Welcome to Our New AmeriCorps Member, Madison Zeiss

Hello! I’m Madison, but people call me Madi, and I am so excited to announce that I am the new AmeriCorps member for Talk With Your Baby! I am originally from Los Angeles, CA, but graduated from the University of Notre Dame in Marketing and Political Science in May of 2015. I was also on the Varsity Fencing Team. I started fencing at the age of six, primarily because *The Parent Trap* (the Lindsay Lohan version) was my all-time favorite movie and I wanted to do everything Annie and Hallie did, and I’ve been doing it ever since. This year, I am serving half-time with AmeriCorps and half-time with the Notre Dame Fencing Team as a Volunteer Assistant Coach. It’s going to be a great year and I cannot wait to get to know everyone!

September 8: International Literacy Day

Created by the United Nations in 1965, International Literacy Day recognizes literacy not only as a “human right,” but also as a “tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development.” This year’s theme is *Literacy and Sustainable Development*. To go with the theme, we’ve provided some book suggestions for kids on going green!

Save the Date for TWYB Classes!

**Robinson Center,** 11:30am - 1:00pm - Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 3 & 10

Join us on Tuesday mornings! Lunch and childcare provided.

**Robinson Center,** 6:30pm - 7:30pm – Oct 14, 21, 28, Nov 4 & 11

Join us on Wednesday evenings! Snacks and childcare provided.

**ND Center for Arts and Culture,** 10:00am - 11:00am - Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21, 28

Join us on Wednesday mornings! Snacks and childcare provided.

RSVP at talkwithyourbaby.org or 574-631-6916
Research

Reading to your children from birth is, as of 2014, a recommendation from the American Academy of Pediatrics as a daily fun family activity. Even if your child is too young to read the words themselves, looking at your mouth as you speak will help them learn how to form sounds. They’ll get to have close contact with one or both parents as they learn how to turn pages and talk about the pictures and words on the pages. Soon, they’ll even be requesting their favorites to be read over and over. Don’t feel limited by the words on the page, either; feel free to make up your own story to go along with the pictures if you don’t want to read Goodnight Moon for the thirtieth time in a row. They love hearing your voice regardless of the story it tells!

Kids’ Corner

Do you want to show your child how seeds grow but don’t have room for a garden outside? Try gardening in Styrofoam cups! You only need a little bit of window space for these cups. All you need to get started is a cup, some dirt, a few seeds, and some decorations for your cups. Or, if you want to show your child how roots and stems develop, try planting in a clear cup. They’ll be able to watch in real-time how quickly plants grow with plenty of water and sunlight. You could also plant a few different types of seeds and see which one grows the fastest, and guess why that might be happening.

For more information, contact TWYB coordinator Kris Arizmendi at karizmen@nd.edu.