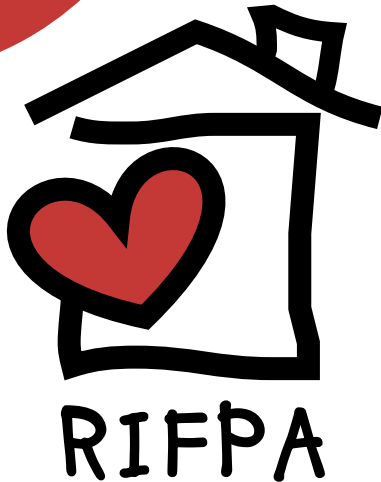


fostering FUTURES

Rhode Island Foster Parents Association

No. 5 • Issue 6 • June 2006



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Read All About It!

Summer Reading Tips for Parents

Summer shouldn't mean taking a break from learning, especially reading. Studies show that most students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months, but children who continue to read actually gain skills. Efforts should be made to help children sustain reading skills, practice reading and read for enjoyment.

Reading builds visualization, thinking and language abilities. Taking the time to read with your child can help you evaluate your child's reading skills. If you discover that your child is having trouble with reading, he or she may have a learning disability. 80% of children with a learning disability have difficulty with basic reading and language. But early identification gives a child the chance to develop ways to learn how to read effectively, and skills to lead a successful and productive life. A recent National Institutes of Health study showed that 67% of young students at risk for reading difficulties became average or above average readers after receiving help in the early grades.

Parents should remember that children need free time in the summer to relax and enjoy the pleasures of childhood. So summer reading should be fun. Turn to page 3 for ten tips to make reading enjoyable for your children this summer. Plus, don't miss our feature on the statewide Summer Reading Program- "Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales"- check out page 4 for details. Enjoy!

Dr. Day Care

Dear Dr Day Care,

Now that school is coming to an end, I have full time day care needs for my three children. During the school year I arrange my work schedule to be the same hours as my children's school hours; however I need full time care for my children during the summer months.

Day cares and camps are very expensive for three children, it crushes my budget. Sometimes, after extra expenses are added to the weekly fee such as field trips, food expenses and activity fees, the payment is more than I bring home! I was thinking about paying my 13 year old, who is very responsible, to care for my 7 and 8 year olds. What are your thoughts on this matter, Dr. Day Care?

Signed ,
My Three Sons

Dear My Three Sons,

There is no law in RI that states the age you can leave your child home alone to care for siblings or other children. It is at the discretion of the parent to evaluate the youth's child care ability and experience to care for children.

Some examples of ability to care for children on a full day basis include: does the teen have knowledge of child development, know what to do in case of emergency, have they taken a babysitting course, can they operate a stove and can they keep the children safe?

However most young teens are not developmentally ready to care for younger children on a full day basis. That is a huge responsibility to bestow on a sibling. Also it takes time away from the young teen's summer fun. I certainly understand your budget constraints.

I suggest the following ideas to assist you: contact day cares/camps and ask for a sibling discount, check to see if you can pay for care for only the weeks you attend and if the program offers breakfast, lunch, nutritious snacks and field trips as part of their payment plan. Some camp programs offer scholarships as well as extended payment plans.

Ask other families in the community if they want to care share. You care for their children and they reciprocate by caring for your children. Check with relatives such as grandparents; ask if they can assist you in your summer care needs. Grandparents sometimes would love to care for their grandkids on a part time basis. It gives them quality time with their grandchildren. It is very important to keep in mind that children need consistency and they need know what to expect, so I suggest you let them assist you in planning their summer care.

Dr. Day care is actually Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, Ed.D. You can contact her with your child care questions at 401-723-2277 ext. 222 or email at drdaycare@kidsklubri.com

Casey Family Services Presents:

8th Annual

Parenting the Challenging Child Summer Symposium

This is a two part educational program. Both sessions are FREE and open to adoptive families, pre-adoptive families, and foster parents who are considering adoption. You may attend one or both sessions.

Session I:

**Special Education: Understanding
the Law In Order to Better Help Your Child**
Thursday August 17th 6:00 PM. – 9:00 PM.

Session II:

**Children and Their
Learning Styles: Understanding
and Remediating Learning Disabilities**
Thursday August 24th 6:00 PM. – 9:00 PM.

Where:

Casey Family Services,
1268 Eddy Street, Providence

A buffet dinner will be served at 5:45p.m.
Space is limited, so call or e-mail Raquel to make
a reservation 401-781-3669 or
rcirino@caseyfamilyservices.org

Donations Wanted

Is cleaning out your attic, basement or garage on your to-do list this summer? Your gently used baby gear is welcome for our Cribs, Beds & Clothing Donation Exchange Program. We are in need of cribs, beds, safety gates, high chairs, car seats, and changing tables. We also need more baby and toddler clothing. No teen fashions please....we have plenty! To donate in-kind items to this program, please contact the Association at (401) 438-3900. Please help us keep on helping our community.

10 Tips To Make Summer Reading Fun

1. **Read aloud together with your child every day.**
Make it fun by reading outdoors on the front steps, patio, at the beach or park. Also, let your children read to you. For younger children, point out the relationship between words and sounds.
2. **Set a good example!**
Parents must be willing to model behavior for their children. Keep lots of reading material around the house. Turn off the TV and have each person read his or her book, including mom and dad.
3. **Read the same book your child is reading and discuss it.**
This is the way to develop habits of the mind and build capacity for thought and insight.
4. **Let kids choose what they want to read, and don't turn your nose up at popular fiction.**
It will only discourage the reading habit.
5. **Buy books on tape, especially for a child with a learning disability.**
Listen to them in the car, or turn off the TV and have the family listen to them together.
6. **Take your children to the library regularly.**
Most libraries sponsor summer reading clubs with easy-to-reach goals for preschool and school-age children. Check out page 4 of this issue for a sampling of summer reading activities and events. Libraries also provide age appropriate lists for summer reading.
7. **Subscribe, in your child's name, to magazines like Sports Illustrated for Kids, Highlights for Children, or National Geographic World.**
Encourage older children to read the newspaper and current events magazines, to keep up the reading habit over the summer and develop vocabulary. Ask them what they think about what they've read, and listen to what they say.
8. **Ease disappointment over summer separation from a favorite school friend by encouraging them to become pen pals.**
Present both children with postcards or envelopes that are already addressed and stamped. If both children have access to the Internet, email is another option.
9. **Make trips a way to encourage reading by reading aloud traffic signs, billboards, and notices.**
Show your children how to read a map, and once you are on the road, let them take turns being the navigator.
10. **Encourage children to keep a summer scrapbook.**
Tape in souvenirs of your family's summer activities, picture postcards, ticket stubs, photos. Have your children write the captions and read them aloud as you look at the book together.

Cover article and "10 Tips" reprinted from the Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities at www.focusonlearning.org. A free 12-page brochure on learning disabilities is available by calling 888-GR8-MIND or contacting cclinfo@ccmc.org.

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Julie DiBari

Mentor Coordinator

Leslie Carpenter-Vargas

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Linda Fournier

Phone 401.438.3900

Fax 401.438.3901

Email rifpa.org@verizon.net

Paws, Claws, Scales & Tales Statewide Summer Reading Program

Grab your dog by the paws, or your crab by her claws. Bring your snake with his scales, or all your pets with their tails. Head to your local public library for the summer reading program: "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales."

Kids can track their reading with fun pawprint stickers featuring the whimsical artwork of David Shannon. As kids read, they will earn coupons for free or reduced admissions to places like Green Animals, the topiary garden in Portsmouth. There will be 300 shows and workshops around the state, featuring crafts, storytellers, and – of course – animals! Also, you will find some great programs and workshops for teens.

In addition to the Summer Reading Program most libraries have a fun-filled calendar of wonderful activities for kids of all ages like story hours, reading clubs, arts & crafts, web-blogs, museum passes and more!

Beat the heat this summer and don't miss the fun. Here are just a few reasons why you should make outings to the library part of your summer plans:

Barrington Library

281 County Road

401-247-1920

www.barringtonlibrary.org

Creative Writing Workshop for Teens

Teens interested in writing over the summer are invited to register for a Creative Writing Workshop led by local college student Mitzi Chandler. This workshop will provide time to share your story ideas and offer new creative writing exercises and techniques. Students ages 11-14 meet on Mondays from 7:00 –8:00 PM, July 11th - August 1st. Students ages 14-18 meet on Wednesdays from 7:00 – 8:00 PM July 13th - August 3rd.

Registration is required!

Please call 401-247-1920 x2

Book Arts Workshop for Teens

Learn how to make your own sketchbooks, diaries, scrapbooks, and more. Create handmade books to hold your writings, poems, photos, and keepsakes, and one-of-a-kind books for your friends and family. Explore your ideas using a variety of techniques and materials, including decorative papers, found objects, old dictionaries, paint, collage, and more. No experience necessary!

Session I: July 18-21 from 9:30-11:30 AM.

Session II: August 15-18 from 9:30-11:30 AM.

This program is free and open to students entering grades 6 and up.

Contact: Bri Johnson

401-247-1920 x310 or bri@barringtonlibrary.org

Warwick Library

600 Sandy Lane

401-739-5440

<http://wpl.lib.ri.us/>

Preschool Storytime

30 minutes of stories, songs, and activities for 3 year olds. The children attend this storytime by themselves. Parents/caregivers should remain in the Children's Library. Thursdays from 9:45 -10:15AM.

Preschool Storytime

30 minutes of stories, songs, and activities for 4 and 5 year olds. The children attend this storytime by themselves. Parents/caregivers should remain in the Children's Library. Thursdays from 10:30-11:00 AM.

Babies and Books

Stories, rhymes and songs for the youngest listeners (from birth to age 2) and a parent or caregiver. This session ends with toys and time for parents and kids to play and visit. 9:30- 10:30 AM on Fridays. 11:00 –11:30 AM on Wednesdays.

Bedtime Stories

Stories, songs and fun for children ages 3 - 8 with a parent. Wednesdays from 7-7:45 PM.

Stories for 6 - 9 year olds

Stories, games and crafts for children who have completed grades K through 3. Summer session starts Thursday, June 29 from 10:00-11:00AM.

Teen Advisory Council

Weekly meeting of the Teen Advisory Council. New members (grades 7-12) welcome. Meets on Tuesdays from 3:30 – 4:30PM. Contact: Children's Library 739-5440 or paulaan@lori.state.ri.us.

Mount Pleasant Branch Library

315 Academy Avenue
401-455-8105
www.provlib.org

Manga and Graphic novel Club

Love comics and manga? Join this new club and check out our new graphic novel collection. Grades 6 and up. Meets the first Thursday of every month, 4:00 - 4:45 PM.

Preschool Storytime

Ages 3-5. Meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM.

Jammy Jamboree

Ages 3-5. Enjoy bedtime stories in the comfort of your jammies. Tuesdays at 6:30.

Cradles to Crayons

Story program for children and caregivers. Focus on early literacy for ages 1-3. Begins in late June. Call for more details.

Whiz Kids

Computer summer camp program. Dates TBD. Call Gloria Church at 455-8062 for more information.

Cuentos Bilingues

Bi-lingual storytime for children ages 6-9. Meets Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM.

Westerly Library

44 Broad Street
401-596-2877
www.westerlylibrary.org

Wonderful Wednesdays

Entertainment program for kids ages 4 and up. Held Wednesday mornings from 10:00 - 11:00 AM.

Storytimes

Various morning storytimes and craft activities held daily. Please contact the library for details.



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Cumberland Library

1464 Diamond Hill Road
401-333-2552
www.cumberlandlibrary.org

Sleepytime Storytime

A drop-in storytime for ages 3-6, with 30 minutes of stories and songs to wind down the day. This is ideal for children whose parents work during the day. Children may wear their pajamas and bring their favorite stuffed animal. No registration is required. Held on Mondays (June 26 through August 7) from 6:45 to 7:15 PM.

Storytime under the Trees

Held on Wednesdays (June 28 through August 9), from 9:30-10:15 AM. This is a drop-in storytime for children ages 3-6. No registration is required. Children meet at the Gazebo behind the Library. In case of rain, storytime will be held inside the Library.

Toddler Storytime

Held on Thursdays from 9:30-10:00 AM with a second session from 10:30-11:00 AM (June 29 through August 10). 30 minutes of thematic stories, fingerplays, music and a craft for two-year olds. Children must be accompanied by a familiar adult who is willing to participate with the child. Registration will be held in the Children's Room beginning Monday, June 19, and will end on Saturday, June 24, 2006.

Lapsit Storytime

(Birth-24 months) Held on the following Fridays: June 30, July 14, July 28, and August 11, 2006, from 9:30-10:00 AM with a second session from 10:30-11:00 AM. 30 minutes of thematic stories, music and play. Siblings are welcome to attend. Registration will be held in the Children's Room beginning Monday, June 19 and will end on Saturday, June 24, 2006.

Animal Care Program

Children ages 4-12 are invited to join us for a fascinating program hosted by Paul Rose, Director of the Cumberland Animal Control Department. This program is a wonderful opportunity to meet some amazing reptiles, insects, small animals and, of course, some surprises! Children will also learn how to care for and protect our animal friends from the many dangers they face. This program will be held on Monday, July 10, 2006 from 10:00-10:45 AM. Registration will be held in the Children's Room beginning Monday, July 3.

Little Critters Picnic Storytime

Picnic Storytime for Monday, July 24, 2006 at 11:30 AM -12:15 PM. This fun event is for children ages 3-8 and their parents/guardians. Join Ms. Chantal on Library grounds as she reads fun Critter Stories. Families are invited to bring a picnic lunch. The rain date for this event is Monday, July 31, 2006. No registration is required.

*Please bring your CLAN library card when registering for all programs.
Preference will be given to children who reside in Cumberland.*

Oh What A Night!

DCYF Appreciation Dinner - A Great Success



NBC10's Margie O'Brien entertains the audience with a humorous story about her very bad day.

On Thursday, May 4th, over 600 foster families, DCYF staff and community providers attended the 19th Annual Foster Parents Appreciation Dinner. The evening was organized by the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association and was held for the first time at the Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston. NBC10's anchor-woman Margie O'Brien served as our emcee, entertaining the crowd with a recap of her "very bad day", noting that she was with an audience that could understand and appreciate the challenges of being a parent. DCYF's Director Patricia Martinez delivered a greeting on behalf of the Governor as she addressed the audience and presented gubernatorial proclamations to this year's award recipients.

The John H. Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care was presented to Vickie Smith. Vickie, a relative foster parent and soon-to-be adoptive mom for her three nephews, was selected for her outstanding dedication to the concurrent planning process. This year's Leslie Vargas Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to long-time foster and adoptive parents Paul and Pat Lengyel. In a touching speech, Paul recognized his children for unselfishly sharing their house, their possessions and their parents with the children placed in their home over the last twenty years. The Association's award for DCYF Worker of the Year was presented to Tamara Martone. Tammy is a constant and devoted advocate for children with developmental disabilities who are in state care. Finally, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, an innovative statewide leader in responding to the unique needs



DCYF Director Patricia Martinez thanks foster parents for their hard work and dedication.



Jackie Dowdy, RIFPA Vice President and foster parent, addresses the audience.



Vickie Smith shows off her Chafee Award for Excellence in Foster Care and Proclamation from Governor Carcieri.

of both the children in foster care and the families who support them, was presented with the RIFPA Award of Excellence. Mark Reynolds, Chief Executive Officer, accepted this award on behalf of Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island.

As soon as the speaking program concluded, guests mingled and visited food stations with a "Country Western" theme. (The menu was selected based on YOUR votes!) Dinner was followed by the announcement of winners for numerous door prize raffles, including overnight hotel and dinner accommodations at Foxwoods Resort and Casino and a Fantasy Limousine and Dinner package. The winner of the 50/50 raffle took home a whopping \$475.00 dollars. There were also over twenty silent auction items that brought in almost \$3,000 for the Association's Youth Enrichment Fund. The Appreciation Dinner was highlighted on NBC10's 11:00pm news broadcast that evening. To all of our foster parents and for everyone who attended, thank you so much for all of the wonderful work that you do. We salute YOU! Finally, If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvement for next year's dinner, please email them to: lisa.guillette@rifpa.org or call the Association at 438-3900.



RIFPA Board members Peter Sлом, Patti Corbett and Pat DaSilva coordinate the door prize raffles.



Pat and Paul Lengyel approach the stage to accept the Leslie Vargas Lifetime Achievement Award.

Foster Parent Conference



Panel Discussion on Legal Issues (from left to right: Lisa Guillette, moderator, Jennifer Gates, CASA Attorney, Linda Zangari, CASA Social Worker.

On Saturday, May 6th,

the Adoption and Foster Care Task Force Sponsored a conference for foster parents at the Sheraton in Warwick. The morning started with a panel discussion on Legal Issues related to foster care. Representatives from DCYF's Legal Office (Kevin Aucoin, Esq.) and Administrative Review Unit (Jean Field) joined a CASA attorney (Jennifer Gates, Esq.) and CASA social worker (Linda Zangari) to address common issues and field questions from the audience. Participants then attended breakout sessions on a variety of topics including "Understanding the Behavior of the Sexually Traumatized Child" and "Hair and Skin Care for Children of Color". The day ended with a luncheon and a closing keynote by Dr. Helen Vassallo.



Closing keynote Helen Vassallo inspires the audience.



Malania Murphy from Adoption Rhode Island discusses transitioning children from foster care to adoptive homes.



Tracie Jones conducts a workshop on hair and skin care for children of color.



Never Leave Your Child Alone!

What You Need To Know To Keep Your Kids Safe Around Cars in Warm Weather

Parents running quick errands may think their cars will remain cool, but even on mild days temperatures inside vehicles can rise to dangerous levels in minutes. A young child's core body temperature can increase three to five times faster than that of an adult, causing permanent injury or death.

The family car parked in the driveway can also be dangerous. Unlocked cars pose serious risks to children who are naturally curious and often lack fear. Once they crawl in, young children don't have the developmental capability to get out. One-third of the heat-related deaths in 2000 occurred when children crawled into unlocked cars while playing and became trapped.

This information is reprinted from the brochure "Never Leave Your Child Alone" – a project of Safe Kids Worldwide and General Motors' national public awareness campaign to inform parents and caregivers about the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles, particularly on warm days.

The complete brochure can be found online at http://www.usa.safekids.org/content_documents/ACF37.pdf. It is also available in Spanish at http://www.usa.safekids.org/content_documents/ACF298.pdf.

Be Safe.

SAFE KIDS offers the following security precautions to help combat heat related injuries caused in your vehicle.

1. Never leave your child in your vehicle unattended, even if it's with the windows open.
2. If you see any small children that are left in a vehicle unattended, contact the emergency services at 911.
3. Always close your vehicle with your keys, especially when you're at home, and maintain your keys out of reach of children.
4. Show your children not to play inside or around vehicles.
5. Make sure that all children exit the vehicle once you have arrived to your destination. Be especially careful if you're transporting children at a specific day or time that is not part of your normal routine. Example, if the mother normally leaves the child at daycare, and today the father will be the one to dropping off the child, so that you wouldn't forget the child if he is sleeping, place your bag or briefcase on the back seat of the vehicle where the child is. This way you automatically will not exit the vehicle without going to the back seat.
6. Observe children around the vehicle, especially when you enter and exit.

SAFE KIDS ofrece las siguientes precauciones de seguridad para ayudar a combatir las lesiones relacionadas al calor en los autos.

1. Jamás deje a su hijo desatendido en un vehículo, aunque sea con una ventana abierta.
2. Si usted ve a un niño pequeño que está desatendido en un vehículo, comuníquese con los servicios de emergencia (por llamar a nueve once--911).
3. Siempre cierre con llave su vehículo—especialmente en casa—y mantenga las llaves fuera del alcance de los niños.
4. Enseñe a los niños a no jugar dentro o alrededor de los vehículos.
5. Asegúrese que todos los niños abandonen el vehículo al llegar a su destino. Sea especialmente cuidadoso si transporta niños en un día o tiempo específico que no es parte de su rutina normal. Por ejemplo, si la madre normalmente deja al hijo en su daycare, pero hoy el padre le va a dejar. Para no olvidarse de un niño que se quedó dormido, coloque su maletín o bolsa de mano en el asiento trasero donde está el niño para asegurar de que va a ese asiento antes de abandonar el vehículo.
6. Observe de cerca a los niños alrededor de los vehículos, especialmente al momento de entrar y salir.

The Department of Children, Youth and Families

B · U · L · L · E · T · I · N

NEW and IMPROVED Foster Parent Referral Program

Recruit a new home for teenagers, receive \$500 in “bonus” payments!

Current foster or adoptive parents are the best source of inspiration to potential foster parents. By recruiting new foster parents you may be eligible to earn a bonus through the new and improved Foster Parent Referral Program!

If you refer an individual or couple for foster care, you will receive a “bonus” payment of \$25 when the prospective foster parent completes and submits an application for foster care to DCYF. A second “bonus” payment of \$75 will be made once the prospective foster parent completes all of the licensing steps and is licensed as a foster home. Finally, the referring foster parent will receive a final “bonus” payment of \$250 when the prospective foster parent(s) accept their first placement. And, if the first placement is a teenager, the “bonus” payment is \$400. The prospective foster parent will have to report the name of the referring foster/adoptive parent in order for the “bonus” payments to be processed.

For more information regarding this new referral incentive, please contact the Association at 401-438-3900.

HIGHER EDUCATION GRANT

Money is available for youth in the custody of DCYF to attend Rhode Island College, the University of Rhode Island, or the Community College of Rhode Island. This grant money can fund the gap between other financial aid and the full cost of tuition, room and board, books, and related expenses. Youth are eligible to apply if they have:

- been in the custody of DCYF for a minimum of 24 months at the time of the recommendation;
- received a high school diploma or GED not more than 1 year prior to the date of recommendation;
- been accepted into either CCRI, RI College, or URI;
- applied for financial aid;

To qualify, applicants must also be under 21 years of age and enrolled as full time students.

Contact the Independent Living Coordinator, John O’Riley, at 401.528.3764 to apply or for more information.

Answers to your questions are a phone call away...

Keep this list of contacts on hand. Answers to your questions are just a phone call away.

LICENSING

Lee Sperduti	528.3605
Phil Steiner	528.3622
Linda Iacofano	528.3671
MaryAnn Jordan	528.3607
Zafar Khan	528.3617
Pat Logan	528.3620
Michael Motta	528.3609
Don Aldridge	528.3673

PLACEMENT

Rachel Arpin	528.3779
Michelle Berard	528.3782
Lisa Levesque	528.3778

RECRUITMENT

Robin Perez	528.3791
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Please update your files

If an opening becomes available in your home, please call the **Placement Unit: Michelle** at 528.3782

The **mission** of the Association is to **provide education** and other forms of **support** to families that provide substitute care, and to the community-at-large, in order to further the cause of **children** who cannot live with their **parents**.

Make Summer Count **How to Find A Great Camp for Kids**

I have to be honest...I am not an expert on summer camps for children. As a child (decades ago!), camp was something reserved for children of very wealthy families. As a parent of a 5-year old son who vehemently resists change and new surroundings, the most experience we have with camp is an extra week of activities at his current - and very familiar - pre-school.

Therefore, when asked to find out about summer camps for children I was a little hesitant. So I did what any modern day mother does when she has a question about parenting...a google search! With a few clicks of the mouse I found The Providence Journal's 2006 Summer Camp Guide. The good news is that Janina P. Fera, Mikki Catanzaro, Jan Flanagan and Steve Smith did an outstanding job compiling a directory of 400 specialty and day camps. The bad news is the article first ran in March and stated "camp registrations are being accepted now. Parents are encouraged to register as early as possible. June 1 is frequently the official deadline, but many camps are booked well before then."

"Even though so many camps are listed in [the Providence Journal's 2006 Summer Camp] guide, don't neglect to investigate your town's parks or recreation department to see what might be offered just to children who are residents; the camps in this guide are mostly open to everybody. Town programs are usually quite affordable, and many towns are venturing into teen programs, too." Also make sure you check out your local YMCA and your local library - two of the best resources for a variety of affordable summer programs.

If you have yet to make camp plans for summer 2006- keep reading and start making phone calls today! On the other hand, if you are super organized and already have plans - keep reading and get a head start on summer 2007!

The complete camp directory can be found on The Providence Journal's website at www.projo.com. Here is a sampling of what you'll find:

All Children's Theatre Ensemble (ACT)

255 Main St., Pawtucket. Summer theater academies for ages 4-14 at Vartan Gregorian School, Providence. Three levels offered in ACTSA for ages 8-14: Beginning, Advanced and Total Theatre Experience. Beginning students learn performance skills, theater games and stage makeup. July 5-14 (\$405); July 17-28 and July 31-Aug. 11 (\$495). Advanced students choose musical theater or classical instruction. July 17-28 (\$525). The Total Theatre Experience combines advanced acting skills with design and production. July 31-Aug. 11 (\$550). All camps conclude with a performance. ACTSA Jr.: Ages 4-5 and 6-7. Full- and half-day camps consist of two-week sessions July 10-Aug. 4 (\$150-165 half day, \$275-300 full day). Students create characters, costumes, sets and props. Each session has a theme. Students perform on final day Call 728-1222, visit www.ACTinRI.org.

Autism Project of Rhode Island

51 Sockanosset Crossroad, Cranston. 785-2666. Move, Think, Create, Communicate camp for ages 5-21 with an autism spectrum disorder, sponsored by the Autism Project of R.I., Aug. 14-18 and Aug. 21-25. Camp times vary depending on age group. Located at Champlin Scout Reservation, Scituate Avenue. \$450 per session,

scholarships available. Visit www.theautismproject.org; e-mail connie@theautismproject.org; or call Connie Rinehart at 785-2666, ext. 103.

Camp Kindred

is a therapeutic day camp for ages 8-16 diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder, high functioning autism or non-verbal learning disorder. Two-week sessions between July 10-Aug. 18. Games, social skills and team-building activities in addition to traditional camp fare. \$1,000. For program details and registration, visit www.neurodevelopmentcenter.com and click on Summer Programs, or contact Debbe at debbefate@cox.net or 351-7779, ext. 105.

Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks

is a residential respite care recreational program for children and adults with physical or developmental abilities. Six- and 11-day camping sessions offered June through August. Activities include talent shows, arts and crafts, outdoor living skills and sports. Web site: www.eastersealscamphemlocks.org. Call (860) 228-9496, ext. 200.

Shake-A-Leg Adaptive Sailing Program

at Fort Adams State Park with fully accessible dock facilities. Contact Kate Jennings at 849-8898 or write to P.O. Box 1264, Newport, RI 02840. For

people with physical and developmental disabilities; recreation, instruction and competitive sailing in custom-adapted Freedom 20 sailboats. Each boat accommodates four people and one instructor for each two-hour session. Coed and serves all ages. Sessions run June through August. \$70 for two hours of sailing.

Computer Whiz Kids Summer Camp,

free 3-day programs in all Providence Public Library branches. 1-3:30 p.m. Grades 3-5 do computer crossword puzzles, use digital cameras, write Wacky Tales on the Web and install computer parts. Registration begins June 1 at all branches. Visit the Web site at www.provlib.org and click on Kids & Teens or call 455-8064.

AbraKadoodle Art Education,

(401) 392-4ART. Ages 3-6 and 6-12 develop new skills while using a variety of tools and materials. Camps include Impress Me, Stampede, Media Mania, Paint Me A Story, Doodle Drawing, Do Your Chores, Feeling Pretty Fancy, Icky-Slimy-Gooey, Art Through the Ages and more. Locations throughout Rhode Island include Providence, Barrington, Cumberland and Smithfield. Half-day camps, June 26-Sept.1, are 9 am-noon or 1-4 pm. Prices start at \$150 per week. Call Lucy at (401) 392-4278 or e-mail LSilva@abrakadoodle.com.

Buds and Blossoms

Summer Camp

at Blithewold, 101 Ferry Rd., Bristol. 253-2707, ext. 16. www.blithewold.org. Weekly sessions July 10-Aug. 18, 9 am-1:30 pm. Children entering grades 1-4 do projects involving plant growth and life cycles, trees, plant-insect interactions, environmental awareness and more, as well as games, art projects and physical activities. \$127 members; \$137 nonmembers; 5 percent multi-week discount. Extended care available at additional cost.

Summerarts Program,

Barrington Community School, P.O. Box 256, Barrington. 245-0432. Courses and trips for children held at the Barrington Middle School, generally for a series of three one-week classes, July 24, July 31 and Aug. 7. Course offerings include jewelry making, pottery, art, gardening, building gizmos, Web design, photography, cooking, cartooning and castle design. Prices vary from \$85 per week. Day trips include visits to the Bronx Zoo. E-mail barrcomm@bcs.necoxmail.com or visit www.barrcommschool.com.

Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket

offers two camps. Scholarships available for all. Camp Ramsbottom, (508) 252-6300, day camp for ages 6-13 in Rehoboth. Wide range of activities: archery, art, crafts, fishing, hiking, pony rides, Indian lore, mini-golf, mountain biking, petting zoo, pioneering, soccer, swimming and much more. Four two-week sessions June 26-Aug 18; \$230 per session (sibling discount). Open house at Camp Ramsbottom June 25, noon-4 pm. Registration open now at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, One Moeller Place, 722-8840; also at Camp Ramsbottom during May and June, Saturdays 10 am-2 pm, (508) 252-6300. Camp Sun-N-Fun, for boys and girls, ages 6-12, Elson Branch, One Moeller Place, Pawtucket. Camp Sun-N-Fun runs June 26-Aug. 18, Mon-Fri, 8:30 am-4 pm. Four two-week sessions, \$170 per session (sibling discount). Arts and crafts, computers, nature classes, cooking, field games, music, photography, basketball, rock climbing wall, dance and more. Registration open now at the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket, One Moeller Place, 722-8840.

Attendees at Camp Ramsbottom and Camp Sun-n-Fun must be members of the Boys & Girls Club of Pawtucket. An annual membership fee is \$30 per child.

Camp Building Blocks, Building Blocks Child Care Center,

3270 Post Rd., Warwick. Day camp for ages 3 to 12. Weekly themed sessions June 20-Aug. 26. Each includes sports, games, arts and crafts, nature, water play, swimming and field trips. \$120 per week. Part-time rates and sibling discounts available. Open 6:30 am to 6 pm. Call Carol Swanson at 738-7882.

Camp Hamilton,

a program of Nickerson Community Center, 133 Delaine St., Providence. 351-2241. Offers ages 6-12 a traditional camp program of arts and crafts, field games, swimming, nature hikes, and cookouts. Eight weeks in July and August, Mon.-Fri., 8 am-5 pm. \$135 per week (two week minimum.) DHS Child Care Cost Assistance Program accepted for payment.

Girl Scout Camps,

Girl Scouts of Rhode Island, 125 Charles St., Providence. 331-4500; www.gsri.org. Open to any girl regardless of Scout membership.

Intensive Social Skills Training Camp,

Mon.-Thu., 9 am to noon or noon to 3 pm, \$480 for 12-hour program. Call Dr. Elena S. Monarch, 821-4100, ext. 47, Warwick. Classes for ages 7-17 designed to be fun and challenging include verbal and nonverbal communication coaching, friendship skills, Shyness Groups and more.

Kids Klub, Inc. Summer Camp,

Cranston, Lincoln and Woonsocket. Weekly sessions for ages 5-12, starting the last day of school to the beginning of school. Weekdays 7 am-6 pm. Bi-weekly themes, field trips, outdoor fun, arts and crafts and literacy activities. Breakfast, lunch, snacks included. Call Bethany at 723-2277, ext. 0 or e-mail info@kidsklubri.com.

Museum of Natural History and Planetarium,

Roger Williams Park, 1000 Elmwood Ave., Providence. Learn about flight and space while making rockets,

planes, helicopters, rovers and more. Explore the universe while creating art, conducting experiments and playing space explorer games. MNH Space Camp, ages 7-9, July 26-28 and Aug. 9-11, \$85. Girls go stargazing at Girls All Stars Camp, ages 7-9, July 24-25. \$60. Train like an astronaut at Astronaut Academy, ages 10-12, July 31-Aug. 1 and Aug. 2-3. \$60. All camps 10 am-3 pm. Call 785-9457, ext. 224, e-mail education@musnathist.com or visit www.osfn.org/museum.

CCRI Ocean State Basketball Camp,

Community College of Rhode Island, Lincoln and Warwick campuses. Instruction in air-conditioned facilities under the direction of David Chevalier for ages 7-17. 9 am-3 pm; extended hours available from 8 am to 3:30 pm. In Warwick: July 17-21. In Lincoln: July 31-Aug. 4, with swimming pool available. Junior camp, \$140; Regular section, \$165. Family discounts. Call Claire at 825-2405 for brochure.

Harlem Globetrotters Basketball Camp,

Jewish Community Center of Rhode Island, 401 Elmgrove Ave., Providence. 861-8800. Coed for ages 6-16. June 26-30. Three Globetrotter players teach drills and promote teamwork. Globetrotters available in one of two sessions per day, 9 am-noon or 1-4 pm. Full-day campers spend either morning or afternoon swimming and using outside fields for games. Full day 9 am-4 pm (\$250, JCCRI members \$225). Basketball 9 am-noon session (\$185, JCCRI member \$170). Contact Darlene Desroches at ext. 155 or e-mail d-desroches@jccri.org.

Information reprinted from the Providence Journal's 2006 Summer Camp Guide. Complete guide can be found at www.projo.com.





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FREE CHILD CARE for Children in Foster Care

Comp Services offers **free preschool** to all foster children ages 3, 4, and 5. We work with over 20 child care centers and family child care homes in Rhode Island. We are waiting to offer your foster child a fun and exciting learning experience, call Rita at 401.475.7707 x250.

Foster Parent HelpLine

The Foster Parent HelpLine is a peer support service that is available statewide. It is staffed by foster parents who understand the issues and situations you face on a daily basis. Foster parents are encouraged to call the helpline with their questions or when they simply need someone to talk to.

Call the Rhode Island Foster Parents Association's HelpLine:

1.800.655.7787
24 Hours. Your call will be confidential.

A service of the Mentor Program.
RIFPA STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS ARE MANDATED REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT LAWS.



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