News

It’s back-to-school season, and here at TWYB we are beginning our fall classes!

As the temperature (hopefully!) drops, stop by to learn how to get your baby prepared for her first years of school. The science says you can never start too early!

*Meals provided at Robinson Community Center location, snacks provided at SJCPL.

Chloe Spurgat
Quarter-Time Americorps Member

Chloe is the most recent addition to the TWYB team. A junior at the University of Notre Dame, she is studying Science - Computing and Poverty Studies. She is excited to see early childhood development programs in action and to do research into the adolescent brain. When not studying, she can be found playing sand volleyball, listening to music, hanging out with friends, or all three!

Contact Chloe: cspurgat@nd.edu

Half - Time Americorps Position

If you or anyone you know is looking for a half - time position in a service organization, contact Kris Arizmendi at karizmen@nd.edu.

SEPTEMBER 2018

Talk With Your Baby
Robinson Community Center

Talk With Your Baby
Read
ABC

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Benefits of Risky Play

Does your child gravitate towards danger? Science says it might be a good thing.

Risky play is defined as thrilling and exciting forms of physical play that involve uncertain outcomes and a risk of physical injury. It generally involves heights, high speeds, rough and tumble play, play with dangerous objects, play near dangerous elements, and the possibility of getting lost. Recent studies show that engaging in supervised risky play can improve a child’s risk assessment skills, and general brain development. Babies are born with some innate fears, but need to develop these further by testing their limits. Children with extremely protective parents tend to be more anxious and can become unnecessarily and constantly fearful of their environment.

Obviously, a child in imminent danger should be immediately removed from the situation. However, with close and careful observation, a child can learn a lot about the environment and their relationship to it by engaging in risky play. Additionally, a calm explanation of the dangers will teach your baby how to cope in risky situations.

TIPS FOR SAFE RISKY PLAY

- Create a safe healthy space where your baby can climb, run, and explore by removing hazardous materials and objects.

- Watch your baby closely, and only intervene when you deem necessary. **Use your best judgement**; the whole point of risky play is to teach your baby their own best judgement, so lead by example.

- When play becomes too risky, calmly remove your baby from danger, and explain why you are doing so.

- Practice consistency in your response to risky play.

- Help your child handle dangerous objects safely through example and hands-on teaching.

- **Never** leave your baby unattended while in dangerous environments.