

NEWS TO GROW WITH...

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2008!

Sprouting New Beginnings is very excited to welcome 2008! As many of you know, we had a very exciting 2007 and want to thank everyone who came by and visited us or enjoyed one of our many presentations.

We were honored last year to speak at the NAEYC Annual Conference in Chicago, IL in November with a three hour presentation on the first day of the conference. That left us plenty of time to attend other note-worthy presentations and visit some of our favorite people; Sign2Me and Rio Salado.

Thank you NAEYC for the honor, we look forward to the upcoming 2008 annual conference in Dallas, TX.

This year is going to be a busy one for us. We have lots on our plate already including the ASCC Young Childs Conference in March and the 4th Annual Arizona Early Learning Institute in June being held this year at the Hyatt Regency, which will be a lot closer for many of you to attend. Also we have a special session we are hosting ourselves on Saturday, July 19th. So save the date and check often on our website's 'Upcoming Events' page to see where we will be. Make sure you come by, visit us and let us know how you are doing using ASL either in your classroom or at home.

Last, we will be cutting back our newsletter, *News to Grow With...* to twice a year, but please feel free to contact us at anytime if you need support, training or just want to chat!

We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

Happy Signing!

Jenning, Jennifer and Marilyn



ASL IS NOT JUST FOR PRE-VERBAL CHILDREN

As a kindergarten teacher I have found that American Sign Language (ASL) is not just for pre-verbal children. It is a wonderful strategy to support literacy in an elementary classroom. In my kindergarten class I utilize ASL to help my children learn to spell, expand their developing vocabulary, and strengthen their reading. ASL supports their development in literacy and in math by using a kinesthetic approach to learning. ASL is used as a memory aid to increase learning. My children say it, see it, and do it, which supports brain development and multiple intelligences. Some ways that I use ASL in the classroom are:

- For classroom management
- Learning our letters and numbers
- Emphasizing vocabulary
- Spelling high frequency words, color words, seasons, days of the week, and more

We use ASL in music, while reading books, writing, and play. Children love learning ASL! They find that it is fun and easy and I find that it increases their level of engagement, which decreases behavioral challenges.

In my class I have a young boy who is a second language learner and ASL has supported him in many ways. When he started school he could count to 5 in English, could identify 5 letters in

capitals (almost all of them in his name), and had minimal reading skills. Half way through the year he can count to 25, can identify all but 5 letters in both capitals and lowercase, and has a strong understanding of print concepts. It is a joy to see him practice his letters and letter sounds while using ASL, he sings and stays actively engaged. He loves teaching his older brother and mom how to sign and is constantly asking me how you sign various words. His mom told me that at home he signs all the time. *Continued Page 2*

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ASL IS NOT JUST FOR PRE-VERBAL CHILDREN continued

This is just one testament to the success children have at all ages using American Sign Language.

Through my work with Sprouting New Beginnings and working with families and early childhood educators we have found that ASL is a simple, effective, and fun strategy to support all areas of child development. It supports the following domains:

- Fine motor
- Vision
- Language development
- Social/emotional development
- Self-help/adaptive skills
- Cognitive development

ASL supports the whole child, every child! It is truly amazing that one gift from the deaf community can support so much in hearing children. By simply adding 5 words in ASL into your classroom environment you will change your children forever.

If you haven't embraced this gift and passed it on to the children in your life then make it one of your new year's resolutions to learn ASL. Sprouting New Beginnings has many opportunities and options to achieve this. Please visit our resourceful website to learn more about the benefits of signing with young children and about our upcoming events. We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

Jenning A Prevatte, M.Ed

EARLY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

Are you looking for a great resource on early brain development to recommend to co-workers and families? *Bright from the Start: The Simple, Science-Backed Way to Nurture Your Child's Developing Mind from Birth to Age 3* by Jill Stamm, Ph.D. with Paula Spencer is the book you have been waiting for. Dr. Stamm is the cofounder of New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development and Associate Clinical Professor at Arizona State University in the Department of Psychology in Education. I have had the pleasure of meeting and attending many of her workshops on early brain development. Dr. Stamm's knowledge of early brain development is fascinating.

In this book Dr. Stamm translates the latest neuroscience research findings into clear explanations and practical hands-on-activities to support all developing young children.

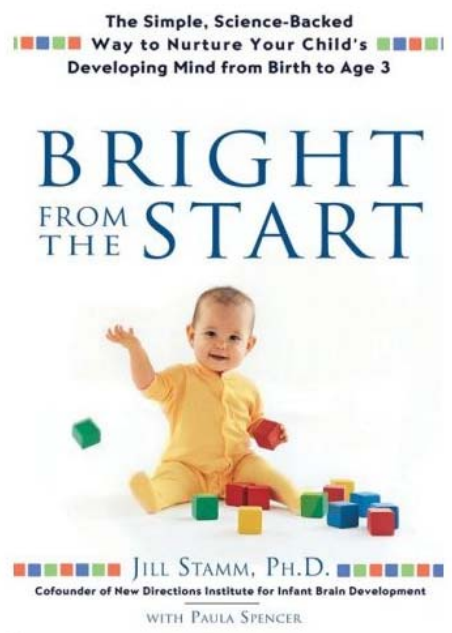
According to the author what infants and young children really need is as easy as A, B, C:

- Attention - showing how to increase a young child's attention span, and how to balance stimulation with the importance of down time
- Bonding - the importance of developing a strong emotional attachment between at least one consistent caregiver and young child.
- Communication - supporting a young child's language development through talking, listening, signing, and reading.

Some of the highlights that I took from the book are why reading to infants and young children is critical, creating a talking home, everyday reading activities, and everyday music.

For more information about the author, the book and New Directions Institute for Infant Brain Development go to <http://www.newdirectionsinstitute.org>

Jennifer M Matthews, M.Ed



WORKING WITH ALL CHILDREN

In my practice I teach all children - I am an educator! I teach children who are gifted, children that speak a different language at home, children with slow auditory processing, children with ADHD, children with Autism, children with Sensory Integration Disorder, and children from divorced families - all these children are children with special needs.

During a workshop on "Working with Children with Special Needs" I asked 125 early childhood educators, "Who works with children with special needs?" and maybe 10 people raised their hands. I expressed to the participants that we should all have our hands up, because if we work with children we work with children with special needs. Especially the population from birth to five, since most of the time it is the educator or care giver that identifies the needs of the child and creates interventions to support that child.

Early intervention is critical in a child's development. Early intervention is defined as what we do to support development before a delay worsens. There are many strategies that you can use to support children early in life to minimize or avoid many delays. For instance:

- Reading to young children daily for a minimum of 15 minutes
- Singing to them and with them
- Holding and cuddling
- Tummy Time
- Play with them, let them play with other young children...just PLAY
- Provide opportunities and activities that cross or meet at the midline - American Sign Language is wonderful for this
- Utilize American Sign Language to support child development
- Avoid TV time for children under 2 years of age...their vision and hearing is not completely wired in the brain to handle the constant stimulus that TV provides
- Talk to them, support their growing vocabularies and help them express their feelings
- Outdoor play
- Incorporate self-help/adaptive skills, such as dressing, feeding, grooming into dramatic play areas and daily routines
- Sensory integration activities
- Opportunities for socialization and opportunities for children to learn to problem solve and work out their own disputes
- Activities to promote fine motor skills, such as play-dough, coloring, and building with blocks
- Provide multi-sensory approaches to learning

Help children experience and learn about the world through play. Play is known as a child's work; any time you can incorporate learning activities into play a child will blossom

and grow. The above list of activities is good for all children, especially when the early childhood setting is an inclusive model.

Based on the Arizona Early Learning Standards the following points are highlighted as benefits for an inclusive classroom:

- Demonstrate increased acceptance and appreciation of diversity
- Develop better communication and social skills
- Show greater development in moral and ethical principles
- Create warm and caring friendships
- Demonstrate increased self-esteem

Children learn not only from the adults in their life, but also the children in their life. It is increasingly important for children to poses,

- Cultural diversity
- Social skills
- Communication skills
- Ethics and moral reasoning
- A positive self-esteem
- Good citizenship
- Warm and caring attitude

How can we help as early childhood educators?

- Model for children positive behaviors
- Model good manners
- Model problem solving
- Support them in making decisions
- Expect good citizenship from the children in your class all the way up to the administrators in your building
- Plan cultural diverse activities
- Allow children to talk, sing, and express themselves in play or art
- Use American Sign Language to support classroom management, child development, and language development
- Continue your education, either by receiving your CDA, your Associate's, your Bachelor's, your Master's/Doctor's, or simply continuing to take advantage of professional development opportunities.

When you grow you support a child's growth. Remember what you do in the early years has a direct impact on the later years...you are important...you are an educator!

Jenning A Prevatte, M.Ed



FREE PRESENTATION

Invite SNB to a staff meeting and we will introduce you the best possible ASL solution for your classrooms with a 30 minute presentation.

Or ask us how to receive a FREE Classroom Labels Volume 1 by hosting a training at your site.

We provide training in:

- ☆ Early Literacy
- ☆ Working with Children with Special Needs
- ☆ Using ASL to Support Child Development
- ☆ Creating a Literacy Rich Environment
- ☆ Classroom Management

All trainings are based on early brain development research and provide S*CCEEDS continuing education credit.

Check out our
Circle of Friends
Program too!

Great way to share our feature rich training with your friends...

http://sproutingnewbeginnings.com/circle_educators.aspx

EARLY LITERACY: PRINT MOTIVATION

Print Motivation is one of the six pre-reading skills outlined by the Early Literacy Initiative. According to the Every Child Ready to Read, literature print motivation is defined as being interested in and enjoying books. Current research on early literacy and brain development also says that it is never too early to prepare a child for reading. One way to develop and nurture this skill is by reading to children starting at birth.

As an Early Childhood Educator and caregiver it is important that we make book sharing (story time) a special time and it becomes a regular part of our daily routine. For instance, in my classroom we have story time at least three times a day. As a reader I observe that the children are engaged in the story by observing their direct attention to what I'm reading and the questions they ask about the story.

Last week I read the story about Goldie Locks and the Three Bears, to help the children take an active part in the stories I had the children sign the word bear whenever they heard the word bear as I read. The children in my classroom demonstrated print motivation by reading to their teddy bear. Another demonstration of print motivation happened during afternoon outside time when a group of children were acting out the Three Bears story.

There is nothing like it in the whole wide world for a child to sit in an adult's lap while being read to, this activity creates a special bond between the young child and adult. Letting young children see you reading is another way to develop this skill.

To support the development of print motivation, create a cozy reading area where young children can explore books of all kinds. Keep in mind young children who enjoy being read to will want to learn how to read. Remember early literacy begins at birth and the goal is for every child to be ready to read when they enter Kindergarten.

For more information visit Every Child Ready to Read @ your library
<http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/ECRR/ECRRHomePage.htm>

Jennifer M Matthews, M.Ed

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

Saturday, March 8th
ASCC Young Childs Conference

Monday - Wednesday, June 16 - 18th
4th Annual AZ Early Learning Institute

Save the Date!!
Saturday, July 19th
Building the Bridge of Communication



Now 3 Different Sets of Classroom Labels



Make shapes of 3 squares



Blocks

SNB Classroom Labels
Volume 1



Please
The open hand circles over the heart.

SNB Classroom Labels
Volume 2



The thumbs lock and the fingers
flutter to represent the shape and
movement of a butterfly.



Butterfly

SNB Classroom Labels
Volume 3

Our newest resources! We have designed the Sprouting New Beginnings' Classroom Label CDs with 3 different volumes to choose from, each will give you the visual literacy you want and need!

Now get the *Sign*, the *Word*, and the *Picture* to enrich the classroom environment. Each CD volume is \$19.99 or \$50.00 for all three plus *FREE* Shipping and Handling.

Visit our '*Products*' page on our website for more information on how you can order these rich resources today for your school! <http://sproutingnewbeginnings.com/products.aspx>



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