25th—Grant Writing Training

Parent Leadership Institute (Fulton County Hub Site Only):

April 21st—Parent Leadership Institute Day 5

May 17th—Parent Leadership Institute Day 6

National Early Childhood Conferences:

May 2-5—National Smart Start Conference (*Greensboro, NC*)

May 16-18—National Early Childhood Inclusion Institute (*Chapel Hill, NC*)

June 20—23—Annual Birth to Three Institute (*Washington, DC*)

Welcome Aboard!

The PACE team welcomes Kysa Daniels & Paige Edeburn, PACE Program Managers for Rockdale & Coweta

Family Literacy Activity—Buenas Noches Luna

Families from the Mobile Home Park in Norcross, GA are active in their children's education. The families recently read the book, "Good Night Moon—Buenas Noches Luna" by Margaret Wise Brown and asked the children various questions about the book and asked the children to make the sounds of the animals in the story. Afterwards, the families decorated foam bedroom door hangers with their names, shapes and letters. This activity helped strengthen the children's beginning writing, print knowledge and oral language skills while spending quality time together.

~ Soledad Ruiz, Parent Educator



PACE Events for April 2011

Did you know?
April is National Child
Abuse Prevention
Month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 PAT Group Mtg (4-5:30)	2
3	4	5	6 Play & Learn	7 Play & Learn	8	9 MOYC Gwinnett Taste the World Fund-raiser
10	11 Pre-School Story Time (Nancy Guinn Library 3:30p-4:15p); Ice Cream Social	12 Imagine it! Museum Trip; Story Telling Day (Rockdale Head Start); Family Game Nite (4:30p-6p at Gov. Complex)	13 Play & Learn; Baby Time (N. Guinn Library 10:30-11:15); Wonderful Wednesday (FEC at 10:30); Favorite book day	14 Play & Learn; Kindergarten Orientation at each elementary school (6:30p); PreSchool-PreK Orientation	15 Hands on Literacy Parade (10 am); Parent Leadership Mtg; All Pro Dad Meeting Symposium	16 Family Festival (Norcross Human Cnt.)
17	18	19 Mama Koku (FEC at 10am)	20 Play & Learn	21 Parent Leadership Institute (8-2:30) Play & Learn Parent Leadership Mtg (8:30-9:30 & 5-6)	22 Fabulous Friday Play Group (FEC at 10:30am)	23
24	25 Parent Café	26 Parent Café (FEC 6pm-8pm) Week of Celebration	27 PreK Orientation-Transition Mtg (8:30-9:30)	28 All Pro Dad Mtg (5-6) Play & Learn	29 New Books for PAT; Kinder Transition Walk	30 Dia Del Nino

PACE Events for May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Play and Learn	5 Play and Learn	6 PAT Large Group Mtg. (4-5:30)	7
8	9	10 PAT Morning Café (8am)	11 Play and Learn	12 Child Safety: Buckle Up Properly! Play and Learn	13	14
15	16 Parent Café	17 PAT Small Group Mtg (9am)	18 Play and Learn	19 Parent Leadership Institute (8-2:30); Parent Leadership Mtg. (8:30 & 5); Play & Learn	20	21
22	23 Fun with Science: Science Projects Grant Writing Training	24	25 Transition Mtg & Morning Café (9am); 2 nd Transition Mtg (4pm) Play and Learn	26 All Pro Dad Mtg 5pm; Play and Learn	27	28
29	30	31				

Did you know?
1% of all children in the US ages 3-17 have an autism spectrum disorder
(National Children's Health Survey)

PACE

Smart Start Education/UWMA
100 Edgewood Avenue, NE Suite 515
Atlanta, Georgia 30303



Hub Sites by County:

Butts County

Butts County Public Schools

Cobb County

Communities in Schools/ACT
Franklin Road Weed and Seed

DeKalb County

Scottdale Child Development Center
Refugee Family Services

Fulton County

Annie E. Casey Atlanta Civic Site

Gwinnett County

Families First

Rockdale County

Rockdale County Public Schools

Addressed To:

We're on the Web!

www.smartstartga.org

FAST FACT:

What is appropriate in one family or culture may not be acceptable in another.

(excerpted from *Young Children* - January 2011)

Tips for Parents: Teaching Values

Even though different cultures have different values, societies consider some traits to be the most important. Below are ways to promote specific values in your child.

- **CARING**—point out different ways your child shows he/she cares about others, compliment him/her on their behavior and explain how their actions benefits others.
- **COOPERATION**—let your child see that chores or activities move faster when people work together. Do things as a family and explain how each person is important in completing a task.
- **COURAGE**—give your child chances to express his/her fears. Talk with your child about his/her fears so they become less frightening. When you see your child experiencing fear with something (spiders, dogs) help him think of a way to show his bravery.
- **HONESTY**—talk with your child about why it is important to be honest. Explain that it is important to build up honesty so he/she can be trusted by others. Try not to over react when your child lies or steals. Instead, stay calm and insist that he/she takes responsibilities for his/her actions. Teach him/her that there are consequences for his/her actions and it is his/her responsibility to apologize or make reparations.
- **RESPECT**—in order to gain respect you must give respect. Treat your child and others with respect, listen to their ideas, try their suggestions, give him/her choices, and include them in event planning. Try to trust to their opinion and build their self confidence. Try not to speak disrespectfully and try to reserve your criticism of others in front of your child.
- **RESPONSIBILITY**—Encourage your child to do his/her part around the house. Remind him/her that their efforts are important and appreciated. Model responsibility daily and your child will understand when you explain what you are doing and why.

(adapted from PAT
Born to Learn Curriculum 3-K)

Common Values in Society:
Caring, Cooperation, Courage,
Honesty, Respect &
Responsibility.