



A Child's First Teacher

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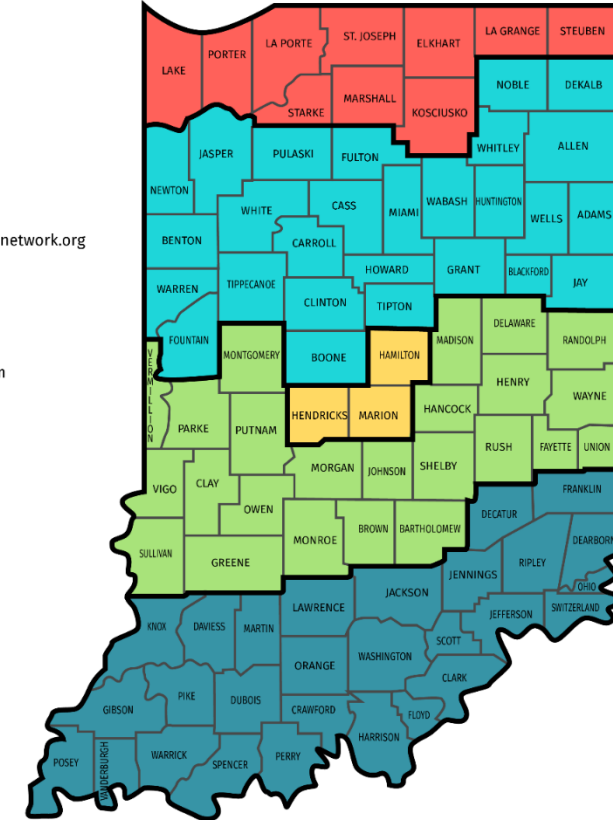


Child Care Resource and Referral Network

Powered by  **The Child Care
RESOURCE NETWORK**

Local Child Care Resource and Referral Services Provider Map

- **SDA 1 - Geminus**
<http://ccrr.geminus.org/CCRR-Index.html>
 Phone: 219-757-1800
elc@geminus.org
- **SDA 2 - The Child Care Resource Network**
www.thechildcareresourcenetwork.org
 Phone: 765-742-7105
 Toll Free: 800-932-3302
Info@thechildcareresourcenetwork.org
- **SDA 3 - Child Care Answers**
<https://childcareanswers.com>
 Phone: 317-636-5727
 Toll Free: 800-272-2937
info@childcareanswers.com
- **SDA 4 - Chances and Services for Youth**
<http://casyonline.org/>
 Phone: 812-232-3952
 Toll Free: 800-886-3952
CCRR@casyonline.org
- **SDA 5 - 4C of Southern Indiana**
www.child-care.org
 Phone: 812-423-4008
 Toll Free: 866-200-5909
info@child-care.org



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How we can help:

- Families looking for a high quality child care program can fill out our Family Form. Through this process you will receive guidance about what qualities to look for when selecting a high quality child care program as well as questions to ask when making your decision.
- Assistance locating resources in the community that meet the needs of your family.
- Our family engagement team offers weekly workshops about topics related to caring for young children. Do you have a topic you want to see added to our calendar?
- Information and support related to effective kindergarten transition and readiness
- Do you have questions or need support regarding your child's development (behavior, potty training, biting, etc)? Our family engagement team can offer individual supports to families.

Like us on Facebook!

CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER

“The home is the child’s first school, **the parent is the child’s first teacher**, and reading is the child’s first subject.”

– Barbara Bush

Brain Development

- 80% of the brain is developed by age 3
- Early interactions and experiences are crucial to healthy brain development
- Learning develops over time



Brain Development

- Cognitive/Thinking Skills
- Self-Confidence and Self-Control
- Attachment
- Social-Emotional Development
- Language Development

Attachment

- Bond between Parents/Caregivers and Child
- Trust and Security
- Prepares your Child for Future Relationships

Social-Emotional Development

- Managing emotions helps children be successful in school, work, and relationships
- Parents/Caregivers modeling appropriate behaviors foster children's ability to self-regulate

Language Development

- Constant communication is key!
- Provide a print-rich environment
- Reading and telling stories



Cognitive/Thinking Skills

- Exploring the world around them
- Becoming problem solvers
- Cause and effect



Self-Confidence and Self-Control

- Social-emotional learning leads to confidence and self-control
- Healthy interactions and experiences increases self-confidence and self-control
- Prepares young children for school



What can you do?

What Parents Should Do

- Turn as many everyday life experiences as possible into learning opportunities.
- Model learning from everyday experiences.
- Talk about the importance of learning as a self-initiated activity
- Capitalize on children's interest in selecting learning experiences
- Celebrate the uniqueness of your child
- Ask and value children's opinion

What Parents Should Do

- Take advantage of children's questions to extend learning
- Capitalize on children's interest in selecting learning experiences
- Plan the home physical environment with children's needs and desires in mind
- Purchase toys that are specifically designed to stimulate children's thinking and creativity
- Engage children in conversations
- Redirect challenging behavior

What Parents Should Do

- Provide opportunities for children to select topics or books to read
- Read to children daily
- Let your child read to you
- Introduce new words as you read
- Read labels and signs with children
- Provide children with opportunities to role play

Learning happens in the
everyday moments you share
with your child!

The First Year

- Your baby is learning about the sounds of words and the rhythm of language as you talk to them – speak to them often and repeat words over and over.
- Your baby is learning hand/eye coordination as you hold out a toy for them to reach.
- Your baby is learning about language and conversation as you respond to their cues.
- Your baby is learning to enjoy books when you read picture books to them.

Source: https://www.gov.nl.ca/education/files/earlychildhood_a_parent_childs_first_teacher.pdf

Toddlers

Everyday moments are rich bonding and learning opportunities!

- Your toddler is learning about music and movement as you play music and sing songs and dance together.
- They are learning pre-mathematical skills when you count together as you walk up and down the stairs.
- They are learning about measuring, pouring and mixing ingredients as you cook and bake together.

Preschoolers

- Your child is developing imagination when you give them dress-up clothes and household items to play make believe.
- Your child is developing attention skills and memory when you play I Spy together.
- Your child is developing balance and coordination and overall muscle strength when you play active games together, such as running, jumping and hopping.
- Your child is developing pre-reading skills when you point out familiar signs such as STOP and the shapes of the traffic signs.
- Your child is developing pre-mathematical skills by learning numbers when you sing counting songs together.

YOU are your child's first teacher!

Questions?
