



WATERTOWN FAMILY NETWORK



Helping people be the best parents they can be

FALL 2006

Fundraiser Date Set

Plans are underway for our annual Family Fundraiser on November 4th at the First Parish Unitarian Church, 35 Church Street from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. This family friendly event will feature crafts for the children, refreshments, a silent auction, grab bags and a musical performance by Parent Choice Award, Winner Fran Friedman at 10:30 am. Cost will be minimal for families and will provide the Watertown Family Network with much needed funds to run its many programs. We need volunteers and donations for our Silent Auction table. If you can help out in any way please give us a call at 617-926-1661. Please circle the date (November 4th) on your calendar for a fun day for families.

Parent Advisory Board Needs YOU!

Come September the Parent Advisory Board will meet on 9/20, 10/18, 11/15 at the Center from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm. This is a wonderful way for you to become involved with the Network and let your voice be heard. It is not an overwhelming time commitment and you will act as a liaison to the general Watertown community. We need your ideas and input. If you are interested please feel free to come to the first meeting or to tell Cheryl or Arlene.

DeeDee

New Spanish Speaking Playgroup Starts on September 14th

Do you and/or your partner speak Spanish ?? Would you like your child's bilingual experience to continue outside of the home? Then consider joining the Spanish speaking playgroup that will meet at the Network on Thursdays at 3:30 pm. WFN mom Suni Ferrer has volunteered her services to facilitate this group. Feel free to drop in to converse in Spanish and enjoy a song and/or poem or two with your child.

Help WFN and WPL Kick Off the Fall with our Fitness Fair

Once again we will be offering a Fitness Fair especially for families with children preschool age and under. This event will be held on Saturday, September 16th (raindate September 23rd) from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on the grounds of the Phillips Congregational Church, 111 Mt. Auburn Street. We will again have our popular bouncy ball pit geared especially for young children, information on healthy lifestyles and representatives from the YMCA, WIC, Gymboree etc, A "Tot Walk Around the Block" at 11:00 am with prizes for all children participating and a Teddy Bear Clinic where you can have a check-up for your favorite stuffed animal and receive a "get well boo-boo kit". Plan on stopping by to make strides for a healthy lifestyle for you and your family.

Is It Just Play ???

What is it about Cheryl and Arlene ? Do they just like to play all day?? Is that why they are always around the sand table or setting up the trains ? Just why is it that they do what they do?

The Watertown Family Network is run with BOTH parents/caregivers AND children in mind. When you enter the Center for a playgroup you come into a preschool environment that has activities set up with a child's development in mind. You will find blocks that develop mathematical skills, pound-on toys that exemplify cause and effect, and art materials that stretch imagination. Each activity is set up to engage the child and expand his/her horizons. Snack is offered as a social experience for the child. Often times it is amazing to watch twelve or fifteen children all sitting quietly with a placemat in front of them enjoying juice and crackers. Circle time is offered to foster early literacy skills. The beat of music is actually the beat of language. During Circle Time children absorb and enjoy simple songs. A tunnel or wooden boat is placed in the Center to strengthen and exercise a child's large muscles. This one hour "Slice of Preschool" is actually a great introduction to what the child will meet in preschool or daycare. It is a preparation for what is to come in a more structured educational system.

Now for the parents. Playgroups offer parent and child some quality one-on-one time together. Many times parents have mentioned how much they enjoy the arts and crafts activities and how they store the directions for those projects away for a rainy day so they can duplicate the activity. Circle time offers parents the repetition of simple familiar song and introduces some new ones to their repertoire. These songs can be used on car rides to make the time

together more palatable for all. Circle time also gives parents confidence to sing to their children. There is not a more important voice to a child than that of its parent. AND most importantly playgroups and activities at the Network give parents the opportunity to form supportive friendships that help to alleviate the isolation and sometimes frustration of raising a young child. A happy confident parent faces the challenges of parenting in a better frame of mind. That is why Cheryl and Arlene do what they do.

Sign –Up for Playgroups

Watertown Family Network offers 14 playgroups during the week for children under the age of four. This is a great social and educational experience for children. Please do check out our website or pick up the playgroup flyer at the Network and sign up your child. The weather will soon be turning chilly and the Network provides stimulation for children and socialization for parents/caregivers.