



thefamilycenter

VIRTUAL CENTER

Welcome to The Family Center!

Franklin County's newest resource for families with young children.

Exciting News!!

This Spring we will launch The Family Center website! The website will be full of resources and ways for families to connect with each other. Watch your email for a special announcement about the launch!

Social Emotional Development

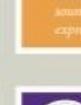
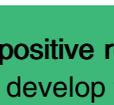
If you were able to tune into our bedtime adventures on Facebook this month, you learned lots of great ways to help support your child's social and emotional development. If you weren't able to catch us live, check out the [videos](#) and [resources](#).

Social and emotional development truly is one of the keys to school success and is one area in which The Family Center will strive to provide support to our Franklin County families.



Social-Emotional Development Guide

Support the social-emotional development of children
by checking for these important milestones.

<p>2 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Babies...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• let you know they are happy by cooing, smiling, laughing, and gurgling.• like to play with their fingers, hands, feet, and toes.• look at your face and may look in your eyes, but only for a few seconds at first. 	<p>6 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Babies...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• respond to your affection and may begin to show you signs of affection.• sometimes suck on their fingers and hands to calm down.• will sometimes stop crying when you talk to them rather than pick them up. 	<p>12 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Babies...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• show many emotions, such as happiness, sadness, anger, and discomfort.• respond differently to strangers than they do to family members and friends.• imitate other children and adults. They may imitate sounds, actions, and facial expressions. 
<p>18 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Toddlers...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are generally happy and smile at other people, including other children.• enjoy playing near other children but not with them quite yet.• are showing different emotions, such as fear, guilt, sympathy, modesty, or embarrassment. 	<p>24 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Toddlers...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• like to imitate you, other adults, and their friends.• like to use the words mine, no, and me do it.• enjoy simple pretend play. They may like pretending to cook or talk on the telephone. 	<p>30 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Children...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• greet familiar adults and are happy to see friends.• like to be loved and cuddled—but not in the middle of playtime.• are getting louder and bossier at times. They may talk with a loud, urgent voice. 
<p>36 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Children...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• use imagination to create stories through pretend play.• can sometimes use their words to express their feelings.• are learning to follow simple rules, although they sometimes need gentle reminders. 	<p>48 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Children...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• now understand short and simple rules at home.• love silly jokes and have a sense of humor.• are beginning to share. They take turns but are possessive of their favorite toys. 	<p>60 Month</p> <h3>Milestones</h3> <p>Children...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• may play with small groups of children at the park or at school.• now play simple games such as Candy Land and Go Fish.• are beginning to understand the meaning of right and wrong. They do not always do what is right, though. 

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www.agesandstages.com

Paul H. BROOKES



Strong, positive relationships help children develop trust, empathy, compassion, and a sense of right and wrong.

Starting from birth, babies learn who they are by how they are treated. Loving relationships provide young children with a sense of comfort, safety, and confidence. They teach young children

how to form friendships, communicate emotions and deal with challenges.

[Read More...](#)

Resources for Families

By: Shannon Lorusso, Language Special Instructor, PennCares Early Intervention



The Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL) is focused on promoting the social emotional development and school readiness of young children birth to age five.

[Read More...](#)



This parent tool gives families articles to help with teaching emotions and feelings, responding to your child's bite, making the most of playtime, and understanding your child's behaviors and helping with certain routines.

[Read More...](#)



The parent training modules give families trainings that would be most useful in addressing the social emotional needs of young children. Some examples are Why Children Do What They do?, How to deal with Challenging Behaviors?, and Teach me What to do? on how to help your child express themselves appropriately during routines.

[Read More...](#)



These are Scripted Stories for Social Situations help children understand social interactions, situations, expectations, and social cues.

[Read More...](#)

Autism Resources



Whether you are facing a diagnosis of Autism or just have questions about Autism, you are not alone! The Family Center is here to help you find the local connections you need to feel supported along with our partners in the community.

Local Support Groups:

If your child has been diagnosed with Aspergers or High Functioning Autism, check out this [local support group](#) in Franklin County.

If you are in the Waynesboro area, [this group](#) may be a match for you.

The [Right to Education Task Force: IU12](#) connects parents of children with disabilities, service providers, school districts, and community agencies to support each other through dialogue, training, and networking.

[The Ethan Center](#) is a place where children and families can find a variety of therapeutic services in South Central Pennsylvania.

The [Parent to Parent](#) model is a one-to-one match between an experienced, mentor parent, called a peer support parent, and a parent seeking individualized support from another parent who has been there. Connecting parents who have children with similar disabilities within their community.

Resources:

If you are wondering if your child could have Autism, click [here](#).

[What is Autism?](#)

[Franklin County Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Resources](#)

[Easter Seals Resources](#)

Spring Activity

Try one of these [12 activities](#) to celebrate the season and support your child's development.

- Have a teddy bear picnic.
- Create (and send!) flower cards
- Build a rainy-day hideaway.
- Have a cloud chat.
- Make water pictures.
- String a flower garland.
- Set up a treasure hunt.
- Play a Guess-What Game.
- Have some photo fun.
- Finish bathtime with a "tub scrub."
- Read together every night.
- Do a quick check of their milestones.



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"the path of development is a journey of discovery that is clear only in retrospect, and it's rarely a straight line."

- Eileen Kennedy-Moore

Parent Question of the Month



Q: My toddler has been at home with me since he was born. Do you think it is necessary that he begin preschool or child care in order to develop social skills?

A: Learning social skills is certainly very important for young children. The more experience they have interacting with peers, the more they learn about how to get along with others, and the richer their world becomes as they develop new relationships.

Interactions with other children can happen in many different ways. It is not necessary to send a child to child care solely to provide peer experiences. Other options are: joining parent-child classes (many even have online options now due to the pandemic!), meeting other families with young children in your neighborhood and inviting them over to play, or going to the playground and other places where you would find families with young children.

Developing social skills is a process that takes time and experience. For example, learning to take turns and share are skills that evolve over several years, as children practice over and over how to handle these challenging situations. It is very helpful to young children when parents and caregivers coach them in this process, act as good role models for self-control and other

social skills, and keep their expectations for children in line with their developmental age and stage.

Source: Zero to Three <https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/297-will-my-child-develop-social-skills-if-he-s-not-in-preschool-or-child-care>

How would you like to have the support of an early childhood community at your fingertips?

Do you have a question about your child's development or behavior?

Do you need new ideas for things to do with your little one?

Are you struggling with an issue as a family?

Talk to us!

We have a whole community of childcare providers, early childhood teachers (infant through third grade), mental health staff, social workers, doctors and early intervention specialists ready to help. Send us any question, and we mean **ANY** question and we will get you answers. Each month we will feature a few of these questions to help all the other families in Franklin County too. You are not alone-let us be a part of your village!

Ask your
question

Community Spotlight

First Start Partnerships for Children and Families



**First Start
Partnerships**
for **Children & Families**

is a non-profit organization that serves children, prenatal through age 5, and their families throughout Franklin County.

We are committed to serving our children and families with the highest quality care and education to develop each person to their fullest potential.

We offer multiple programs with classrooms throughout Franklin County:

Ages prenatal - 3: This program puts an emphasis on your baby's first 1,000 days. This period of time is vital in your baby's early development. (Early Head Start Home Visiting Program and Early Head Start Center Program)

Ages 3-5: This program focuses on the two years before kindergarten, a very exciting time for your child! In this time your child is very curious and always asking questions, as well as learning to get along with other children, and how to manage their many emotions. (Head Start Center Program and Pre-K Counts Center Program)

We are now enrolling for the 2021-2022 school year.

Apply Now

So many amazing things are happening at First Start Partnerships, stay informed by following us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and our [website](#)!

Adventure Series



SAVE THE DATE!!

We love to hear from our families in Franklin County! Thank you to everyone who voted for our next adventure on Facebook, the winner is [Cooking Adventures!](#)

Join us on April 5-8th on Facebook for some cooking fun!

If you voted for one of the other adventures, don't worry, those will be coming soon.

Local Event



Music & Movement

Every Monday from 11am-12pm the Alexander Hamilton Memorial Free Library in Waynesboro hosts a Preschool Music and Movement over Zoom.

Check the [AHMFL](#) Facebook page for updates.



Love what you see? Want to share it with your friends and family? When you submit a referral, your friend or family member will receive this amazing newsletter in their inbox each month!

AND you will receive a gift from us for helping us spread the word!

Submit a Referral Today!

Follow Us!



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