

Summer 2014
Parent Coalition Newsletter



Encourage Your Preschooler to Focus on Responsibility

When your preschooler starts elementary school, teachers will expect her to take a bit of responsibility for herself. Here are a few ways to encourage your child to become more self-sufficient:

- **Give him age-appropriate tasks.** A four-year old can't weed your whole garden, but he can do a small patch while you work nearby.
- **Teach her to dress herself** and use the toilet. At times, your child may need your help. But for the most part, a child going to kindergarten in the fall should be able to independently use the bathroom, wash her hands and get dressed.
- **Don't give in to whining.** Sometimes children just don't feel like being challenged. It's easier to whine, "I can't!" than to try. As long as the task is one that your child can do, make it clear that the responsibility is his. Say something like, "As soon as you put your toys in the closet, we can go to the library. I'll find something to do until you are ready."
- **Teach him to say, "Would you help me, please?"** Children take different amounts of time to master skills. While they are learning, they need help from adults. Encourage your child to do what he can, then guide him through the rest. Slowly withdraw your support as his skills improve.

Source: E.Medus,MD, *Raising Children Who Think for Themselves*, Beyond Words Publishing, Inc.



o Quality Up

The Copper Country Great Start Parent Coalition and

Great Start to Quality Upper Peninsula Resource Center Present:

Family Fort Building Fun

July 2nd 11:00am-12:00pm	July 16th 11:00am-12:00pm	August 6th 11:00am-12:00pm	August 20th 11:00am-12:00pm
Lake Linden Park	Centennial School Park	Chassell Park	Hancock Beach
Register by June 30th	Register by July 14th	Register by August 4th	Register by August 18th

- Children from birth through 3rd grade (and siblings) are invited to attend with their parent(s)/guardian.
- Families can take part in helping children make forts and pool noodle tunnels.
- A healthy make and take snack table will be set up.
- Gross motor (large muscle) play and small group games.
- Check out and borrow a learning bin from the Resource Center.
- Parents can take educational handouts on topics of nutrition, dental health, child development, and community resource guides.
- Parents can learn some school readiness skills to use with their children at home.

Looking for a quality preschool or childcare experience?

Check out: www.greatstarttoquality.org