



UAMS/KIDS FIRST FOCUS ON FORT SMITH



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Amber Alder Wins BEV Award

The "BEV" Award is awarded annually to 12 persons in the state, one from each KIDS FIRST clinic and the Program Operations center. It is named for Beverly Bursk, a longtime KIDS FIRST employee, who died in 2001. Beverly was highly regarded by all who knew her. Employees may be nominated by co-workers, families, and visitors in whose opinion, the employee demonstrates care and concern for all and best exemplifies the qualities outlined in the BEV award guidelines.



Little Rock. Amber always has a smile on her face and gives 100%. She is a nurturing, loving caregiver to our "itty-bitties". KIDS FIRST is lucky to have her. Congratulations Amber.

B = Balance and Behavior

E = Excellence and Encouragement

V = Values and Vigilance

This year's KIDS FIRST Fort Smith honoree is Mrs. Amber Alder. Amber is married with 2 children. Amber has been with KIDS FIRST for 1 1/2 years and works in the Ol' Owls nest (the infant room). Amber will receive her award on October 19 at a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion in

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

This month's employee of the month is Kristin Collins. Kristin also celebrates her 1 year anniversary with KIDS FIRST this month. Kristin works in the kitchen delivering food to the classroom. Kristin also does all the dishes and laundry for the entire center. Kristin is married with two children.



When not working, Kristin enjoys music, movies, and volunteering with her family at the local soup kitchen. Be sure to congratulate Kristin when you see her.

KIDS FIRST SAFETY WEEK

October has traditionally been community helper and safety month at KIDS FIRST Fort Smith. This month we are celebrating with a week of activities for parents and children. We start out on Monday 10/25 with activities in the classroom for the children. Tuesday will feature Car Seat safety with a presentation for parents from 2-3 pm. Appointments can be made at that time for checking individual car seats for proper installation and usage. Wednesday brings the police department to KIDS FIRST. The children will be able to talk to a police officer and tour a squad car. Thursday will feature the fire department with fire fighters and a fire truck. We will wrap up the week with our Halloween party on Friday and talk about trick or treat safety. We are very excited about all these activities and will be sending more information home with your child.

HALLOWEEN PLANS

Again this year, we will be doing Pajama Day for Halloween with a party in each class scheduled for snack time, around 2:00 p.m. Each class will post a list with items that they would like to have for their party. Check with your classroom teacher to see what they



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Halloween Party	10/29
Thanksgiving Break	11/25-11/26*
Santa's Visit	12/16
CHRISTMAS PARTY	12/16
Christmas Break	12/18-12/26*

(*Clinic closed on these dates)

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Below is a list of safety tips to make sure the holiday is fun and safe for your children.

Costumes: Make sure that your purchased or made costumes are of flame retardant materials. Make sure they are light, bright, and clearly visible to motorists. Make sure that they fit well and do not drag the ground making it easy for kids to trip and fall. Mark costumes and bags with reflective tape, available at hardware, bicycle or sporting goods stores.



Treats - warn children not to eat any treats until they are

examined by an adult. Novelty toys for children under 3 should be inspected for possible choking hazards.

Decorations - Keep candles and jack o'lanterns away from doors and landings where costumes might brush against them. Keep your yard free of clutter when expecting trick or treaters.

Trick or Treating - Only allow your child to visit houses where you know the people. Better yet, take them to one of the many church or community sponsored events

By following these tips and using a little common sense, we can make this a safe and enjoyable holiday for everyone

October Birthdays

October means fall is beginning and the holidays are just around the corner. Before we start celebrating the holidays, let's celebrate October birthdays! The birthday list at KIDS FIRST this month: Abby B, Milly D, Antone J, Matthias J, Scotty



J, Allee L, Pierce W, and Jazie Y. Staff celebrating are Speech therapists Sue Gilliam and Leslie Brixey, and physical therapist Kim Hunter, Happy birthday to everyone.

Perfect Attendance

As the cooler weather of Autumn settles in, it gets harder to crawl out of our warm beds each morning. Twelve children managed to be here every day.. They are: Bella B, Jacob B, Isabella C, Chris C, Malachi E, Austin M, McKenzie M, Sandy T, Kishun T, Pierce W, Sasha W, and Jayden W. This month's prize goes to Jayden. Thanks to all our parents who get their children here on a consistent basis.

LET'S MOVE CAMPAIGN

By now most of you have seen the materials that have been sent home regarding the Let's Move campaign. Continue to fill out the papers and send them back to your child's teacher. The goal of the program is to increase the amount of physical exercise that our children get. Remember, our kids follow our example. So, Let's Move!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

Several staff members are celebrating anniversaries working for KIDS FIRST. In October, Norma Smith celebrates 13 years, Mehgan Gray 5 years, Barbara Houston-Blatchford 5 years, Sara Staed 2 years, Tessa Minor 1 year, and Kristin Collins 1 year. Congratulations to all!

Project Nurture

Nurturing Idea for October

Why do you love me?

Gather pictures of each member of your family and bring them to the dinner table. Pass one of the pictures around while each family member tells why they love that person. *I love Momma because she's nice to me. I love Susan because she shares her toys.* Help your younger ones put their feelings into words. Once the photo has made it all the way around the table, start the next one going. Have fun!



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.