



Pediatric
Therapy
Professionals, Inc.

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PTP News

December 2010

Question and

Answer:

How do I get involved with Toys for Tots?

Go to www.toysfortots.org to find out where you can donate a new, wrapped gift. Also, there are local locations to sign up to receive a toy. There is a list of the documentation you need to present to get your child a toy.

Book Corner:

Have you even wondered why your snowman doesn't look as fresh in the morning? You spent all that time making him perfect, but the next day, he is always so droopy and maybe, his carrot nose has fallen off. In *Snowmen at Night*, by Caralyn Buehner, all that is explained. After we go to bed, the snowmen get together and play! They have snow ball fights and sled races. All the snowmen in the book are very cartoony and funny. The pictures are colorful, and your children will be pointing out all the silly things the snowmen do at night. So, next time your snow creation as fallen a bit the next morning, you and your children will know why!

BluePrints Program

When you walk into the Community Room of the Baierl Family YMCA in Wexford on Tuesdays at 1:30, there is a lot of activity! Young children run around on mats with no socks on. They climb on large, foam tubes and bounce on small trampolines. In the background, preschool music plays. The kids are having the time of their lives.

It is a new program in our area. It is called BluePrints, and offered through the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania (SBAWP). It is a social skills play group for all children ages two through five. As the kids play, the parents are encouraged to learn from the professionals from SBAWP and share personal experiences with the other parents.

After the running and jumping is over, the music is turned off, and the children go

to a huge parachute laid out on the floor. They each stand on a color wedge of the parachute. Once they are all arranged, each of them are asked to find a color that matches the one they are standing on. The kids run around, looking. They all go back to the parachute and talk about what they found and about all the colors.

Once the color matching activity is over, all the children sit for an interactive story. They are each given a "part" to do. This encourages them to pay attention and listen. If they aren't paying attention, they will miss their "part." All those kids sat there with very little cuing. They loved being involved!

BluePrints uses the PA Early Learning Standards to give the children the skills they will need for kindergarten. They incorporate letters, col-

ors, matching, social skills, motor skills, and others.

The last page of the book as been read, and the kids go back to free play on the mats. The music goes back on too. It's almost 2:30 already, and everyone will be leaving soon. They can't wait until next week!

Sounds like fun, right? Well, as mentioned, there is a play group at the Baierl Family YMCA in Wexford on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30. Starting December 1st, there is another group at Positive Steps Therapy in Renfrew from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. In the past, BluePrints has hosted bouces at Bounce U in Warrendale.

If you are interested in more information about this exciting new program, contact Barbara Levandoski at 724-934-9600, or go to www.sbawp.org.

PPG Ice Skating Rink

For a fun, winter activity, take the family to the PPG Ice Skating Rink in downtown Pittsburgh. It opened November 19th and will be open until March. The rink is outside, decorated with lights and lots of music.

There are several special events in December around the holidays. From

January through March, they have Tuesday Family nights from 6pm to 10pm. If you buy an adult admission, one child will get in free. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$6 for children and seniors. In addition, there is a \$3 skate rental free. The rink also offers group rates, parties, and skate lessons.

The hours of operation are:

Monday-Thursdays	11am-10pm
Fridays	11am-12am
Saturdays	11am-12am
Sundays	12pm-8pm

Open on the Holidays!

For more info, call 412-394-3641.

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Winter



Upcoming Events

- 12/3 to 12/30, Cascade of Lights at Cascade Park, 6 to 9pm, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. For more info, go to www.newcastlepa.org
- 12/3 to 12/5, 21st Festival of Trees at The Lodge at Brady's Run Park in Brighton Twp. Decorated trees, visit with Santa, gift shop, and more. For more info, go to www.beavercountyfestivaloftrees.org
- 12/4, 2010 Pittsburgh Polar Plunge at Heinz Field. Event is to raise money for the Special Olympics. For more info, go to www.specialolympicspa.org
- 12/4 through 12/18, Breakfast Express at the Carnegie Science Center, Saturdays, 4th, 11th and 18th. Eat breakfast, then watch the movie *Polar Express* in the Imax Theater. \$30 for adults, \$25 for children and seniors, \$10 for children 1-2 years old. To register, call 412-237-3400, press 7
- 12/11, 12/12, 12/18, and 12/19, Breakfast or Lunch with Santa at the Zoo. Enjoy a delicious meal, crafts, visit the zoo animals, and more. Register online on the Zoo website or call 412-365-2533

If you know of any upcoming events or activities in your area, please contact Brooke Dorsch, Director of Community Outreach. Her email is bdorsch@pedtp.com. We will put any child or family related event or activity in our newsletter. Other families who read it may be interested in attending. Thank you for the information!!

