

November 2009



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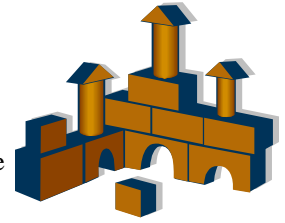
JMU Young Children's Program

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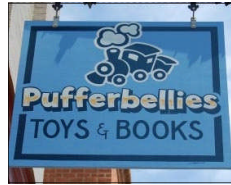


TIPS FOR CHOOSING QUALITY GIFTS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Wednesday, November 18
6:30-7:45 pm
Anthony-Seeger, Room 9



Need some ideas for holiday gifts for your preschooler? Would you like information on resources and guidelines for choosing toys that are appropriate, challenging, durable, and FUN? Do you wish you knew how to find quality books your child will LOVE? Our fall family meeting will focus on these important topics. Leading the discussion will be **Dr. Joan Kindig** and a representative from **Pufferbellies Toys and Books**. Dr. Kindig is Associate Professor of Reading



Education at JMU and a member of the Caldecott Award Selection Committee. She led a YCP family meeting last year and will be back by popular demand—with recommendations on the best of children's books. Pufferbellies is located in Staunton and specializes in quality books and toys for children of all ages. A store representative will share criteria to consider when selecting toys for preschoolers and display samples of some of their most popular toys. **The meeting will conclude with a drawing for a special door prize!**

We will meet in Room 9, the classroom adjacent to the YCP. You may park on either side of Anthony-Seeger (Lots I-North or S) by displaying your YCP parking pass on your dash. This meeting is planned for adults only.



Student-Led Activities in November

During the final half of each semester, special classroom activities are conducted by members of the YCP student staff. These activities are part of a course assignment that requires them to plan, conduct, and reflect on an appropriate learning experience for young children. One characteristic of all the student activities is the use of **instruction cards** for the children to follow. These cards have photographs or graphics that clearly illustrate each step of the process, as well as simple text in a primary font. This use of text is important for non-readers, in addition to those children who are beginning to use phonics to decipher words. The non-reader is becoming aware of the important function of print and is "reading" the pictures that symbolically represent the action to be followed. Watch also for the **documentation panels** created by the students to summarize and illustrate their activities. These will be displayed in the YCP entrance hall. Read more about the involvement and contributions of the JMU students at <http://www.jmu.edu/coe/ycp/JMUStudentInvolvement.shtml>



Conference Schedule

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled for **Thursday, November 5** and **Tuesday, November 10**. School will operate according to the normal schedule on November 5 and Miss Katy Tentoni, the graduate assistant, will serve as substitute teacher for both classes. **The YCP will be closed on November 10.** If you have not already done so, you may schedule a conference with your child's teacher by signing the schedule on the hall bulletin board or emailing her.

"Use Your Words"

Do you find yourself saying this often? *Use Your Words: How Teacher Talk Helps Children Learn* by Carol Mooney provides helpful guidelines for talking with children in ways that support independence, cognition, and problem-solving skills. Several copies are available in the YCP Family Resource Center. Feel free to check one out!

