



FIPP for Families

Family, Infant and Preschool Program, Morganton, NC



FIPP is committed to promoting the growth and development of young children by supporting & strengthening families and building caring, responsive communities.

What FIPP can do for you:

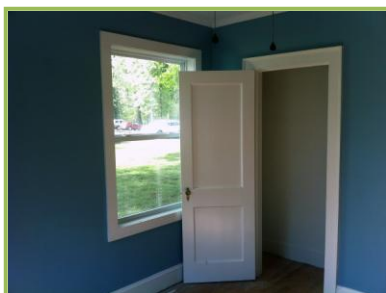
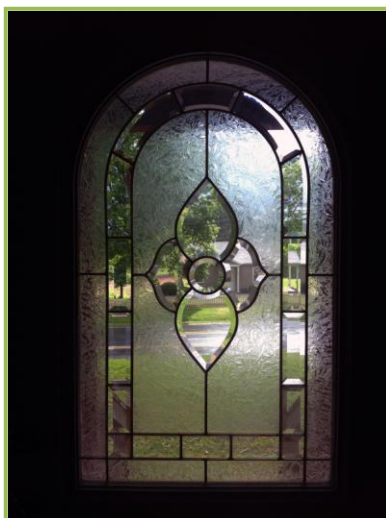
- *Early childhood & family support practices tailored to your family's life circumstances*
- *Focus on child, parent, and family strengths*
- *Rapid response within 24-48 hours*
- *No waiting list for FIPP services*
- *Service provision at times and locations that are convenient to families*
- *Highly qualified and experienced staff*
- *Practices based on the most current research*

For more information about FIPP please visit our website...

www.fipp.org

or call
(828) 433-2661

Center of Excellence Infrastructure Development Proceeding on Schedule



As part of FIPP's five-year, \$1,000,000.00 Federal Center of Excellence grant, Early Head Start staff from around the country will be coming to Morganton, Lenoir, and Taylorsville to learn more about high-quality programming. Some of the training topics include how to conduct successful group socializations, promoting everyday child learning in the home, and delivery of effective mental health supports for families. To keep travel costs for visiting programs to a minimum, FIPP is using a portion of the grant money to renovate a two-bedroom cottage directly across the street from the FIPP administration building and Center of Excellence training center. The cottage will be used for overnight accommodations and meeting space for visiting Early Head Start staff and will be available during the five-year grant period, and then can continue to be used for educational purposes when the Federal funding ends. When completed, the cottage will contain two double-occupancy bedrooms, a shared bathroom, living space, and a kitchen. The cottage will also have wireless internet capabilities in order for visitors to connect with their programs back home and to assist with their studies while they are at FIPP. The FIPP Center of Excellence Director, Sarah Sexton, estimates that 100 individuals will use the cottage annually. While their lodging will be made available at no charge to participants or their programs, individuals staying in the cottage will bring much needed revenue to the Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell area as they shop and frequent the restaurants in the area.

In addition to the cottage for visitors who will be staying in Morganton to attend workshops and observe FIPP staff in action, the FIPP Center of Excellence funding has provided a state-of-the-art training center. The new facility located in a former conference room in the FIPP administration building in Morganton contains equipment that allows FIPP staff in Morganton, Lenoir, and Taylorsville to connect via distance technology for meetings and trainings, thus saving travel costs.

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The technology is also used for regularly scheduled Center of Excellence professional development opportunities and enables participants from across the country to attend large-group workshops, webinars, and webcasts by connecting from their personal computers or at a designated broadcast location. For small group videoconferences, trainings, and program consultations, WebEx technology is now available on every FIPP computer. This web-based conferencing

service allows FIPP staff to connect electronically and immediately with one another, families they are serving, and Center of Excellence trainees wherever they might be located.

Another aspect of the FIPP Center of Excellence that will soon be available is a new website that will contain information about our local programs as well as direct access to web-based training opportunities for early childhood intervention and Early Head Start professionals nationwide.

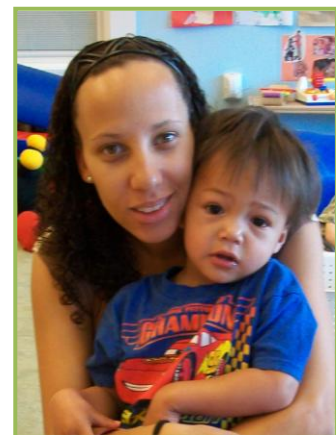
The CASE resources, which are currently downloaded and used by hundreds of early intervention program practitioners from around the U.S., will continue to be posted. In addition, several online training modules and toolkits will be available free-of-charge for professionals seeking to improve their knowledge and skills to promote child learning and parenting supports. Watch this newsletter for the announcement of the new website.

The Federal Early Head Start office in Washington,

D.C. recognizes the high quality programming and research conducted by the Family, Infant and Preschool program and delivered throughout Alexander, Burke, and Caldwell Counties. As a result, the Center of Excellence grant is a mechanism that allows widespread dissemination of FIPP practices in order to build the capacity of other early childhood, early intervention, and Early Head Start programs and their staff to provide high quality, research-based practices for infants, toddlers, and their families.

Family Spotlight

Tameka Morales and son Elijah Morales



My husband, kids, and I have been involved in the FIPP EHS program for a little over two years now. For such a short amount of time, a great difference in our lives has been made. I can still remember when I first heard about the FIPP program. It was from my aunt whose daughter's little girl was in the program as well. She knew I had just had my second son, Elijah, giving me two boys under the age of two. At the time, I was a stay at home mom going to school online. I was quite busy with my two boys and felt socially alone many times because I was always at home with them. I wasn't aware of what help was actually out there for us. When she mentioned FIPP, I thought sure, why not? We'll go check it out. I could never have been any happier to have made such a step. At the time, my youngest son was 4 months old and my oldest, Jaime, had just turned 2. We fell in love with FIPP immediately. We also fell in love with our home visitor, Heather Reynolds. She has been such a blessing as well as an inspiration to my whole family. The playgroups at FIPP have benefited my kids so much also. They have given my two boys the opportunity to have other kids to play with in order to help build on the social-emotional skills so necessary for them that they were unable to get just from being at home all the time. Now my oldest has left FIPP to go on to Head Start, but my youngest is now in the center-based program at FIPP EHS. He loves it there and so do I. The staff there is so knowledgeable and friendly. Most importantly, you can really tell that they are in it for the kids! Those kids mean everything to them. They truly have a passion to be there and to work with those kids. I am currently in the program as well as a pregnant mother and I have found FIPP to help in such a great way with my pregnancy as well. I look forward to what FIPP EHS will do for me and my family in the future including my Serenity, whom we hope to get into the center-based program as well. In the meantime, I will continue to help FIPP as much as possible (as I do as the secretary of the Policy Council for FIPP) and in any other way that I can!

New Faces at the Alexander County Early Head Start Family Resource Center



Kirsten Maynard, EHS Coordinator, came to North Carolina in 2009 after spending 12 years in Florida working with children and families. Kirsten has committed the last 18 years to a career in making a difference in the lives of families through prevention, intervention, mental health, and education services to children, their parents, and service providers.

In her free time, Kirsten is committed to advocacy and making a difference through volunteer commitments. Most importantly, Kirsten is honored to guide her daughters, Arwen (6) and Aylan (4) through their experience of the world.



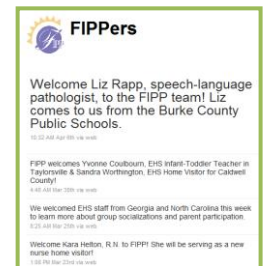
Kristen Horton, Administrative Assistant, grew up in New Jersey and traveled throughout the United States and Germany prior to moving to Morganton in 1993 with her husband Frank. Kristen is a veteran FIPP staff member, who has returned after an 8 year hiatus. Kristen originally worked with the FIPP Family Resource Center in Oak Hill for 4½ years with Early Childhood Educator, Kathy Childs. When the resource center closed, Kristen went on to work as a child care teacher for 8 years. Kristen missed her time at the resource center and is very excited to return to FIPP.

Kristen is married and has two boys, Josh (19) and Donald (17). Both of the boys were involved with the FIPP resource center when they were younger.



Yvonne Coulbourn, Teacher, is a married mother of two daughters, ages 9 and 16. Yvonne is currently enrolled at CVCC where she is pursuing an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood Education. She hopes to graduate this fall. Yvonne has been with FIPP for a couple of weeks now and has been very impressed with the love and dedication everyone has for the children and families in the community. In her spare time, Yvonne is an avid reader and loves to cook and travel.

Don't forget to follow us on facebook and twitter.



Seeing Stars in Alexander County

For the past few months the classroom in Alexander County has been preparing for the star rating assessment. Knowing we have a center with high standards, reaching the stars was not as difficult as expected. Susan Gallagher, Infant-Toddler Specialist provided technical support by visiting the classroom several times and provided ideas about room arrangement, toys needed and not needed, etc. Susan also pointed out how teachers can better communicate to ensure things are being remembered and children's needs are being met. Based on the onsite observations, the program was awarded an overall score of 5.47 which means an average of individual scores of at least a 5 out of 7. The center rating will be determined when the final paperwork reaches Raleigh. What a great learning experience!



Caldwell Family Resource Center Safety and Disaster Training

On May 26th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the FRC in Lenoir, all families are invited to learn about safety and disaster training. This training will provide tips on what to do when emergencies occur. This information will be presented by the Lenoir Emergency Services Department E.M.T. Kenneth Teague. For more information, please call Shebala Norwood at 828-757-8632 ext 14. Talk to the Family Resource Center Coordinator in your county to suggest events you would like to see hosted close to your home.

BETTER HEARING & SPEECH MONTH



HELPING PEOPLE COMMUNICATE

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month. FIPP has three certified and licensed speech-language pathologists who provide screenings, speech-language evaluations, and intervention for children from birth to five years of age.

For information about typical communication development, go to:
<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/>

If you have questions or concerns about your child's hearing or communication, contact FIPP at (828) 433-2661 or toll free at 1-800-822-3477. Thank you Kris, Jennifer, and Liz for all the work you do on behalf of young children and their families.

The Happy Couples & Happy Kids Project



We can teach you strategies that will improve your relationship and help you be a better parent!

We are looking for couples with children between the ages of birth to 8 years to participate in a new 6 week series about families.

Date:

Mondays
May 2, 2011 – June 13, 2011

Time:

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Facilitator:

Brad Faircloth, Ph.D.

Location:

Family Resource Center,
609 Harper Ave, Lenoir

**For more information or to sign up,
call Shebala Norwood @ 828-757-8632.**

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day May 3rd

This year, the Alexander Early Head Start staff, families, and children will release green balloons in a county wide ceremony to celebrate Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and seeks to raise awareness about the importance of children's mental health and that positive mental health is essential to a child's healthy development from birth. The Family, Infant and Preschool Program Early Head Start fosters infant and child mental health by supporting parents when they help their child to:

- experience, manage, and express emotions;
- form close, responsive and secure relationships with their family and friends; and
- explore, master, and learn new things in the context of their family, community, and culture.

Information will also be available at the Burke, Caldwell and Alexander Early Head Start Resource Centers and through FIPP home visitors about activities parents can practice every day to nurture and maintain mental health resiliency for their children and their family. Please ask any FIPP EHS staff person for more information if you are interested.

Fatherhood Group

If you are a male role model, which includes, fathers, brothers, teachers, grandfathers, and neighbors, please come join our fatherhood group.

The Fatherhood Group is excited about the upcoming Hickory Crawdads game on May 14th. The game is open to all Early Head Start fathers and their children. The group hopes to see some exciting minor league baseball and share this excitement with the children. The group has park days set for June in each county and we will be flying kites, grilling out, and playing games with our children.

Playing in the Park with Dad

Caldwell – Saturday, June 11th

1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
JE Broyhill Park
509 Ridge Street, Lenoir, NC

Burke – Saturday, June 11th

4:30 p.m.
Bethel Park
600 Block Bethel Road, Morganton, NC

Alexander – Saturday, June 25th

2:00 p.m.
Matheson Park,
Matheson Park Lane, Taylorsville, NC

Grilling out and Crawdads Game

Saturday, May 14th

5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
L.P. Frans Stadium Hickory Crawdads
2500 Clement Blvd NW, Hickory, NC



A fundraiser has been set for June 16th at Bo's Family Entertainment, 1115 Blowing Rock Boulevard, Lenoir, NC. The cost will be \$10 for each person and includes unlimited bowling, laser tag, putt-putt golf, arcade games, and two slices of pizza and a drink. This is a great deal for parents and children alike. Come out and enjoy the start of summer vacation and help the Fatherhood Group raise funds for future activities.

Student Spotlight



Read what our student interns have to say about their time working with FIPP.

"My internship with FIPP has been a great experience. Everyone has been very welcoming and helpful, and I have never felt like there was a question I could not ask. During my time at FIPP I have had a lot of new experiences; working with families in their homes, and working with children who have severe disabilities are just a couple of new experiences. I really feel that these new experiences will help me to become a better teacher and professional. Although my time at FIPP has been short-lived, I can tell that FIPP is dedicated to supporting children and their families any way they can, and that is wonderful. I would like to thank

everyone who has made my internship at FIPP possible, especially Mrs. Stephanie Jolly who allowed me to tag along with her for the past month! I would also like to let the ladies of the Alexander FIPP know that I respect each of them for the things they do for children and their families and they are doing an awesome job! Keep up the great work and thanks for my wonderful experience!"

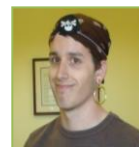
~Natasha Beckner, Appalachian State University

"Over a five week period, I have gained insights into the three components of Family Infant and Preschool Program/Early Head Start: home-based, center-based, and play group. I shadowed Holly Camp (Home Visitor), learned the operations of Child Plus Database, assisted in documentation, assisted with play groups and classrooms, contributed to a research project, completed assigned projects, attended staff development, Adolescent Parenting Program, and professional team meetings, and participated in community outreach. It has been a rewarding experience to spend quality time in an organization where families are the number one priority. I want to personally thank each family that welcomed me into their home and gave me the opportunity to grow. Thank you to Holly Camp and all the staff that helped me make my five week experience at FIPP so successful."

~Chancey Perry, Appalachian State University



Pirate Day Shivered Our Timbers...Arrrghhh!



On Tuesday, April 12th, Burke Family Place/FRC had Pirate Day fun and festivities. Young pirates made their own pirate hats, searched for hidden treasure, and prepared Walk the Plank fruit kabobs, Under the Sea jello and Scurvy Soup. The junior pirates and their pirate parents had picture clues that led them to many fun finds. When they finished their treasure hunt, they turned their finds in for a treasure. Mr. Colston, or Cap'N Sealegs Crooner, sang an original song for Pirate Day entitled, *My Friend Peg the Pirate*. All of the pirates had a bloody good time and used a lot of pirate words like, Arrrghhh, landlubber, ahoy there maties, blow me down, and yo, ho ho! The pirates in training had their photos made as an experienced pirate or "old salt." A great time was had by all and many took their booty home with them and vowed to sail again the trusty seas of the FRC.



May 2011

Alexander	Burke	Caldwell
<i>Center Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 401 East Main Street, Taylorsville, NC 28681 Call Donna Bumgarner Phone: (828) 635-1479</i>	<i>Center Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 501 Enola Road, Morganton, NC 28655 Call Jeanne Byrd Phone: (828) 433-2660</i>	<i>Center Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 609 Harper Avenue, S.W. - Lenoir, NC Call Shebala Norwood Phone: (828) 757-8632</i>

Sun	1			
M	2	10:00 – 12:00 Lil Artist	10:00-11:30 Play and Learn 1:00-2:30 Everyday Moments (New playgroup for parents of newborns and infants up to 6 mos and parents to be!)	10:00-12:00 HCHK 2:30-4:00 Lil' Gymnast
T	3	10:00 -12:00 Vomanos	Field Trip to Beans and Berry Farms (Organic) 9:30am - 11:30am Leave FRC at 9:00am	10:00-11:30 Lil' Swimmers @Quest for Life 12:00-1:00 Breastfeeding Support Group
W	4	1:00-2:30 Lil Chef's	Field Trip to Tuttle State Park 9:30am-12 pm Ranger Jimmy will share some facts about TSP; families may bring picnic /wear comfy shoes for the hike and talking tree trail	10:00-11:30 Sing and Dance
Th	5	10:00 – 12:00 Sing and Dance	10:00-12:00 Lil Swimmers at Valdese Pool	10:00 – 11:30 Lil' Scientist 3:00-4:00 Outside Discovery
F	6	FRC Closed	FRC Closed	FRC Closed
Sat	7			
Sun	8			
M	9	10:00 – 12:00 Lil Artist	10:00-11:30 Play and Learn 1:00-2:00 Everyday Moments	10:00-12:00 HCHK 2:30-4:00 Lil' Gymnast
T	10	10:00 -12:00 Vomanos 12:30 -1:30 Parent Committee meeting	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef	10:00-11:30 Lil' Explores @ Mulberry Park
W	11	1:00-2:30 Lil Chef's	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef @ QMPC Peaceful Parenting 5:30 -7:30pm	10:00-11:30 Sing and Dance
Th	12	10:00 – 12:00 Lil Explorer's @ Library	10:00-12:00 Sing and Dance	10:00 – 11:30 Lil' Scientist 3:00-4:00 Outside Discovery
F	13	FRC Closed	FRC Closed	FRC Closed
Sat	14		Crawdads Game and Cookout 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Call Jason May at 430-7969 for details	
Sun	15			
M	16	10:00 – 12:00 Lil Artist	10:00-11:30 Play and Learn 1:00-2:30 Everyday Moments	10:00-12:00 HCHK 2:30-4:00 Lil' Gymnast
T	17	10:00 -12:00 Vomanos	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef	10:00-11:30 Lil' Swimmers @Quest for Life Policy Council 5:00-7:00
W	18	1:00-2:30 Lil Chef's	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef @ QMPC Peaceful Parenting 5:30 -7:30pm	10:00-11:30 Sing and Dance
Th	19	10:00 – 12:00 Sing and Dance 5:30-7:30 Between Us	10:00-12:00 Lil Swimmers at Valdese Pool	10:00 – 11:30 Lil' Scientist 3:00-4:00 Outside Discovery
F	20	FRC Closed	FRC Closed	FRC Closed
Sat	21			
Sun	22			
M	23	10:00 – 12:00 Lil Artist	1:00-2:30 Everyday Moments 10:00-11:30 Play and Learn	10:00-12:00 HCHK 2:30-4:00 Lil' Gymnast
T	24	10:00 -12:00 Vomanos	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef	10:00-11:30 Lil' Explores @ J.E. Broyhill Park
W	25	1:00-2:30 Lil Chef's	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef @ QMPC Peaceful Parenting 5:30-7:30pm	10:00-11:30 Sing and Dance
Th	26	10:00 – 12:00 Sing and Dance 5:30-7:30 Between Us	10:00-12:00 Sing and Dance	10:00-12:00 Parent Meeting EMT- Kenneth Teague Disaster Training
F	27	FRC Closed	FRC Closed	FRC Closed
Sat	28			
Sun	29			
M	30	FRC Closed	FRC Closed	FRC Closed
T	31	10:00 -12:00 Vomanos	10:00-12:00 Lil Chef	10:00-11:30 Lil' Explores @ New Gamewell Park