

Baby Steps Play and Learn Group Newsletter January/February 2017



It's time for a new calendar on the wall, and perhaps new resolutions to be made. Many people think about health and wellness and vow to have a better diet and to exercise more. As parents of young children, you may be thinking about increasing "quality time" with your family. In reality, young children really aren't aware of what year it is or even what month it is. All they know is you're there and you take care of them, every day. Thank you so much for bringing them to our play and learn group for what we hope you consider as "quality time."

OOPS!

Last month we asked for photos of your child for their name cards and we did get a couple but we neglected to follow-up with everyone. We're going to give it another try and so we're asking again for you to send a close up photo of your little one. In the meantime, it appears the children are learning each other's name without their pictures so that's a plus! Please send photos to Miss Marie at msmariehonda@gmail.com.

Play and Learn Group Schedule



Waimea Elementary School Room P-10

*Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

School resumes after Winter Break on Tuesday, January 10, 2017

*School is in session during this time. Please be considerate while walking through campus and enter/exit along the preferred route. Ask Miss Marie for a copy of the school campus map if you don't have one.

The goal of our play and learn group is to provide an opportunity for children 5 years and younger who are not attending preschool to:

- 1) Play amongst other children
- 2) Participate in new learning experiences
- 3) Practice social and cooperative skills
- 4) Offer parents the opportunity to partner with their child in play, to strengthen the bond with their child, and to network with other parents and caregivers.

Registration is preferred in advance to ensure availability of materials. A \$5 monthly fee is charged to help cover the cost of snacks. There is no discount for holidays or absences. Please notify us when you will be away for an extended time or when you enroll your child in another program. Play & Learn Group may cancel with little or no notice. Send an email to info@babystepshawaii.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy Anniversary to Us!



On January 20, 2011, we greeted 11 little ones to our first play and learn group, held initially at Tutu's House. Six months later we were averaging 18-20 kids! We moved the playgroup to Waimea Elementary School where we're now in our 4th different locale on campus. It's been fun meeting all the wonderful families and we want to thank you all for your support.

Baby STEPS to Stronger Big Island Families

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The Baby Steps Play and Learn Group is funded by a grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Help Children Grow

Home is the first school, and parents are the first teachers. Believe it or not, preparing a child for school starts the day you bring them home from the hospital as a newborn. The term “school readiness” has become a hot topic in recent years — creating a flurry of media interest, “how to” guide books, websites, scholarly debates, and academic research. Fortunately, the best things you can do for your child to prepare them for school are also the simplest and most natural.

H elp	your child grow to respect others as he is shown respect
E ncourage	curiosity in your child to find out more about the world
L ead	your child into conversation designed to expand horizons
P rovide	a wide variety of learning experiences involving all five senses
C reate	an atmosphere of unconditional love, of warmth and understanding
H andle	challenging behavior calmly
I ntroduce	new friends, new places, and new activities
L earn	along with your child
D emonstrate	the work attitudes you want your child to share
R ead	to your child daily
E nrich	your days with beauty, stop and smell the flowers
N urture	your child’s need to be independent, to do it “All by myself”
G uide	your child into activities that exercise his/her whole body
R egularly	check your child’s physical well being (health, vision, hearing)
O ffer	your support and encouragement in new and difficult tasks
W ork	toward your child’s total development (intellectual, physical, emotional, social)

How you communicate with your child, and others, will illustrate to them how they should behave. Manners, respect for others and property, ethics, values, self-respect, the responsibilities of living in community – all these are life lessons that your children will learn from YOU.

One important point to remember is a child learns more in the first 3 years of life than at any other time. Every moment of every day is a learning experience. The beginning yearnings for a love of learning will be acquired in a stable, calm home environment. If home is the first school than it makes sense that parents, or the adults in charge, are the first teachers.

