

Foundation for Blind Children

F.B.C. INFANT NEWS

April/May 2009



Understanding Your Growing Child

Don't you just love the photography of Anne Geddes? You know, those cute little babies dressed in adorable flower costumes that just make us want to say "aawww". I often wonder how it is that Ms. Geddes chooses the costumes for each particular child. Is it the child's age? size? shape? skin tone? personality? or perhaps, *temperament*?

While you may be very familiar with the term "personality", most people have very different ideas when it comes to describing "temperament". *Temperament* may best be described as your child's "nature" which is present from birth. Temperament refers to the "how" and "way" a child behaves, and has biological underpinnings. Parents don't do anything to influence a child's temperament... it just is. Temperament exists independent of developmental delay, disease, or early trauma; However, these factors may influence and shape how a child's innate temperament is expressed.

For many years, researchers have studied infants and rated their behavior in terms of their temperament characteristics; **Some of these characteristics are: approach to new situations/people/things, activity level, intensity of reactions, distractibility, and regularity.** Likewise, researchers have sought to understand how the unique temperaments of parents and children interact with one another...the "goodness of fit".

FBC's nurse Maggie has spent many years studying infant temperament, and educating parents about this important dimension of infant behavior. In April, nurse Maggie will be joining our parent meetings to share this information with you. In the meantime, if you would like more information about temperament, please visit:

www.zerotothree.org

It's Springtime...

Don't miss these annual FBC events:

**Fri. - April 3rd - Farm Day at the
Baldridge's**

Sat. - April 4th - Spring Festival -

Beeper Egg Hunt

Flyers coming soon!!!

Stop & Smell the Flowers

Our sense of smell plays an important part in learning about the world around us. Both pleasant and noxious scents provide discriminating information regarding the people, places, and things that we either want to approach or avoid. Likewise, scent is often associated with some of our clearest, most emotionally meaningful, memories.

For the developing blind child, smell also provides clues as to the proximity and desirability of certain people, places, and things, as well as aiding in spatial orientation and direction. As parents of infants, you can teach your children by remembering to name and describe the smells that are around you. As your children grow older, encourage them to use their noses to "sniff" out clues in the environment and to use their words to name those smells.



***Please remember to keep your child or siblings at home
when they are sick. We want everyone to stay healthy***





Infant Program & Parent Meeting Schedule

F.B.C. Main Campus

April 2009/May 2009



Our center-based baby program meets every Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at the Foundation for Blind Children's Main Campus
 1235 E. Harmont Dr.
 Phoenix, AZ 85020
 (602) 331-1470
 web site: seeitourway.org

Program Schedule

9 - 10 a.m. Music and Play
 Activities for
 Parent & Child

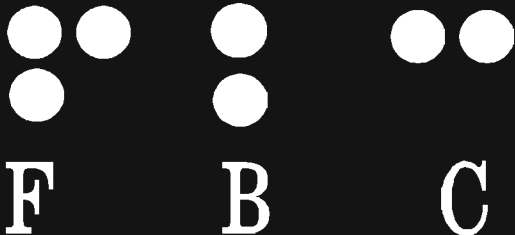
10 - 11:15 a.m. Parent Meeting
 Infant/Toddler
 Play Centers

April Parent Meeting Topics

4-03-09 **Farm Day** at the Baldrige's (No regular meeting)
 4-10-09 **Family Matters** - Jeanette Manley
 FBC Counselor
 4-17-09 **Let's Communicate** - Jeanne Neumann - FBC Preschool Teacher
 4-24-09 **Temperament: Understanding Yourself & Child** - Nurse Maggie

May Parent Meeting Topics

5-01-09 **Open Meeting**
 5-08-09 **Celebrate Mom's Day** - Make a Fun Craft Project!
 5-15-09 **Orientation & Mobility** - Sandra Stirnweis - FBC O&M Coordinator
 5-22-09 **Emily Anderson Center** - Millie Donaldson
 5-29-09 **End of Year Social** - Parent Feedback Session



Infant Department



Infant Program & Parent Meeting Schedule

F.B.C. East Valley Campus

April 2009/May 2009



Our center-based baby program meets every Monday morning from 9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at the Foundation for Blind Children's East Valley Campus
 2005 N. 91st Place
 Chandler, AZ 85224
 (480) 458-0900
 web site: seeitourway.org

Program Schedule

9 -10 a.m. Music and Play
 Activities for
 Parent & Child

10 - 11:15 a.m. Parent Meeting
 Infant/Toddler
 Play Centers

April Parent Meeting Topics

4-06-09 Let's Communicate - Jean Murphy-
 FBC Preschool Teacher

4-13-09 Open Meeting

4-20-09 Building Self-Esteem - Jeanette
 Manley - FBC Family Counselor

4-27-09 Temperament: Understanding
 Yourself & Child - Nurse Maggie

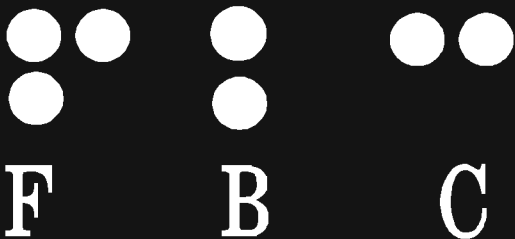
May Parent Meeting Topics

5-04-09 Celebrate Mom's Day - Make
 a Fun Craft Project!

5-11-09 Orientation & Mobility - Sandra
 Stirnweis - FBC O&M

5-18-09 End of Year Social - Parent
 Feedback Session

5-25-09 Memorial Day - No Program



Infant Department