

Powerful Parenting Family Newsletter

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Parenting Tips

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How to keep your children safe when on the internet:

Children get on the internet as young as two and three years old. There are many interactive websites as well as software programs that can enhance your child's learning; however, there are many sites that can also be detrimental to your child's well-being and safety. Parents must teach their children how to use computers and the internet safely. Set rules and guidelines for your family when using the internet that are **not** flexible. All family members should abide by these rules to set a good example for the children. In addition, you should always keep a computer in a place where adults can see what children are viewing. For example, it is better to place the family computer in a common area, such as a family room or den where it is more visible than to allow a child to surf the internet while alone in their room. Parents should speak to their children prior to them using the internet and continuously to ensure their safety. Parents should let children know that people sometimes use false names and

ages when on the internet. Tell your child never to give out their personal information when on the internet including their full name, address, phone number or where they go to school. Using a nickname when logging onto any site is recommended. For older children who have buddy lists and instant message their friends, ensure you know who is on their buddy list. Talk to your child about cyber-bullying and encourage them never to use the internet to say anything bad about another person. Furthermore, advise them to come to you, immediately, if they are the target of any cyber bullying. For younger children, chat rooms and instant messaging should be disabled or blocked. You can learn how to disable certain computer functions by reading your computer's manual. You can also block pornography or other unwanted websites through your internet browser or internet service provider. Some child friendly sites to try with your children are Yahoo!igans and AskKids.com. For more information about using the internet safely, check out websites www.childnet-int.org, www.cha tdanger.com and www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com or call Success By 6 at (352) 369-2315.



In partnership with:



OcalaMom.com

Ocala has a new internet site for Moms! Ocalamom.com has blogs from moms in Marion County that discuss topics of interest ranging from summer programs and activities for children to adolescent issues. Moms can post advice or their personal experiences for other moms to read and respond. You can also share family photos on this site. In addition, there are educational videos that teach parents and caregivers such things as how to properly place your child in a child safety seat in your vehicle and how to put your baby to sleep safely in their crib. Some of Ocala's moms got together for their first outing at the melting pot in downtown Ocala. Plans for future outings are being discussed; see ocalamom.com to participate!

Community News

Experience the "Whole Wide World"
at your public library!

Children Birth – 6th grade will find a variety of fun activities at their local library through the end of July.

The library's website:

<http://library.marioncountyfl.org>
has the exciting schedules for each branch or you may call 671-8551 for information.

**Storytimes, entertainers, picnics, crafts, computers and great books to read.
Come join the fun!



In partnership with:



Powerful Parenting Updates!

Our last two Powerful Parenting seminars in Marion Oaks were held on Friday, April 04, 2008 and Friday, May 02, 2008. The topics for April's seminar were Car Safety for Children, and Childhood Nutrition and The Prevention of Childhood Obesity. Remember to follow up with the Ocala Police Department if your child's car seat was determined unsafe for a replacement seat for only \$15. The May seminar was on Infant and Toddler Sign Language. This was an interactive seminar for parents and children. Parents and caregivers, remember to use your learning guides complete with a DVD to learn more signs to communicate with your infant or toddler. Sign language not only allows your child to communicate with you prior to them mastering verbal communication but also stimulates a part of your child's brain that will allow them to learn multiple languages more easily in the future.

What is the Early Learning Coalition?

The Early Learning Coalition of Marion County is the administrative and funding entity for early learning programs and the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program in Marion County. Our focus is to provide leadership and foster partnerships to optimize a quality early learning environment for our children through child care, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) and parent education.

Success By 6
A parent education initiative in partnership with the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County and

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We're on the Web!
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Sponsorship by the Early Learning Coalition of Marion County, Agency for Workforce Innovation and the Office of Early Learning.

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****Save the Date****

Back to School Event

Saturday, August 09, 2008

10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.

St. Paul's A.M.E. church

822 NW 7th St. Ocala

Includes:

- Immunizations
- School physicals
- Vision and hearing screenings
- Free food and door prizes
- Free school supplies