In this issue, find out about:
1. NEAT-R corner
2. Recruitment Race
3. Recruitment Update
4. 2007 SRCD Conference
5. Congratulations
6. Winners Circle
7. Toddler Tips

NEAT-R Corner

We have a final meeting with our 7 representatives scheduled for May 18. We will be meeting to discuss the use of the NEAT-R assessment within each program, and incorporating feedback from all the EHS staff who used the NEAT-R into the final assessment. We will then plan training sessions for use of the NEAT-R with each EHS program as necessary. We will have extra toolkits for sites as needed.

Each of the NEAT-R representatives has been given a “Early Head Start Staff Evaluation” to help guide staff feedback on use of the NEAT-R. Please complete one at your earliest convenience and return in the stamped and addressed envelope provided. Even if you did not use the NEAT-R assessment or Toolkit, please let us know why. Please remember that our goal is to make the best possible tool for your program, so please provide as much criticism as possible for the NEAT-R. We are looking for feedback on the assessment questions, including format, content, and action messages, and also the handouts and object set. If you have any suggestions for improvements or changes, please include those on an evaluation form.

We are beginning to compile evaluation data this month, so if you have any questions about completing and returning your NEAT-R evaluation, please contact your EHS NEAT-R representative or Kate at: smithk81@msu.edu or at: (517) 355-6744.

LOOK AT THESE BARS RISE!

Recruitment Update

We are still actively recruiting African American women, and hope to reach our goal of 200 by the end of June, 2007. We currently have 110 visits completed, with an additional 20 women recruited who we are trying to schedule visits with.

We have people available to attend any classes or educational sessions for parents of toddlers, if you have any such activities at your site we could attend. We have been sitting in waiting rooms at pediatricians’ offices, at WIC during coupon days, and even daycares during pickup and drop off times. We are open to suggestions, so if you have a location, or a meeting that you think would be appropriate, let Kate know using the contact information on the back of this newsletter. We are willing to travel just about anywhere in the lower peninsula, and no recruitment is too small! Even if we recruit only one woman, it is worth it!

We are still offering incentives to anyone who helps us reach our recruitment goal for African American women. Please see participation criteria on page 2 of the newsletter. Women do not have to be enrolled in Early Head Start to participate, so feel free to recruit friends and neighbors!
In the Community!

Dr. Manfred Stommel, the statistician on the research team, presented a poster entitled *Influence of Maternal Factors and Mealtime Behaviors on Toddler Dietary Patterns In Low-Income African American and White Families* at the 2007 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting in Boston, MA.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our Project Manager, Kate Smith, on her engagement! John proposed on April 6, 2007. The two have not set a date.

Winners Circle!

Congratulations to our recent winners!

**February:**
Donna Furnell, of the Mother to Mother Breastfeeding Support Program in Detroit, won a prize pack for recruiting a new participant.

**March:**
Brenda Fleming, a daycare owner in Alma, won a prize pack for recruiting a new participant.

Unfortunately, we didn’t have anyone qualify for the $25 gift card drawing. Remember, to be entered, you must:

* Recruit 3 African American women who meet our eligibility criteria
* Woman self-identifies her race as African American
* Woman is the primary feeder of a toddler 12-40 months
* Woman is at least 17 years of age
* Woman is eligible for WIC or Food Stamps
* All 3 African American participants must complete a home visit with one of our local Data Collectors

Keep trying, and good luck in next month’s drawings!

---

Toddler Tips

Spring has finally sprung, and it is the season for fresh produce. Here are some tips for washing and serving fruits and vegetables:

* Wash your hands with hot, soapy water before handling any food, fruits and vegetables included!
* Wash all produce with cool running water before cutting it. This includes bagged produce, such as salad mixes, and fruits that have a rind, such as oranges and bananas.
* Hard produce, like potatoes, can be scrubbed with a brush, while softer foods, like asparagus, should be rubbed with your hands under running water. For very delicate produce, such as berries and leafy greens, put into a strainer and run that under cool running water, shaking the strainer gently.
* Be sure to scrub your cutting board very well to remove any germs that may be left on the surface.
* Be sure to wash your hands again before serving
* Cut fruits and vegetables should be stored in the refrigerator, and any fruits and vegetables that have been sitting out for more than 2 hours should be thrown out.

Taken from: Eat Well: A Newsletter for Healthy Eating, Spring 2007 edition, University of Maine Extension.

---

NEAT Research Office HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

If you have any news, comments, questions, or ideas to share in the NEAT newsletter...please call our office at (517) 355-6744
fax at (517) 355-5002
or email Kate (smithk81@msu.edu)

Contact us at:
MSU NEAT Research Office
Dr. Millie Horodynski
Kate Smith, Project Manager
B 515-G West Fee Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824
Visit our website: www.nursing.msu.edu/neat

MSU is an Affirmative–Action/Equal Opportunity Institution. MSU programs and materials are available to all without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion.