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Infant Toddler
services
OF JOHNSON COUNTY

ITS BITS

ITSJC Newsletter

July/August 2010

Register TODAY to play in ITSJC's 1st Annual 'Helping Toddlers Make The Turn Golf Classic'!

Register Here Today!

Event Brochure

Join us for some fun in the sun at Deer Creek Golf Course on Friday, August 13th, 1:00pm Shotgun Start.

\$100/Individual Player
\$400/Team

Volunteer and Sponsorship Opportunities available!

Contact Katie Maupin with questions:
913-432-2900 ext 124
fits@itsjc.org

Fruity Summer Salsa

Enjoy this recipe from ITSJC Dietitian, Chrissy Stewart, MS RD LD CNSD!

Fruity Summer Salsa

2 apples, cored and chopped
2 cups fresh strawberries, stems removed and chopped
2 kiwi fruits, peeled and

From The Director's Chair...

I hope everyone is enjoying the lazy days of summer. July marks the beginning of a new fiscal year for ITSJC. Now that our funding is secure for another year, we are able to concentrate on what we do best, serving the families of Johnson County.



We have spent the last 6 months moving toward Evidence Based Practice. The primary provider and coaching model focuses on supporting family members, caregivers and early childhood practitioners in order to help children participate in everyday routines. We know that children will grow and develop during situations that are meaningful to them. The best part of the coaching model is the amount of support providers are giving one another during weekly team meetings.

Our goals for this year include support to families, facilitate staff development and inform state legislators about Infant Toddler Services throughout the year. Families can be the greatest advocates for our program and we ask that you share your story with your Representative and Senator. We thank you for your continued support.

Amy Owens
Executive Director

Our Featured Kiddo - Myichia's Miracle



Shamyla - 1 year old!

When you think of the word miracle, how would you define it? For Myichia and Deon, one person defines this inspiring word, Shamyla. Shamyla was brought into this world 17 weeks early. Mom, Myichia went into labor at 23 weeks and on July 21, 2009, Shamyla was born weighing 1lb, 4 oz and was only 12" long.

It didn't take but a split second for Myichia and dad, Deon to fall in love with this precious baby girl. However, it took the same amount of time for Myichia and Deon to fall to their knees

chopped
2 tbsp orange juice

Mix all ingredients together and chill before serving for a cool treat on a hot day!

Chrissy Stewart received her BS from University of Nebraska and her MS from University of Cincinnati. She is a Board Certified Nutrition Support Dietitian and has received her Certificate of Training in Childhood Weight Management. Thank you, Chrissy!

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Save The Dates...

**9th Annual Stepping
Stones Gala- April 30,
2011**

and pray when the doctors told them to prepare themselves for the worst.

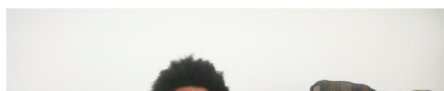
Myichia knew from the instant she saw Shamyla what a strong little girl she was. She was full of hopes and dreams for her and knew in her heart that the doctors were wrong, and was she ever right.

On July 21, 2010, Shamyla celebrated her first birthday! "She loves life. She wants to live. She is the strongest person I know," says Myichia about her daughter, fighting back tears. "Through the darkest times, Shamyla can still put a smile on her face even after all that she has been through." This little girl is a fighter. From suffering from RDS, to a grade 3 bilateral intraventricular hemorrhage (a brain bleed causing a shunt to be placed in her head), to bronchopulmonary dysplasia, to bronchial malacia, to vision issues, to being put on a permanent ventilator, to clonus, when this little girl smiles, the whole world smiles.

Myichia recalls the first time that Shamyla was able to go outside. It was on May 5th, right before Mother's Day, Shamyla was 9 months old and it was the first time that Myichia and Deon were able to take their little girl home from the hospital since the day she was born. Myichia giggles when she says, "I was so excited for her to see the outdoors, but she decided to sleep the whole ride home!" After many different rounds of antibiotics, different types of ventilators and many different surgeries, Shamyla celebrated her first birthday in the comfort of her own home. "She now has 4 new teeth, can sit all by herself in her boppy chair and loves to crawl like a sea turtle!" Says her mom.

Shamyla is growing so big, in fact her mom called her a "chunky baby!" Shamyla is now able to work on developmental milestones and receives physical, occupational and speech therapies, as well as vision therapy, from Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County. ITSJC has recently started seeing Shamyla and is working with mom and dad through everyday routines to help her reach her goals. Myichia and Deon's goal for Shamyla is for her to have every opportunity possible. ..to know that she is special...to know that through hard work, this little girl will be able to talk, walk and for this month learn to crawl. "This month's goal is crawling!" Mom explains with enthusiasm. "She will be crawling before the end of the month." And boy after all this little girl has been through, she will.

Bev Byrd, RN, ITSJC Family Service Coordinator explains that, "Myichia and Deon are fantastic young parents who totally involve themselves in Shamyla's care and are committed to her achieving her full potential. Shamyla is an absolute joy to be around!" Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County is proud to part of Shamyla's life and wants to recognize her parents for their courage, perseverance and strength. We look forward to watching Shamyla reach many more developmental milestones in the months to come! Welcome to the program, Shamyla and Happy 1st Birthday!



38th Annual Hospital Hill Run- June 4, 2011

Quick Links...

[Our Website](#)

[Parent Resources](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Find me on
[Facebook](#) 

Friends of ITS is looking for it's newest board members! If you would be interested in serving on the FITS Board, please contact Amy Owens at 913-432-2900 or email amy.owens@itsjc.org
FITS is a fundraising board committed to raising funds for the services and programs provided by ITSJC!

Around Town!

[Town Center Plaza's Thursday Concert Club!](#)

July 29th from 7-9pm
Provides fun for the whole family with live music, Kid's Zone, delicious food and refreshing beverages!
Free for all ages!

[Clown Day at Crown Center](#)

Saturday, August 7th
11am-1pm in the Crown Center Atrium
12pm-1pm Stage Show
Have fun just "clowning around" with balloon animals, face painting and fun! Free for all ages!

[Parenting Children with Special Needs](#)

Deon, Shamyla and Myichia. Deon holds one of the first photos of Shamyla. She was only 3 days old at the time.

Friends of Infant Toddler Services News & Updates

A Word From FITS President, Hillary Guenther...



This year has been a busy one for Friends of Infant Toddlers Services! We have been working on our mission each and every day to support Infant Toddler Services and the children they serve! This year we have introduced 2 new events in addition to our Annual Stepping Stones Gala! On June 5, 2010, we were proud to be a charity partner of the 37th Annual Hospital Hill Run! Over 50 people signed up to run or volunteer on our behalf! We were able to raise over \$5,000 to support programs and services for our special needs children. We are so grateful for everyone who participated! Every step you took, lended a helping hand!

We are also very excited to announce our newest event, 'Helping Toddlers Make The Turn Golf Classic!' This event will be held on Friday, August 13th, 2010 at Deer Creek Golf Course! Come join us for some fun in the sun! Each team will play on behalf of a child that we serve! We are still looking for teams, volunteers and children who would like a team to play on their behalf. For more information or to register, check out our website or call Katie Maupin at 913-432-2900 ext 124 or email fits@itsjc.org.

On Saturday, May 1st, we celebrated all of the special children we serve at our 2010 8th Annual Stepping Stones Gala! What a night! Friends, community businesses and organizations all came together along with ITSJC families and staff to celebrate the wonderful children we serve! We were able to raise over \$56,000! A special thank you to everyone who made this event possible! We hope you visit our [website](#) and check out the photographs from the evening! We are sincerely grateful to all of our sponsors, donors, attendees and supporter of this wonderful event! It is because of all of you that Friends of Infant Toddlers was able to announce the creation of a new program- The Special Assistance Fund.

The ITSJC Special Assistance Fund is available to provide financial assistance to families who qualify for Assistive Technology needs for which no other funds are available. Assistive Technology includes any item, piece of equipment, or product system that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of an infant or toddler with a disability.

Magazine

Saturday, August 28th
 9am-Noon
 Faulkner's Ranch,
 Raytown, MO
 Come celebrate Kansas
 City's newest magazine
 dedicated to parents
 with children with
 special needs. Free for
 all families. Includes
 pony rides, petting zoo,
 crafts, sensory
 activities, food, etc!



**The Gamble Team
 of RE/MAX**

Will make a donation of
 up to \$5,000 on your
 behalf to the Friends of
 Infant Toddler Services
 of Johnson County
 when you buy or sell a
 home in Kansas with us
 in 2010!
*Call for terms and
 conditions.*

**Rhyne Gamble
 (913) 220-0818**



**Check out this FREE
 resource for Kansas
 City parents!**

**Introducing
Parenting Children
 with Special Needs
 Magazine!**

A new & unique magazine
 enters the Kansas City
 market! This magazine is
 filled with

Some items may include communication devices, orthotics, bath chairs, walkers, standers, gait trainers, wheelchairs, switches and positioning equipment. As an organization, we understand how expensive these necessary pieces of equipment are, but also how critical they are for children to have to help increase their independence and to help reach their fullest potential. Our hope is to provide hope!

Join Us for Family Fun Day!



Saturday, September 11, 9:00AM

**ITSJC Family Fun Day!
 Deanna Rose Farmstead
 13800 Switzer
 Overland Park, KS 66221**

**Infant Toddler Services of Johnson County would like you
 and your family to join us at Deanna Rose Farmstead for a
 Family Fun Event!**

**The event is free of charge! Chris Cakes will cater with his
 world famous flap-jacks and flippers. The event will also
 include free admission to Deanna Rose for the first 100
 people. Regularly priced tickets are \$2. We will also be
 providing discounted activity passes.**

**The location is handicapped accessible and great for kids of
 all ages. See you at the farmstead!**

**Family Fun at Debbie Howard's Gym!
 Community Based Playgroups**



Everyday is a party at Debbie Howard's Gym! ITSJC children and their families were invited to join us during the cold fall and winter months at Debbie Howard's Gym! Children and their caregiver's loved playing with all of the fun toys and bouncing on the moonwalk and trampoline! The foam pit was a favorite for all! Don't worry, we are taking a break for the

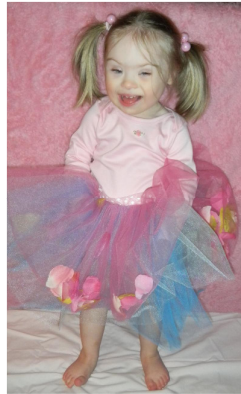
communication, general knowledge, understanding, information, encouragement and support!

ITSJC will be a designated drop off location. Come pick up your free copy or ask your provider to bring you one at your next visit!

ITSJC
6400 Glenwood, Ste 205
Overland Park, KS 66202
913-432-2900

summer, but will resume the playgroups back up in the fall! Stay tuned for specific dates. These playgroups are provided at no cost for all current families by Friends of Infant Toddlers!

Letters from our Families...



Dear ITSJC,

My name is Sophia Sanders. I am 2 years and 4 months old. I am pretty and smart. Basically, your average 2 year old. I hear my mommy and daddy telling people that I'm sassy. I love playing with my older brother. I call him Bubba, but his real name is Taylor. I can do lots of things. For instance, I can walk with assistance and I'm real close to walking all by myself. I've learned to use sign language to let my mommy and daddy know when I'm hungry or thirsty. I even know how to sign cracker! My favorite sign is "all-done". My mommy's favorite sign is "one more time". I like to read books and turn the pages. My favorite book is "It's Okay To Be Different" by Todd Parr. Did I mention I like to have tea parties in my new playhouse?

I know that I wouldn't be this spectacular if it wasn't for the services, therapy, and support you have provided me. I remember when my first therapist came to my house, not my playhouse, my real house. I was 3 months old and she had come to get to know me and play with me. Her name was Kristin Wertz, Occupational Therapist, Extraordinaire. She came to play once a week for a year and a half. One cold, sunny day, I saw my mommy crying while she was on the phone. She was crying because Kristin had told her that she had been offered the position of Service Coordinator and wouldn't be my therapist anymore. I gave my mommy a big hug and a sloppy kiss to show her I was gonna be okay.

I love Spring. It brings butterflies and dandelions to life. Spring also brought Kristin to my front door. I don't know how it happened, but there she was. Standing at my front door with a balloon that read "YOU ROCK" in one hand and a package of nerds in the other hand. She missed me and I missed her. We giggled and talked about all the big girl stuff I've been doing since she last saw me. When she left, I heard her say to my mommy "let's visit again...Facebook me or text me...good seeing you, take care, Bye."

I've made lots of friends, some old, some new. My newest friend is Lezli Carson. She is my Speech Therapist. I call her La La. She cried today when I showed her my new trick...walking!! It makes me happy knowing that my therapists love me as much as I love them. I don't want to turn 3. Mommy says when I turn 3 I will have to say goodbye to Infant Toddler Services. We will have to say goodbye to each other, but we will always hold a special place

in our hearts for each other and best of all we will always be friends.

Loves, Hugs, and Sloppy Kisses,
Sophia Sanders

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