



# Family Focus

A newsletter from the DDI VANTAGE Early Intervention Program



## Focus on Staff

### Jewel Morgan



Visitors at our East site will recognize an amazing Program Records Secretary, Jewel Morgan. Even when she's extremely busy, her cheerful, attentive, and professional nature are refreshing to families and colleagues.

Since 2006, Jewel has been the "go-to" person when questions arise regarding data entry, compliance requirements, and child charts. Her ideas have been invaluable with regard to forms, technology, and data base development. Jewel is a member of the Forms Committee and the Technology Utilization Group. It's not surprising that she also maintains the data base server for DDI VANTAGE.

Jewel monitors the child files for accuracy and oversees the incoming and outgoing correspondence for nearly half the children who receive early intervention services at DDI VANTAGE. She knows many families and enjoys interacting with those who receive center based services at the East site. Her name is fitting, for Jewel is truly a "jewel" of an employee.

~ Marsha Johnson,  
Compliance Coordinator

## May 2011

## Calendar of Events

### May 2011

#### May 10

Learning Through Play & Music  
West Site 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Bring your child to this class  
801-957-0855

#### May 12

Pre-reading Skills/Story Time  
Tooele Site 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Bring your child to this class.  
435-833-0725

#### May 13

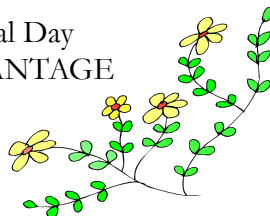
Learning Through Play & Music  
East Site 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
Bring your child to this class.  
801-266-3939

#### May 17

Pre-reading Skills/Story Time  
Duchesne County Site  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Bring your child to this class.  
435-722-3008

#### May 30

Memorial Day  
DDI VANTAGE  
closed



### June 2011

#### June 8

Positive Discipline  
East Site 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Child care is available, please call at least 24 hours in advance.  
801-266-3939

#### June 9

Me & My Guy  
Tooele Site 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Bring your child to this class.  
435-833-0725

#### June 15

Potty Training  
West Site 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
Child care is available, please call at least 24 hours in advance.  
801-957-0855

### June 16

Family Fun Day  
at Wheeler Farm,  
details inside.



#### June 18

Building Up Fathers & Families  
(B.U.F.F.) Activity  
Call 801-268-0056 for details.

#### June 21

Positive Discipline  
Duchesne County Site  
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Child care is available, please call at least 24 hours in advance.  
435-722-3008

# Focus on Development

## Listen Up

Three in 1,000 babies are born with a hearing impairment, making it the most common birth defect in the United States.

Children with hearing loss experience delays in language, learning, and speech. Hearing loss can occur at any age. Early detection is vital for corrective treatment, and parents should consult their pediatrician immediately if their child:

- responds to speech only when able to see the speaker's face;
- is not speaking or making sounds appropriate for age level;
- does not respond to sudden loud noises while awake.



DDI VANTAGE Early Intervention Program partners with the Utah Schools for the Deaf

and Blind (USDB) Parent Infant Program (PIP) to serve children with hearing impairments. The Parent Infant Program strives to provide early intervention services and coordination including:

- Support for parents and families in their efforts to understand their child's hearing or vision loss.
- Information, training, modeling and consultation for parents and family to allow for an increased understanding of their child's unique needs.
- Networking opportunities for families to meet others who have children with hearing or vision impairments.
- Resources and instruction designed to prepare children with sensory impairments to reach their highest potential in preparation for further education.

# Focus on Health & Safety

## Playing Safely with Pets



Cats, dogs, hamsters, fish, and other pets are like people: most of them are happy much of the time. But if something gets them upset, angry, or scared, they will often let you know it. People usually talk or yell when they are upset, but because pets cannot talk, they sometimes bite or scratch to tell you how they are feeling.

Following these rules can help your children to stay safe around animals:

- Do not tease a cat or dog by pulling their tail or ears.
- Never bother a pet when it is sleeping.
- Never bother a pet when it is eating. Do not pull away their food or tease them with a piece of food.
- Do not take a toy away from an animal or hold it out of reach from the animal.
- Never try to get near a pet with its babies. Mothers are very protective of their children and will often bite to keep you away.
- If lifting up an animal, do it very slowly and hold the animal underneath its belly.
- When you're at a friend's home, the same rules apply — plus one more. Always ask your friend if it's OK to pet or hold his or her pet. If your friend says OK, move slowly and be sure to let the animal sniff your hands first.

Occasionally bites and scratches happen. If your child does get bitten or scratched, make sure to take care of the wound quickly. Even minor scratches can lead to complications, especially infections. Treat the wound with basic first aid and call your doctor to find out if your child should receive antibiotics, a tetanus booster, or in rare cases, a rabies shot. If your child was bitten or scratched by an unfamiliar or wild animal, call animal control, do **not** try to capture the animal yourself. Seek medical care if:



- the wound won't stop bleeding after 10 minutes of direct pressure;
- the wound appears to be deep, or is associated with severe injuries;
- the attacking animal was stray or wild or behaving strangely;
- the bite or scratch becomes red, hot, swollen, or increasingly painful.

~Adapted from KidsHealth.org

Join Us!

Family Fun Day - Save the Date

June 16, 2011 at Wheeler Farm, 6351 S. 900 E. Farmington, UT

Due to the amazing turnout we had last year, we have expanded the event!

Hay Rides

Face Painting

Bounce House

Bring the whole family!



# Focus on Learning Link



*The Importance of Play, by Irene Thomas, M. Ed.*

**P**lay is more than just fun for children of all ages. Playing is the most important way to increase development in children from birth through 3 years and later. When a child is playing, everything in the brain lights up. When a child begins to play, brain activity is stimulated and development in all areas is awakened.

Play engages all five senses which are essential to development. The brain develops and grows the most during the first three years and it is vital for children to have brain stimulation through play. While playing, social, emotional, and cognitive development occurs. Children learn to manage stress through activity. Without play, a child may become depressed with a sense of dullness and lethargy.

During the first year, hand-clapping games with music have a great deal of benefit for development. The child learns to gesture which is a form of communication. He learns rhythm and pattern which is essential to learning language. These activities teach a child about emotions, which increases social skills, cognition and language. Spontaneous, unstructured play with other children by age 2 increases interaction, behavior, and social skills. Language and behavior skills increase as the child plays with others.

Laughter is also essential for development. We all learn to laugh by 4 months. Laughing reduces stress and anxiety. Laughter stimulates the right temporal lobe of the brain that processes the meaning of words and speech. Motivation increases when a child laughs. Laughing also increases creativity. Physical, emotional, and cognitive skills are increased with laughter. Laughing regulates social interactions with others and reduces aggression. Some other benefits of laughter and play are: attention to task, decision making, problem solving, reading skills, vocabulary, development of a positive attitude and self-image, conflict resolution, energy, and motivation. Most of all, most children display improved behavior when they learn to laugh and play appropriately.

Plato said, "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation." The best way to get to know your child is through play. Have fun playing and laughing with your child every day!



*the Date!*

from 10:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

led the activities and the size of the event.

use

*Refreshments*

*and join us in June!*



*Clowns*

# Focus on Community

*Local Support*

**Utah Families Touched By Down Syndrome** - This group unites Utah families

that have been touched by Down syndrome. It is a place where people can ask questions, share experiences, support one another, and hopefully makes lasting relationships! In setting up this group, it is our hope that it will be more than an online group. It is our hope that moms will get together for play dates, moms nights out, family activities, and more. It is a place where we share our similarities, celebrate our differences, and build lasting friendships! To join visit [health.groups.yahoo.com/group/UFTBDS/](http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/UFTBDS/)



**Utah Parent Center**

- The mission of the Utah Parent Center (UPC) is to help parents help their children with disabilities to live included, productive lives as members of the community. We accomplish our mission by providing accurate information, empathetic peer support, valuable training, and effective advocacy based on the concept of parents helping parents.

UPC is founded on the philosophy that parents are full partners in the decision-making process that direct their children's care and programs and, as such, can provide significant support to other parents in similar situations. The UPC offers free training, information, referral, and assistance to parents and professionals through the provision of one-on-one consultations, workshops, and presentations. Call 801-272-1051 or visit [www.utahparentcenter.org](http://www.utahparentcenter.org)



DDI VANTAGE, Inc.  
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Salt Lake City, UT 84107

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Please accept my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the DDI VANTAGE Early Intervention Program.  
Date:\_\_\_\_\_ Name:\_\_\_\_\_ Name of child enrolled:\_\_\_\_\_  
Address:\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Your generous donation will be directly available to benefit the children and families who are served in the DDI VANTAGE Early Intervention Program.**

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DDI VANTAGE is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate against its employees nor its clients on the basis of race, religion, gender, age, national origin, political affiliation, or disability.

***DDI VANTAGE Early Intervention Locations***

East: 3950 S. 700 E. Ste 101 Salt Lake City, UT 84107 (801) 266-3939	West: 3540 S. 5600 W. West Valley City, UT 84120 (801) 957-0855	Tooele County: 165 S. Main Ste 200 Tooele, UT 84074 (435) 833-0725	Duchesne County: 187 W. Lagoon St. Roosevelt, UT 84066 (435) 722-3008
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