

KIDS FIRST

Focus on Fort Smith

January 2011

Vol. 6 Issue 1

Norma Smith Named Employee of the Year

Each year the KIDS FIRST staff votes for the person they feel has earned the title of Employee of the Year. This year that honor belongs to Norma Smith. Norma is the Manager of Staff Development. In the absence of a director, Norma has been filling in. Upon receiving this award Norma had this to say, "This award is an honor and a surprise. There is no way I could have done my job over the last few months without



the help of a very dedicated and caring staff. Whenever and whatever they were asked to do, they did. KIDS FIRST is lucky to have such a great group of employees. Your private words of encouragement and this public acknowledgement mean more to me than you can know. I want you all to know how much I appreciate your help and support." Norma has worked for KIDS FIRST for 13 years.

BIKERS AND BABIES

Once again, BACA (Bikers Against Child Abuse) provided toys for our children. A *HUGE* Thank you goes



Without their support, no toys would have been sent home with our kids at Christmas. Their mission to em-

power children and to help children not feel afraid in their world. This is an admirable goal that we strive toward as well.



Thank you again to the men and women of BACA.

out to this organization that does such wonderful work for our community and nationwide.



NEWS AND NOTES

Dear Families,

Happy 2011! Just a few reminders as we start the year—

- Anytime your child is absent, please call and let us know.
- Anytime you have a change in your address and/or phone number please let us know. We need to be able to contact you *immediately* in case of emergency.
- If your child wears special equipment such as shoe orthotics, please bring them with items on already.
- In case of inclement weather overnight, you can obtain information on closings in Channel 40/29 and Channel 5.

If you have any questions, please call.

Project Nurture

Nurturing Idea for January

Snow Ice Cream

It's a great time to stay inside and snuggle up with your little one. But if you're lucky enough to get some snow this winter, whip up a batch of this classic treat and enjoy it with your child. If he's big enough (and you're brave enough) let him help pour and stir.

When it starts to snow, place a large, clean one-gallon bowl outside to collect the flakes. When full, stir in 1 cup sugar and 1 tbsp vanilla extract, then stir in just enough milk to get your favorite consistency. Serve at once.



WHAT IS PROJECT NURTURE?

Project Nurture is KIDS FIRST's Infant Mental Health Program. Our goal is to promote the social and emotional well-being of KIDS FIRST infants, toddlers, and families through secure and nurturing relationships.

A VISIT FROM ST. NICK

Santa stopped by KIDS FIRST Fort Smith to check his naughty or nice list. While he was there the children (and some of the staff) got a chance to sit in his lap and let him know what they wanted for Christmas. A special thanks goes out to Santa for his years of help with this special day. He comes back every year to the de-



light of the children and the staff. We know how busy he is at this time of the

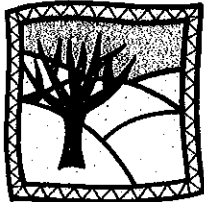
year and appreciate that he gives his time for our kids.

Thanks Santa!



Perfect Attendance

Even with all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, fifteen children still were able to have perfect attendance for the month of December. Yovani A., Bella B, Abby B, Rachel C, Alyssa C, Chris C, Linnie



D, Malachi E, Gamble F, Rebecca H, Chuy J, LaKevona M, Guy R, Kishun T, and Jermyah W. were our perfect attendees for the month.

Thank you to all the families who get their children here on a consistent basis.

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

This month we have several birthdays to celebrate!! Birthday children include, Yovani A., Taylor H., Ariel J, and Naomi T, Staff celebrating birthdays are: Lisa Ewald, ECDS, Terrye McGuire, Caregiver in Eeyore's Hideout, and Norma Smith, Manager of Staff Development. We

would like to wish a very Happy Birthday to all the children and staff born in January! Laura Hicks celebrates her first anniversary with KIDS FIRST in January. Congratulations to Laura.



NEW EMPLOYEES



KIDS FIRST Fort Smith welcomes two new employees. Chelsey

Morris has been working in the Roo room getting training from Ms. Bert. She is a full time employee

and is excited about working with the toddlers.



Adrienne Ezell is a part-time caregiver who will work mostly with the infants. Adrienne will work 20 hours a week while attending UAFS. Welcome ladies!

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month's employee of the month is Erica Clark. Erica is a caregiver in the infant room. Erica has been with KIDS FIRST for three years. She is very involved with her church and loves spending time with her family, especially her niece and nephew. Erica is truly an asset to the KIDS FIRST program. Be sure to congratulate Erica when you see her.

