

WV Birth to Three RAU IV

Spring 2025 Newsletter

Serving: Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo,
Putnam, and Wayne



Early Development is a Journey

Questions about your child reaching developmental milestones? Here are a few important milestones to look for.

First two months:

- Looks at your face
- Reacts to loud sounds.

6 Months:

- Knows familiar people
- Rolls from tummy to back

12 months:

- Pulls to a stand
- Plays games like pat-a-cake

18 months:

- Points to show you something interesting
- Tries to use a spoon

If you would like to learn more about our program and services that we may be able to provide your child, contact us at:

304-523-5444 (Office)
304-523-5556 (Fax)
866-982-8855 (Toll free)

Parent Partner

Hanna Clendenin

hclendenin@rvcds.org

304-643-7580

- Welcome to RAU IV
- Arts and Crafts Ideas
- Family Fun Activities
- Sensory Play Ideas
- Fine Motor Play Ideas
- Choosing Quality Child Care
- RAU IV Camden Park Family Night

Want to Make BTT
Referral Scan the
QR Code



For information regarding upcoming events
like and follow us on Facebook

<https://www.rvcds.org/wvbtt>



WELCOME

WELCOME

Meet the New Members of the

RAU

Meet RAU 4's Data Entry Specialist Paula Thompson



I am a Data Entry Specialist with over 20 years of experience. I started my career in data entry at the American Red Cross. I then moved to a company that did the billing for ER physicians, where I spent close to 15 years. Now I get to bring those experiences to RVCDS. I received my Associate's Degree in Business Office Management (specializing in Medical Office) from ACTC. I have 3 great kids, all grown now, who make me very proud. I am also the proud Nana of 8 grandkids. My family is the most important part of my life.

I am very happy and excited to be working for RVCDS. I love being part of an organization that dedicates themselves to helping the children, and their families, in our community. I am looking forward to experiencing all that this new position will offer.

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Meet RAU IV'S Administrative Assistant Shelly Crisp



My name is Shelly Crisp and I am from Ironton, Ohio. I have two older brothers and one older sister, and I am a triplet of all girls! I am married to Shane, whom I have been with for 31 years, and we have two children, Nicholas and Taylor. I have an Associate's Degree in Business and a 24 year background in the field of Early Childhood working for the Early Head Start/Head Start Program. My roles have been both Site Administrator and Family Advocate. In these roles, I supervised between 20-25 staff and managed the day-to-day operations of a childcare site. I worked closely with the families, making necessary referrals to internal and external agencies. I also monitored child enrollment and health files to ensure their screenings and enrollment forms were kept current to meet state and federal requirements. I fell in love with the early childhood field and gained so much knowledge in these past 24 years, and I am excited to continue with this journey.

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Meet RAU 4's Interim Service Coordinator Tessa Tabor



Hello all! My name is Tessa Tabor. I live in Ashland, KY with my husband, mother, sister, and our four dogs. I am very family oriented and spend most of my time with them. I have been out of the work force for a few years now, as I have been caring for my grandparents and my father-in-law. However, things have changed at home and I am now ready to dive head first back into working. I personally have a nearly 2 year old golden doodle named Porter. He means the world to me and I am a true "dog mom." I like to read when I have any free time. I am also a big fan of musicals! I look forward to getting to work and getting to know you all. Thank you so much for such a warm welcome!

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Meet RAU 4's Data Entry Specialist Josh Hager



I retired from the West Virginia Army National Guard (WVANG) Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program on May 5th, 2024, after 21 years of service. I took this past year off to be able to spend more time with my family. During my last 8 years of service, I was in Human Resources. I enjoy taking care of Soldiers and the organization I served. I deployed to Iraq in 2004 as a Motor Transport Operator (Truck Driver) and again in 2019-2020 to Kuwait where I served as a Human Resources Noncommissioned Officer for a Cavalry Regiment consisting of over 610 Soldiers. Since I have retired, my family and I have attended many sporting events such as MLB, NHL, NFL, and collegiate basketball and football. I was born in Huntington, WV while living in Hurricane, WV. My father was transferred to Oak Hill, WV in 1988. Which is where I then grew up. I moved to Charleston, WV in 2005 upon returning from my first deployment and began working full time for the Recruiting and Retention Battalion of the WVANG. I left the Recruiting and Retention Battalion in 2015 for my first Human Resources position in a Battalion of 420 Soldiers. We also had a mission related to respond to Chemical, Biological, Radiologic, Nuclear and Explosive. After this position I was transferred to our Human Resources Office (HRO) to be the Senior Human Resources Noncommissioned Officer for the AGR section. I was only in this position for 8 months before I volunteered to deploy with the Cavalry Squadron. After returning from my second deployment, I was offered a promotion to our Joint Forces Headquarters as the Enlisted Personnel Manager. Here my team and I was responsible for all enlisted actions, processes, policies, and promotion boards. After 3 years in this position is when I retired from the military. I am excited to be at River Valley Child Development Services and begin my work career with you all. As a Data Entry Specialist, I hope to accomplish all of my tasks with precision and accuracy. Also, I will assist anyone that needs to accomplish the overall goal of the organization.

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Meet RAU 4's Interim Service Coordinator Harold Sowards



I started working as a Child Protective Services Worker in Cabell County. My wife and I at this time, unfortunately experienced a miscarriage of our daughter, Eco, which I still think about often. I enjoyed being able to help families in the area overcome their diverse situations and improve upon their circumstances, which helped make their lives and their children's lives better. After working in Cabell for about 3 years, a position opened up in the Lincoln County so I transferred over and started working in the court system.

During this time, my son, Wrigley (named after the greatest baseball field) was born. With Wrigley, we had some concerns due to his lack of speech and him displaying some mannerisms of autism, so we signed him up with Birth to Three. My team was phenomenal and gave me a great outlook on the program. They helped my wife and I out with strategies for him, along with helping us set him up with the transitional planning for PreK/Early Headstart.

After 2 years in the court system, I started working at a foster care agency. Working at the foster agency showed me a different side of the child welfare system and also gave me inspiration to give back to the community. At this time, my wife and I decided to start fostering, which which we've been doing for a year. We have 9 children currently at my house: my 2 biological children and 7 foster children. I say all the last part to let everyone know, that I understand how chaotic things can get. I also have 2 dogs and 2 cats.

I enjoy being able to help everyone out and I never want to let anyone down. I want to work to meet the goals we all have together.

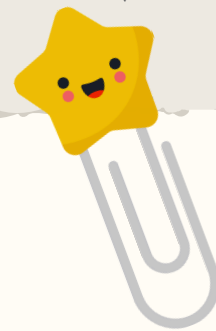
I enjoy being outside and exploring new things, but I also enjoy a very good video game if the story is intriguing. You will often see me with a good book as well.

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While in high school, I worked at a restaurant, which I enjoyed until I went off to college at Marshall University. While on one of my Christmas breaks from the university, I met my wife at work and have been together since. I was heavily involved in the Marshall Maniacs (sports fans) and attended all the sporting and concert events that were offered to us at the university. I worked while completing my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice and minor in Parks and Leisure Services. My daughter, Journey (yes, named after the band) was born during this time and she's been the best blessing in life.



KIDS

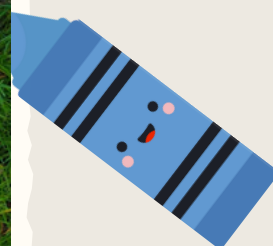


ART

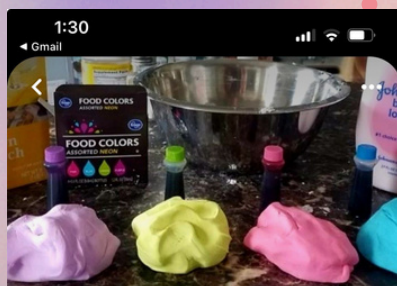
IDEAS



HAPPYTODDLERPLAYTIME.COM



Fun Family Activities



2 Ingredient Cloud Dough

Materials

- 2 cups corn starch
- 1 cup baby lotion
- Food coloring (optional)

1. In a bowl, mix the lotion and cornstarch together until combined.
2. Separate and add food coloring to make different color dough! (optional)





SENSORY MATERIAL LIST		
MESSY PLAY		
Mud	Yogurt	Flour
Oobleck	Jello	Toothpaste
Shaving Cream	Tapioca	Pumpkin Guts
Cooked Noodles	Oatmeal	Soap Foam
DRY GOODS		
Dirt	Cereal	Shredded Paper
Sand	Pom Poms	Bird Seed
Buttons	Colored Rice	Aquarium Rocks
Beads	Dry Beans	Dry Macaroni
WATER PLAY		
Food Coloring	Shells	Foam Letters
Bubble Bath	Stones & Gems	Easter Eggs
Shaving Gel	Ice Cubes	Spray Bottles
Flowers & Leaves	Water Beads	Sponges
OTHER IDEAS		
Bubbles	Frozen Toys	Slime
Puffy Paint	Knetic Sand	Silly Putty
Chalk Paint	Air Dry Clay	Sensory Snow
Sensory Bottles	Elephant Toothpaste	Sensory Squares



Sensory Play Ideas





Fine Motor Play



POM-POM WHISK

A fine motor activity for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers



NEW TRICK KIDS



POURING STATION

THE BEST ACTIVITY.



Ice Transfer

Sensory and Fine Motor Activity for Kids

www.taminglittlemonsters.com



POM-POM TUBE DROP

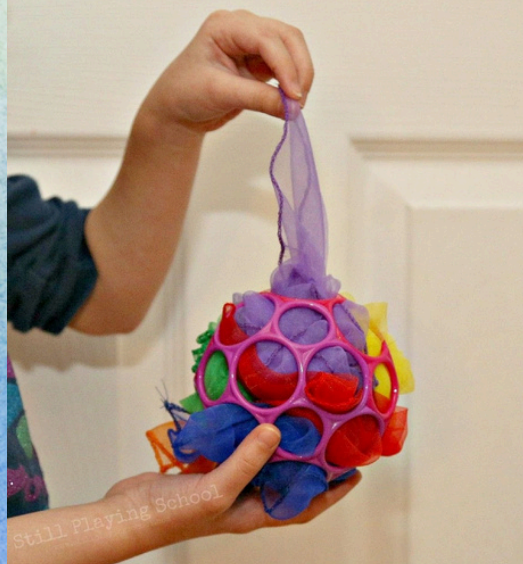
Fine Motor & Learning Activity for Toddlers



TEACHING little



Fine Motor Game: RAINBOW Ball



Still Playing School



Choosing Quality Child Care

Finding the right child care for your child is an important decision that can sometimes be a stressful experience. There's a lot of information to consider. It may feel overwhelming at times. You need to feel comfortable with your choice and be confident that your child is in a safe and caring environment.

Here are some simple steps that can guide your child care search and make sure you have all the information needed to make the best choice for your child.

What Are Your Options

Understanding your child care options are the first step. Are you interested in a center or a family care provider? What's the difference? Are they licensed and regulated to ensure your child is healthy and safe? That's a lot to consider. Here are some resources to start:

·Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies exist in every region in the state and can help you find just the right space for you and your family. They can talk with you about the different types of child care providers in your area and help you to consider specific needs your family may have. They can also create a list of child care providers for you to contact. They can also assist you in understanding any financial assistance available to support your family.

·WV has a website listing all the licensed child care providers in the state you can research on your own – Find a Child Care Provider

Do Your Homework

Are the centers in my area licensed and regulated to ensure your child is healthy and safe? Have they passed health and safety inspections? Are staff in the centers well trained in meeting the needs of children?

·Here's where the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies can be helpful in helping you to understand licensing, center regulations and staff training requirements.

·The Find a Child Care Provider link provides you not only the names of child care providers, but will include an findings from recent inspections.

Call Providers

Before you contact the providers make a list of questions you can ask over the phone to make sure you are visiting providers that meet your needs. These questions may include:

·Does the provider have space for my child?

·What are the provider's hours of operation?

·Is the provider location convenient for me?

·What are the program costs?

·Are there any discounts or scholarships available?

·Does the provider participate in a child care assistance program?

You want to make sure the provider you choose is affordable and accessible to your family. Asking straight-forward, specific questions will help you determine whether or not to consider this provider. There are programs available to help pay for child care if your family qualifies.

While it is always recommend that you visit any child care provider or program you're considering, sometimes a visit is just not possible. If you need child care right away and don't have time to take a tour, this checklist for Choosing Quality

Child Care on Short Notice has questions to ask over the phone before making your decision.

Take The Tour

Use a checklist to help you make the right choice for your family. Ask the child care provider for references and ask questions about other families' experiences with the program. When touring the child care center, use your five senses:

·Sight – Do you see staff engaged with children? Do you see children actively playing with one another and the staff? Do you see any health and safety concerns? Do you see that there are enough materials for the children to play with?

·Sound – Do you hear a “buzz” in the setting, where teachers are talking in warm, positive tones to the children? Do you hear providers using respectful language?

·Taste – How does the food taste that is served to the children look in appearance and how does it taste?

·Touch – Do you see physical affection between teachers and children, such as hugging, pats on the head, children sitting on provider's laps, or any other types of positive touch?

·Smell – Is there a pleasant smell in the child care setting? Can you smell perfume, smoke, or any other odor that might be unpleasant for your child?

Here you will find additional guides to help you “Look, Listen and Ask” questions while visiting child care providers.

Additional Considerations

Every family has special needs and considerations to explore when choosing an appropriate child care provider for their child. Here are resources for some of those special considerations.

·You need care during non-traditional hours

·Choosing quality child care for your child with disabilities or other high support needs



Camden Park Family Night

WV Birth to Three RAU IV

Boone, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo, Putman, and Wayne Counties

Families, Practitioners, and Staff

FREE ENTRY AND PARKING

Register here!



The first 200 registered will receive
a FREE Refreshment Ticket

MAY 30TH

6PM-9PM

Camden Park, WV
5000 Waverly Rd
Huntington 25704



All families must register to attend. Registration ends May 29th or when full.
For more information or help with registering, contact Hanna Clendenin at
hclendenin@rvcds.org or 304-523-5444.