

If you have questions, or  
need assistance, please  
contact us at:

Tucson Office  
520-770-3002

Phoenix Office  
602-771-5204

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928-774-0655

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520-770-3002



# Early Childhood and Family Education

## Welcome...

by Barbara Schrag

In these newsletters we hope to celebrate and highlight some of the wonderful families we have the opportunity to work with.

Those of us in the ASDB Early Childhood Program, know without a doubt how critical families and caregivers are in the lives of their children. The development, health and well-being of infants and toddlers is dependent upon the care and nurturing of their families.

Furthermore, research has shown that these early relationships have a significant impact on brain development. We feel honored to be partners with you on this important journey with your child. Thank you for sharing your family's story with us.



Lily petting a chicken with Vicki (Mom) and Eddie (Dad)

## Phoenix News



### Meet Maice Foulger and her family

Maice is 2 years old and has been receiving services from the ASDB Early Childhood Program for 1 1/2 years. They live in Mesa Arizona.

Maice loves going to the Phoenix Parent Toddler class, jumping on the tramp and singing songs. Maice loves wearing her hearing aids every day.

Gena and Gavin celebrate Maice's accomplishments with language regularly. Some of the ways they have celebrated have been: having a hearing aid birthday party to celebrate the anniversary of receiving her hearing aids, hanging an ornament on her Christmas tree made from her first hearing molds and an ornament to celebrate that she can now sing along to her favorite song "The Eensy Weensy Spider." Last summer, Maice's parents and her grandmother gathered all the supplies needed for taking care of her hearing aids, and together with the young women from their church group they assembled kits so that other kids in Arizona can take care of and celebrate their hearing aids too.

### Welcome Summer Kent

Summer joined the team in January as our Admin. Secretary. Summer is originally from Mission Viejo, California, but was raised in Phoenix.

She has her Associates degree in Marketing and Business Management which she received from the University of Phoenix.



Summer lives with her daughter, Aharah, who currently attends Glendale Community College.

Summer enjoys vacations and traveling to visit family in CA.

She has traveled to Alaska, the Bahamas and the Florida Keys to name a few. She is also a huge Harry Potter fan.

Summer is looking forward to learning how to contribute to the team in order to help better serve the children in ECFE. She also wants to begin taking sign classes so she can communicate better with others within the office and the school.

## Upcoming Events for families

### Special Day for Special Kids 2016

Saturday, March 19th

10am - 2 pm @ the

McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park

7301 E. Indian Bend Rd.

Scottsdale

FREE train rides, carnival activities, carousal rides, games, activity booths, clowns, face painting, petting zoo, plus lots of food and ice cream...all for FREE

Registration required at the event.

Questions? Contact:

Raising Special Kids

602-242-4366 or

800-237-3007

### Family Picnic

Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

10 am - 1 pm Pioneer Park (Ramada 10)

8755 N. 83<sup>rd</sup> Ave

Peoria, AZ

Happy Ears Hearing Center is VERY excited to host a Family Picnic for families with children who have a hearing loss. This is a great opportunity for your children to meet other children who use hearing devices. It is also a great opportunity to meet other parents. Food and drinks will be provided. Please bring the whole family.

Call Happy Ears Hearing Center for details @ (623) 428-0727.

## Audiology Support in Phoenix

Julie Petersen, Au.D, CCC-A, our Southern Arizona Audiologist for Early Childhood is now providing monthly audiology clinics in Phoenix to provide additional audiological support to the Phoenix families. Her clinics are on the second Monday of the Month. If you would like to schedule a visit with Julie, please discuss your needs

with your ASDB Early Childhood Teacher so she can get you on the schedule.

## Parent Toddler Class Update!

Due to the growing numbers of families in Central Arizona, the Phoenix team has added a 3rd Parent Toddler class to their weekly schedule.

We are now offering a 3rd class for toddlers 2 - 3 years

of age and their parents or caregivers on Fridays from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm. If you would like to learn more about our Parent Toddler classes in the Phoenix area, please contact your ASDB Early Childhood Teacher or Laura Hocknull at 602-771-5230. We hope you will take advantage of these valuable classes for you and your child.

## Fall Festival

Our Annual Fall Festival was held at McCormick Stillman Railroad Park in Scottsdale.



Families of children who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing had the opportunity to connect and spend the day learning through fun activities.

We would like to especially thank our vendors: Hands



and Voices, Advanced Bionics, Cochlear, Medel, and shared Reading Project

for helping make this another successful event for our families and children!

## Southern Arizona News

**Save the Date**

**SPRING FLING IN TUCSON**

**APRIL 16<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 AM–12:00 PM**

*Come and meet other families*

Face Painting

Play some games

*Have some Snacks*

Story time

*Make some crafts*

**1200 W. SPEEDWAY**

**CLIFFORD BUILDING**

**TUCSON**



## Meet Elena, and her mom, Sierra Vinson

What do you do when you find out your child is blind? I didn't see it coming (funny, since I myself am visually impaired.) The eye condition my daughter and I have is Familial Exudative

Vitreoretinopathy. It is genetic, however, no one else in our family has it. It's hard sometimes, for sure, especially when I see other children saying look mommy, etc.



Nevertheless, in the end, I wouldn't change anything.

My daughter is beautiful and smart and so very, very brave. Now if they are ever able to help her, of course I will be happy, but if not, I know without a doubt my baby girl will be strong. We try to introduce her to everything we can. I don't want her to be afraid of anything and so far she's doing great!

*Sierra Vinson,  
Elena's Mom*

*In some of the pictures of Elena, she is dressed in wonderful clothes that were donated to us by other families. As children outgrow their clothes we will happily share them with other families in our program.*



*Elena reading her braille book*

*The sensory quilt pictured above was donated to the ECFE Vision Program from the **Cactus Quilters** ~ a group of winter visitors in Tucson who sew these quilts for us to share with children who are visually impaired.*

## Flagstaff News

Due to the remote and rural nature of Northern Arizona it often takes our families many months to see an Audiologist, get referred for a diagnostic audiological evaluation and/or get fit with hearing aids. And as we all know, the sooner a child is identified with hearing loss and fit with hearing aids and/or cochlear implants, the better. Thus the Northern Early Childhood Teachers are looking at partnering with our school age Audiologists to provide more services to our Early Childhood families.

In preparation for this, Jamie, Lisa and Tracy went



to Tucson on January 25th and January 26th to work with the Tucson based Early Childhood Audiologist and the Tucson based Early Childhood Hearing Teachers for some training on pediatric audiological testing and test assisting in the sound booth.

## Winter Wonderland

As we all know, El Nino is affecting the weather throughout Arizona this winter. We've had lots of rain in the South which



brings lots of snow up North. The snow storms in Northern Arizona have resulted in challenges for those of us who need to travel to work with families in their homes. In January there were times all major

roads leading into and out of Flagstaff were closed due to accidents and road conditions. This unfortunately resulted in cancelled home visits.

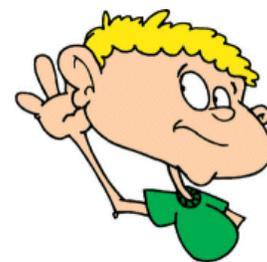
Once the storms are past we then find ourselves dealing with vehicles covered in



snow, roads slick with ice, and even muddy roads for those of us traveling on dirt roads. On the Navajo Reservation the schools actually close due to "Mud Days" because buses and vehicles can't make it through the mud.

We are grateful for the moisture El Nino has provided our state and are looking forward to drier days ahead as we continue to provide support to our families in Northern Arizona.

# Audiology Corner



## Did You Know...?

- "If your baby wears hearing aids only four hours each day, it will take six years to give him as much listening experience as a normally hearing infant accumulates in one year."  
(Stovall, D. [1982]. *Teaching Speech to Hearing Impaired Infants and Children*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.)
- A normally hearing baby listens for about 10 hours a day, 365 days a year. That adds up to 3,650 listening hours per year!
- A normally hearing toddler or preschooler listens about 12 hours per day 365 days per year. That adds up to 4,380 listening hours per year.
- If a toddler or preschooler only wears amplification only at preschool (about 2.75 hours a day) it would take 9 years for the child to have as much listening experience as a hearing preschooler or a preschooler with hearing loss that wears amplification all waking hours (12 hours).



## Pilot Caps

If your baby has outgrown, or you no longer use your pilot cap for your baby, please return it as we will be able to recycle them. If you haven't tried our pilot caps please talk to your ECFE teacher.

Thanks.

