

Education - Books for Babies and...You! / Pre-School Screening

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

How often have we read this quote and wondered how we can light a fire? Education opens doors to a new life of opportunities for our youth as well as those returning to school, whether it is in a degree program or a self-improvement course. Aren't we learning and expanding our knowledge our whole life? Each time we pick up a book to read, we are acquiring some insight into the world of knowledge and learning. This is one huge way we may eventually make a difference in our lives, communities, and the world.

Co-Chairwomen:
Linda A.

Co-Chairwomen:
Sandy

ESO
Marsha

Committee Members: Becky, Ellen, Cheri, Harriett, Karin, Mary, Robin, Sylvia, Marsha, Kim, Jody, Bev, Diane, Rena, Kathy, Linda, Linda W, Barb B, **Barb**

Early Childhood Intervention/Pre-School Screening

Early Childhood Intervention is a system of supports and services designed to meet the specific needs of a family, and children up to 36 months old. This process is known as Early Intervention. Research shows participation in family-centered intervention services during the first three years of life can have a major impact on the development of a child. If an in-home evaluation finds a child eligible, the family and the Family Support Specialist will determine the concerns and priorities for the child. Follow up services at the home assists in ways to help the child learn and develop.

An ECI brochure is put in each “Books for Babies and...You!” bag with information and to assist parents if support or help is needed.

Each year 35-50 “First Signs” books are purchased and provided to ECI to help children, and their parents, learn signing. These books have also been distributed to Montana State personnel working in this area.

The purpose of the screening is to provide an overall developmental check of children, assisting parents in determining if their child is developing appropriately for his/her age and to locate children with potential or existing problems that may interfere with learning. Screening is for all children birth to five years of age that have not begun kindergarten and live within the Billings School District. The screening is done at the Head Start Building.

Four times a year, three of our members, in cooperation with Billings Public Schools, provide a book for children when they have completed their testing and after their exit interview. Children choose the book of their choice from a table full of books of many different types. If a sibling is present, he/she also gets to choose a book. The people involved stop and check out our books and are very happy with the quality of books we donate. They love having us and we get lots of kudos for being there.

“Books for Babies and You!” – Touch and Feel Board Books and information for parents are delivered daily to newborns at each of the two Billings hospitals. About 2,700 books are delivered each year. Over 16,000 books have been delivered since 2007.

Pre School Screening – Children Ages Birth – 5 years are screened by School District #2 for hearing, vision, speech and development. Books are distributed four times a year.

ESO – Once a month members meet and discuss books they have read. The meeting is usually at Perkins on 27th. There are also awards given to members that have achieved ESO criteria.