

# Parents are their children's most important teacher

Recently there has been a lot of information in the news about full-day kindergarten, child care and school readiness. There are lots of changes coming and many choices for you, as a parent, to make. Regardless of the changes and the choices, it is important to remember that you are your child's first (and most important!) teacher.

Your baby's brain is born ready to learn. The more you talk to your baby, the more your baby will understand about words and language. Your baby will need strong language connections to learn to read and write.

Most early learning opportunities take place at home when you share and enjoy time together. Singing along to a favourite CD, playing together on the floor or talking to your baby while you are making dinner are all "learning moments." Over the next few years, your baby's brain will continue to build new and stronger language connections.

## Talking

Use short sentences and simple words (e.g. Let's read a book; I'm washing the dishes; Where is the red ball?). By identifying what you are doing, you are giving your child the foundations for language development.

Talk to your child and wait for a response — this is how they learn the concept of conversation.

Babies and young children are able to learn more than one language. If you speak more than one language in your home, expose your child to all of them. You will be amazed how quickly they will learn them.

## Reading

Right from birth you can start reading to your child. Simple story books can be shared during feeding, quiet times and during play time.

Use words to describe what you are seeing in the picture (e.g. I can see a cow in the corner; where is the tractor?).

## Singing

A variety of songs and tunes will appeal to your baby — find ones that you both enjoy.

Comfort your child by singing to him or her.

Teach your child about beat and rhythm while having fun by singing and dancing together.

As your child gets older, use things that interest him or her to find teachable moments. If your child is interested in animals, you can go to the library to find a variety of books, visit the animal shelter or watch for animals in nature.

When you complement these activities by talking with your child, you are devel-

oping his or her interests and curiosity, which will lead to more teachable moments. Every teachable moment your child experiences will help their readiness to learn.

There are a variety of parent/child programs available in our community.

If you are looking for something to do with your baby or young child, here are some things to look into:

Ontario Early Years Centre Dufferin — stop by to visit the drop-in program. The OEYC also offers Mother Goose Time, Totally Toddlers, Story Chest Time,

Words & Water, and a variety of other special events.

Please contact your nearest centre for more information.

Orangeville, 519-941-6991, ext. 2205

Shelburne, 519-941-5504

Grand Valley, 519-928-3383

Orangeville Public Library (519-941-0610) — Bouncing Babies, Dynamic Duo and Giggles and Wiggles

Shelburne Public Library (519-925-2168) — Story Time

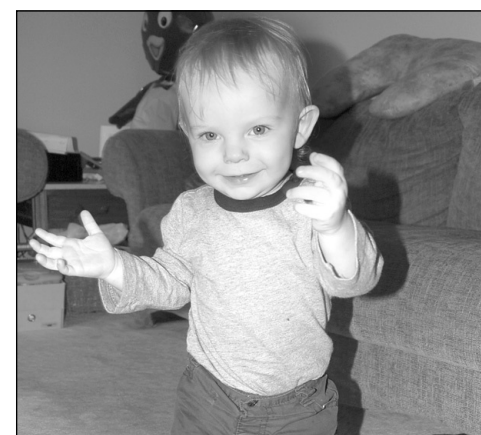
Grand Valley Public Library (519-928-5622) — Baby Time, Toddler Time and Story Time

For more information on Early



DPSN

## ASK A PARENT



Learning Programs in Dufferin County, please feel free to contact Tara Cockerill, early literacy specialist for the County of Dufferin, at 519-941-6991, ext. 2204.

Cockerill is also a workshop facilitator for Dufferin Parent Support Network and will be facilitating a new workshop called "The Pumpkin Blanket" for three- to five-year-olds.

Learn what a cranberry and a pumpkin have in common. Parents and children will explore a variety of science, math and sensory activities.

This workshop is held Saturday, Oct. 24 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and registration is required by emailing info@dpsn.ca or calling 519-940-8678. You can find the complete list of free fall parenting workshops on the website at www.dpsn.ca.

## JUMP START!

(only if you need one!) of course...

A reliable battery is an important part of your vehicle's performance. If your battery and/or charging system is not working properly you may notice some of these symptoms:

- Engine slow to crank over on start-up
- Dim headlight and dash lights
- Battery warning indicator on dash lit
- Engine won't start (just clicks)

## OUR Battery and Charging System

Inspection Special Includes:

**\$21.95** + tax

- Load test battery
- Load test alternator
- Inspect alternator belt
- Check and Tighten battery connection

Be Safe and Save!

Genuine Toyota Battery Replacement  
72 month from \$137.98 + Tax Installed  
84 month from \$189.98 + Tax Installed

2 year full Replacement Warranty!

- Kelly Demetriou  
Service Advisor

**HALLMARK TOYOTA**  
COMMUNITY DRIVEN

RR5 HWY 9  
ORANGEVILLE ON L9W 2Z2  
TEL. (519) 941-9291  
FINDYOURTOYOTA.CA

We service your Toyota the way we built it.



Better Health Clinic would like to welcome Registered Massage Therapist **LEONI PETRASTHUK** to the team. Leoni is happy to be accepting new patients.

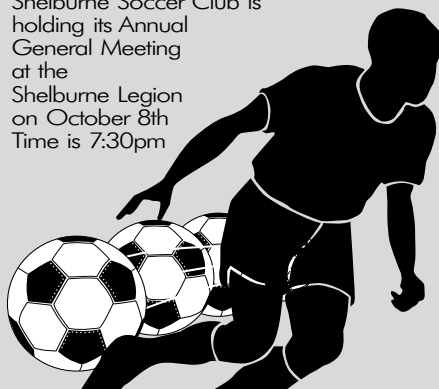
To book an appointment, call 519-415-2266.



**Better Health Clinic**  
328 Broadway, Unit 3, Orangeville  
519-415-2266

## Shelburne Soccer Club Annual General Meeting

Shelburne Soccer Club is holding its Annual General Meeting at the Shelburne Legion on October 8th Time is 7:30pm



Come by and find out more about the club!



Adam Martin-Robbins - The Banner

**LET'S GET PHYSICAL:** Mayor Rob Adams proclaimed Oct. 3 to 9 in motion week in Orangeville. The week will be marked with a number of events, including the Mayor's five-kilometre run, free public swimming and skating, aimed at encouraging physical activity. Adams pledged to donate \$3 to the Trails Buy-a-Metre Campaign for every participant in the run. Joining the mayor were Director of Parks and Recreation Sonya Pritchard (left) and Children's Recreation Programmer Tracy Kelly. For more information about in motion week visit www.orangeville.org.