



Smart Start Update --- June 2014

www.SmartStartAlabama.org

Child Care: Keeps Alabama Working Video Series

Last summer, the Alabama Partnership for Children commissioned M. Keivan Deravi, Ph.D. and Professor of Economics at Auburn University at Montgomery, to determine the economic impact of the early care and education industry on the economy of the state of Alabama. Findings from the report and the implications for the state are being detailed in a series of informational videos. Below is the fourth video in the series, featuring Van Richey, President and CEO of AMERICAN Cast Iron Pipe Company. Van Richey also serves on the Alabama Partnership for Children's Board of Directors. To read the full report and view other videos in the series [click here](#).



Nurse-Family Partnership: Because Family Safety & Security Matter

Saundra Ivey, RN, MSN, MA
Nurse Supervisor
Gift of Life Nurse Family Partnership

Zero to Five Matters

*~A newsletter
focused on our
most valuable
investment~*

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Don't Forget
to follow us on [Facebook](#) and
[Twitter](#). The APC launched a
social media campaign in
November that targets
parents, early childhood
professionals, business
leaders and our partners in
the state. 'A Tweet a Day for
Learning and Play' provides
early education tips and
research, including
information on our initiatives
and partners.
Check it out today!

June FOCUS

Check out this month's Smart
Start FOCUS [Packet](#) on Safety
& Security Matters!

Mark Your Calendars:

[NAEYC 2014 National
Institute for Early Childhood
Professional Development](#)
June 8-11, 2014
Minneapolis, MN

Family Safety and Security has mattered to [Gift of Life Foundation](#) for over 25 years. Safety and security mattered when Gift of Life Foundation was created. A group of people in Montgomery cared about the safety of expectant mothers and their unborn babies. In 1988 this caring resulted in the development of the Foundation, giving low-income mothers access to the prenatal care needed to keep both mother and baby healthy and safe until delivery.

Family Safety and Security mattered twenty years later when Gift of Life (GOL) found another way to care for those most vulnerable and this time the caring extended through delivery and into toddlerhood. In December of 2008, a program called the Nurse-Family Partnership was begun. The GOL Nurse-Family Partnership is a maternal health program that introduces vulnerable first-time parents to caring maternal and child health nurses. Nurses deliver the support moms need to have a healthy pregnancy, become knowledgeable and responsible parents, and provide their babies with the best possible start in life. Nurse-Family Partnership begins in early pregnancy and continues until the child reaches age two. Biweekly home visits are made that focus on health, parenting and self-sufficiency. The relationship between mother and nurse provides the foundation for strong families, and lives are forever changed.

Through the relationship, the [Nurse-Family Partnership](#) (NFP) nurses help families to be safe and secure both physically and emotionally by preventing child abuse and neglect.

Nurse-Family Partnership is often cited as THE intervention for preventing child abuse and neglect. The evidentiary standards for the Nurse-Family Partnership program are among the strongest available for preventive interventions offered for public investment. In fact, in medical and scientific journals, Nurse-Family Partnership is most often cited as the most effective intervention to prevent child abuse and neglect, which contributes to childhood injury. Injury, in turn, is the leading cause of death for children from age one to early adulthood. Read more [here](#).

The NFP nurses also help families to be safe and secure by providing tools for child-proofing the home, by teaching parents how to screen for quality child care providers, by teaching proper installation and use of car seats. As participants in the Cribs-for-Kids program, GOL gives priority to NFP clients so that safe sleep habits are established and proper bedding obtained prior to the newborn's arrival.

Another way that NFP nurses help families to be safe and secure is through the relationship itself. One of the most effective tools in the GOL-NFP program is the "tool" of relationship. Without the development of a caring, honest and healthy relationship, lessons are not as clearly heard, welcomed, or used. Without the modeling that goes on during the two-plus year relationship journey, some young families would not learn to resolve conflicts with soft words or problem solving. GOL-NFP is not just a home visiting, teaching program. It is a program that is built on the safety and security that only a strong relationship can provide - and it works. The GOL-NFP program has now served over 270 client families. There has been only one report of child abuse to the Department of Human Resources and it was unsubstantiated. There have been no reports of emergency room usage due to

Minneapolis, MN
[Head Start's 12th National Research Conference on Early Childhood](#)
July 7-9, 2014
Washington DC

[Alabama Association of Licensed Early Care and Education Conference](#)
July 17-19, 2014
Orange Beach, AL

[37th Annual Stepping Stones Conference](#)
Saturday, July 19, 2014
Jefferson State Community College

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APC Awarded Grant

The Alabama Partnership for Children (APC) has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to pilot a parent leadership training model called Smart & Secure Children (SSC) under the Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) Transdisciplinary Collaborative Center's Pilot Project Program. The SSC program, a result of collecting the vision of parents, child care providers, and health care professionals, was first piloted in Atlanta by the Satcher Health Leadership Institute of the MSM. It is now being replicated in Alabama, Texas, Missouri, and Tennessee. APC will leverage this grant with funds received from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation and the Daniel Foundation of Alabama to conduct concurrent pilots in Montgomery, Lowndes, and Jefferson Counties. Be on the lookout for more news about this exciting project in future newsletters.

Congratulations to Alycia & Shin Jeong!!

The Alabama Partnership for Children would like to congratulate Alycia Jeong (Smart Start Coordinator) and her husband Shin on the birth of their son **Noah Daniel Jeong**. Noah was born on April 16th at 12:48 pm. He weighed 7 lbs 13 oz and was 20 inches long.

was unsubstantiated. There have been no reports of emergency room usage due to accidents or injury. Overall, reports of domestic violence decrease by twenty percent from program enrollment to graduation.

Family Safety and Family Security matters to the Gift of Life - for that reason the Foundation provides the many services that protect young families and are pleased to be a Nurse-Family Partnership site.

Tish MacInnis Selected by CDC as an Act Early Ambassador

Tish MacInnis, Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships with the Alabama Partnership for Children, has been selected to serve as an Act Early Ambassador for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) "Learn the Signs. Act Early." program. Ms. MacInnis will play an important role in educating Alabama's parents, healthcare professionals, and early educators about early childhood development, warning signs of autism and other developmental disabilities, and the importance of acting early on concerns about a child's development.



Developmental disabilities are common in the United States. A recent study shows that about 1 in 6 children has been diagnosed with a developmental disability. It's important that these children are identified early and that they and their families receive the services and support they need.

Tish MacInnis was selected as an Act Early Ambassador because of her commitment to improving the lives of children and families and increasing access to services for children with developmental disabilities. The Act Early Ambassadors project is designed to develop a network of state-level experts to improve early identification of developmental delay and disability. It is a collaborative project of the CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, the Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs, and the Association of University Centers on Disabilities.

For more information, visit: www.cdc.gov/ActEarly



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Our Mission: To work in partnership with other public and private entities to maintain an effective state and local system of resources and support that enables parents, families, and others who care for young children to ensure that they are healthy, protected, nurtured, and offered every opportunity to succeed in life.

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