

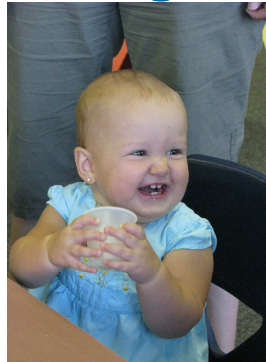


P.A.T.'s Littlest Brickies

We Keep Growing and Growing...

By: Lynne Stark; P.A.T. Coordinator

I have 3 children and in our house the number one rule is "No growing!" I tell my children I want to keep them small forever. My youngest son frequently tells me "Hey Mama, I grew!" The truth is, as much fun as the game is in our house, I love being there to watch every milestone my children reach. I love the new and exciting challenges we face each day. I feel the same way about the P.A.T. program.



I love to think about how we have grown over the past 6 months. In my last newsletter, in June, I was proud to say that we had 18 families. Since then, we have grown to 104 families with a total of 132 children! That says a lot about our Hobart families! I am so pleased that so many families are willing to be part of our program to help their children be the best that they can be.

Our playgroups have also been successful! The "Messy Play" playgroup in August was so much fun! We had 50 children and caregivers and lots of messy fun including shaving cream, pudding paint, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, playdough and a pool full of water.

In September we held 2 safety playgroups. We held our first one for our 0-3 kids at Ridgeview Elementary. Our very little Brickies crawled through tubes to get to safety as well as making safety kits, hearing a story from our home school coordinator, Charlene Zager and learning some safety tips from Officer Burney. Our 3-5 kids met the next afternoon at Hobart High School. They too made safety kits, and crawled through tunnels. They also got to participate in a puppet show done by Sherry Finnerty, our home school coordinator and had safety cards created by Officer Grennes. As always, each family received a story book to keep and add to their home library. Several tips were shared with parents on how to most effectively ask their child questions and promote creative play.

In October we are planning our Harvest Fun playgroup. We will take a closer look at how nature is changing. It is truly amazing! In this crazy, fast paced world I think that this is something we can all benefit from doing.

We have big plans for P.A.T. over the next few months. With a long waiting list to receive home visits we are working on ways to best share information with all families as well as securing more funding to keep up with our growth. The response we have received from Hobart residents is proof of the need for this program. We will continue to seek out grants and sponsors to keep our free program moving forward. The possibilities are endless! That being said, we can't forget how we got here! Take a look at our list of supporters. The great success that we have had wouldn't be possible without them!

School City of Hobart
Parents as Teachers

Issue 2

Fall 2009

Our Supporters:

- ☺ Legacy Foundation
- ☺ Main Source Bank
- ☺ St. Mary's Hospital
- ☺ Tri Kappa
- ☺ Hobart Educational Foundation
- ☺ Hobart Community Fund
- ☺ Lake Park Subway
- ☺ Liberty PTO
- ☺ Joan Martin School Store
- ☺ Tom and Denise Galovic
- ☺ PIRC Grant
- ☺ Title 1 Grant
- ☺ Indiana Youth Institute Grant
- ☺ IDOE Early Learning Literacy Grant
- ☺ Local Philanthropist

Do you like the name of our newsletter?

Thank you to all of you who submitted ideas! We had a hard time choosing!

Congratulations to our P.A.T. family winner:

Ashley Hornak

She will be receiving 2 free Subway sandwiches!



High School Students Are Up for the Challenge

There was a lot involved to get ready for Parents as Teachers. Since we provide families with specific activities based on their child's developmental level, there was a lot to do before we could start seeing families. As a matter of fact, there were 144 bags of activities to prepare, and over 400 different informational handouts to copy. Our families wanted to start their home visits and so did we.

Relief came about a month ago when three Hobart High School students volunteered to come and help us prepare for the program instead of going to study hall. Salena, Shante and Erica agreed to be our Teacher's Assistants throughout the semester. I am not sure that they knew what they were getting themselves into! There was a lot of work to be done and we didn't have any time to waste!

During their time, they make games for us, organize materials and help us prepare for our playgroups. They do have fun too! The common phrase I hear buzzing around the room is "I remember that!!"

Who knows... maybe we have some future educators in these three! Although I can only pay them with an occasional cookie or piece of candy, I want them to know how much we appreciate all of their help and the difference that they have made in the life of a developing child!



Important DATE!

Parent Educators research your child's specific age before each home visit. We want to be sure that you are getting all of the developmental information to meet the needs of your child. You can help by:

1. Being there for your scheduled appointments.
2. Being involved in the activity presented.
3. If you need to cancel, give your PE plenty of notice and reschedule as soon as possible.

Developmental Screenings

One of the components of the P.A.T. program is developmental screenings. We conduct these screenings at different ages throughout the P.A.T. program.

There are several reasons for doing these screenings. First, research shows that children who have identified developmental delays at an early age have a much higher chance of correcting those problems and avoiding school issues down the road.

We also conduct functional vision and hearing screenings. We are not doc-

tors, but can teach you how to look for signs of problems in your children. If a child is not hearing well at a young age, it affects their overall language development.

In the next 3 months, all of the Lake County P.A.T. sites will work together to provide a complete developmental screening called "The Dial" for children ages 3-5. We are asking that each of our P.A.T. families with a preschool aged child attend one of these free events. This screening is much more thorough than the ones we can

do in the home. It is a fun event for the kids, and will give you a clear picture of their overall developmental skills. The event takes about 1 hour and will be held in the following locations:

Crown Point- Oct. 22nd 9:00-3:00

Hammond- Nov. 16th 9:00-3:00

Lake Station- Dec. 10th 9:00-3:00

Mark your calendars for the event that works best for you. More information on exact locations will be coming in the next few weeks.

Joan Martin School Store

What a wonderful surprise it was to go to my mailbox and find a letter from the Joan Martin School Store workers along with a check for \$250. The children that run this store decide what cause they would like to donate their profits to. This time, they chose Parents as Teachers! In the letter that they sent me, they

wrote a note that said "We hope you can use this to help the little kids in Hobart."

18 students signed the card. How great it is to know that even our young school aged children know how important it is for our little ones to participate in P.A.T.

Our program, along with all of the little kids that are part of it would like to thank you for your generosity and for helping our littlest Brickies to be the best learners that they can be!



A message from Miss Rhi

It has been really busy over here at Ridge View! I have settled into my room and have already visited many of my families. I get so excited sharing the developmental activities and information for the families that I have seen. I know that the families are learning a lot because every time I prepare for a visit I learn something new and I can't wait to get to the visit to share the information. I have already seen results from our program! A one-month-old baby was having trouble sleeping. The mother and I discussed on our first visit how rhymes and songs could affect a child's mood. On our second visit the mother said that she now had a routine for bedtime that included a bath, a book and then some calming lullabies. She said that now she is able to lay the child in the crib and she falls asleep by herself. How exciting for the family to already be teaching their child at one month old. What a success!! I look forward to bringing many successes to our PAT families. I am based out of Ridge View Elementary School in room 13. Feel free to stop by if you are at the school. You can also email me at rrobertson@hobart.k12.in.us or call me anytime at (219) 942-5614 ext.8846.

A message from Miss Laura

Our P.A.T. program is under way and I have really enjoyed getting to know our great P.A.T. families while going to personal visits and playgroups. Recently I went to a personal visit where I was warned by the Mom that her daughter kept to herself and didn't talk to other people, and she was worried that her daughter wouldn't interact with me. After years of teaching preschool, I had a few tricks up my sleeve to encourage children to open up and feel comfortable. By the end of the visit, the little girl had chatted my ear off, brought out every doll and toy, and was disappointed that I couldn't stay and play "cat chase" with her. We all had an absolutely wonderful personal visit. Two days later, I received a beautiful thank you card from the Mom and her daughter simply saying "Thank you for bringing toys and playing". That card is very special to me and I have it proudly displayed on my desk. I am based out of George Earle Elementary School, but I service families from all over Hobart. I am in the Library Service Center Room 14A. You can email me at lkovats@hobart.k12.in.us or call me anytime at (219) 942-7263 ext. 8628. I hope to hear from you soon!

A message from Miss Tomi

Hi! Things have been very busy here at Liberty, I have been setting up my office and contacting families. Not only am I helping our Liberty families but I am also helping some of our Joan Martin families along with the other Parent Educators. How lucky am I that I get to go to work and play! During our personal visits that is exactly what we do, along with reading together and learning specific, timely information about your child's development. I have gone on several first visits and have enjoyed getting know the children and their parents. During a visit, a boy got all of his toy friends, some blankets, and crawled into my lap so that I could read to them all! That is just one of the many wonderful things I get to experience while I'm visiting these great families. I am so excited to have this opportunity to work with the young children of Hobart and provide information, support, and encouragement to their parents! Together we can help them reach their best potential!

I can be contacted at Liberty Elementary 942-4251 ext: 8786 or by e-mail at twright2hobart.k12.in.us



September

Mia
Caitlyn
Kacey
Connor

Madelyn
Cadence
Isaac

Thomas
Madelyn
Owen
Amanda

October

Miracle
Joshua
Aiden
Gabriella

Chyan
Maceo
Daniella

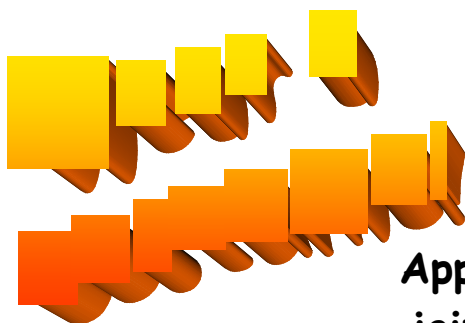
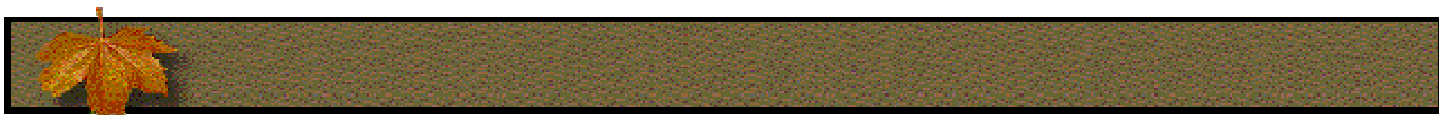
November

Jaylen
Samantha
Chandler
Nico
Carly

Andrew
Ashton
Tyler
Nathan
Darnell

Aiden
Olivia
Lily
Ruben
Zachary

School City of Hobart Parents as Teachers
2211 East 10th Street
Hobart, IN 46342



October playgroup:

Harvest Fun



Apples, pumpkins and leaves...Oh my! Come and join us as we celebrate the change of seasons!

Choose the playgroup that works best for your family!

Ages 3-Kindergarten entry

Ages 0-3

October 13, 2009

October 14, 2009

9:30 AM at Ridgeview Elementary

4:30 PM at Hobart High School

(Please bring your drivers license if this is your first playgroup at this school)

(Enter through door number 1. We will be there to greet you and guide you to the room)



Please RSVP by October 8th to Lynne Stark 942-8521 x8192 or lstark@hobart.k12.in.us

Please provide the following info:

1. Caregiver's and child(ren)'s names
2. Child's age
3. Which playgroup you are attending