

PARENT NEWSLETTER

September 1, 2018



SMART Ready for School.
BEGINNINGS Ready for Life.
Greater Roanoke

Having conversations with young children

Frequently when our children arrive home from school, we say "What did you do today?" The child answers, "Nothing." We know our children do not do nothing, but how do we encourage conversation. Conversation helps us establish and maintain relationships with others. Children want to communicate, to understand, and to be understood. Children learn language skills when significant people in their lives listen to them and respond with interest.

How to Build this Skill:

- Ask your child to draw a picture of his/her favorite thing to do at school. Say to your child, "Tell me about your picture". Write down the child's words on the paper.

- Simon Says is a powerful tool for language development. Children learn body parts, direction words, and words that describe movement. Give our child a chance to be Simon as well.

- Play games with your child to encourage them to listen. For example, say your child's name in a whisper voice and then in a loud voice. Ask your child if they can describe the difference. Try high/low, fast/slow as well.

- Follow your child's lead during conversations. Ask her questions about her favorite toy, superhero, or TV show. Be sure to include lots of questions who, what, when, and where and how!

September SAFETY

Every day 44 kids are hit by a car while walking in the United States. That's 16,000 kids hurt every year..Back to school time is often a favorite time of the year for children. The get a fresh start with a new school, new teacher(s), sometimes new and sometimes old friends. Children feel safe when they are in a predictable routine.

With young children waiting at the bustop every moning, this is a good time to talk to all children about safety near the road. Whether they're walking to the bus stop, walking in the parking lot, or walking the entire way to school, all children are a pedestrian at some point during the school day. Even with crossing guards in place in some areas, it is still a good idea to talk about the basics of "look both ways before you cross the street". Remember, look to the left, the right, and then to the left again and keep looking as you cross the street! Teach children to put phones and other devices down when crossing the street. Teach your children not to dart out into the street from inbetween parked cars. Stay on sidewalks or paths where ever possible. Cross the street with an adult, and adults, be a good role model. Put down your phone or other devices when crossing the street!

IN THE COMMUNITY

Big Lick Kid Fest

Sept. 2 10am - 3pm
Elmwood Park
Roanoke, VA

Olde Salme Days

Sept. 8 9am - 5pm

Franklin County Agricultural Fair

Sept 12 - 15
under 5 FREE
5 - 11 - \$5

Fincastle Festival

Sept. 22 10am - 4pm

Star Gazing with a NPS Ranger at Explore Park

Sept. 22 at 8:30pm
56 Roanoke River Parkway
an adult must accompany
all children

Big Lick Train Tug Transportation Museum

Sept 29 10 am
FREE

Jeter Farm Fall Festival

Sept 30 - Oct 28
check days for times
\$10
children under 2 FREE

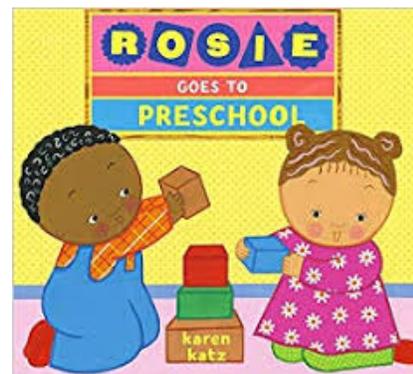
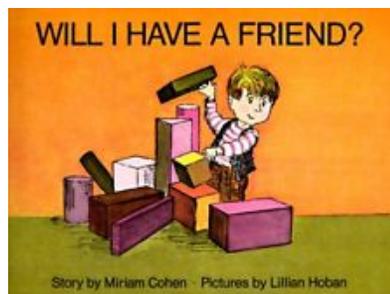
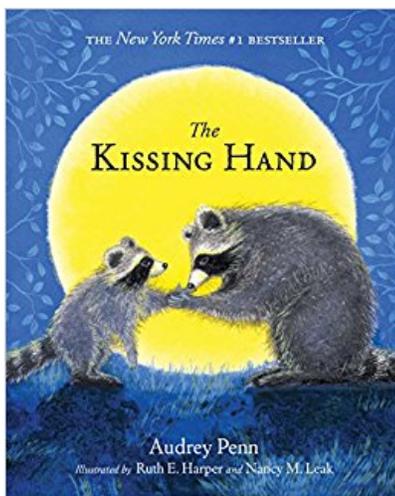
RESOURCES

SAFE KIDS WORLDWIDE™



**United Way
of Roanoke Valley**

SUGGESTED READING



DID YOU KNOW?

Our website is full of great resources including developmental milestones, links to parenting classes, and tips and activities to engage you and your child! Don't forget to look us up on Facebook too!

<https://www.facebook.com/smartbeginningsroanoke>

Check your child's development using the Ages & Stages

Questionnaire <https://www.asqonline.com/family/f51923>

or Ages and Stages Social and Emotional Questionnaire

<https://www.asqonline.com/family/d37cba>



Smart Beginnings Greater Roanoke

United Way of Roanoke Valley

325 Campbell Ave, SW,

Roanoke, VA 24016

P: 540-283-2786 | F: 540-344-4304

www.smartbeginningsroanoke.org