

# Inspire

## Families & Caregivers

The One Stop for Early Childhood E-News

December 2020

### Updates from The One Stop

Hi! We want to update you on a few things happening at The One Stop.

First, we want to say Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to you! Our wish is that you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday season!

Please note...The One Stop office will be closed December 23rd - 30th to allow staff to spend extended time off with their families. Please make sure to call the office before the 23rd with any needs you may have.

Conscious Parenting sessions will resume in the new year. We are still working on finalizing dates. Stay tuned in early January for the new dates.

We have one more week of coat distribution in December. We will be making appointments thru the 18th for anyone in need of coats for your children. If you are in need please call or email today. Contact information below.

New development...Thanks to our partner Glo Cleaners, we will be distributing coats thru the month of January now as well. If you have coats to donate, please remember used coats need to go to any Glo Cleaners to be cleaned. New coats with tags come directly to our office. PLEASE NOTE...We DO NOT NEED ADULT COATS at this time. What we NEED are YOUTH SIZES only!

Conscious Parenting Online

January - March 2021 session will be announced in early January

### Connect with Staff

417-887-3545 or  
800-743-8497

**Kayla Grosshart**  
One Stop Coordinator  
[kgrosshart@ccozarks.org](mailto:kgrosshart@ccozarks.org)  
X210

**Lori Schumer**  
Assistant Director  
[lschumer@ccozarks.org](mailto:lschumer@ccozarks.org)  
x303

**Nicole Piper**  
Director  
[npiper@ccozarks.org](mailto:npiper@ccozarks.org)  
X214



**We've Got Coats for Kids**

Need help getting a coat for your child?

The One Stop is the Coats for Kids distribution site this year!

From now until December 18th call 417-887-3545 or email [onestop@ccozarks.org](mailto:onestop@ccozarks.org) for a coat appointment.

 The One Stop  
for early childhood  
Council of Churches  
of the Ozarks

 Like us on Facebook

Visit our website at:  
[www.ccozarks.org](http://www.ccozarks.org)

Past editions of the Enews are available at:  
[www.ccozarks.org/theonestop](http://www.ccozarks.org/theonestop)

## New Holiday Traditions

The month of December is filled with holidays that are full of traditions we have celebrated our entire lives. One year when my now adult son was in high school I thought I would change how I decorated our Christmas tree. Instead of the usual multicolored lights and ornaments we had been hanging since he and his sister were infants I opted for what I thought was a more elegant look. White lights and colored fancy ribbon and ornaments. My son walked into the living room, scrunched up his face and asked what happened to "his" ornaments and where were the colored lights? He was clearly not happy with the new look and let us know about it any chance he could. In fact, fifteen years later we are still talking about that tree and needless to say I still decorate my tree with multicolored lights and some of "his" ornaments.

Traditions trigger emotions deep within us. This year some of those traditions may have to be adjusted. Another one of our traditions is to go to church for Christmas Eve Candlelight service as an extended family and then go to my mother's to open presents. Can we do that this year? We still haven't decided and it is definitely causing a stir in our hearts, including that now adult son mentioned above.

So, what to do? Maybe this is the year we become a little creative with our traditions. If we want to attend Christmas Eve services, can we watch it together at the same time from our homes? We can turn down the lights and have candles and sing the same songs together. What about the snacks afterwards and gifts? Maybe beforehand we drop off some of the food and the gifts on our porches and then use FaceTime or Zoom to eat together and watch each other open our gifts. Is this what I want to do? No, I would prefer to be sitting together laughing with my sister and her family, my mom and my children and grandchildren, but maybe this is what we need to do this year so that next year we can be together physically again. The important thing is that we spend time together however that looks like. Phone calls, texts and video calls are so important and let the other person know you are thinking of them.

As wonderful and beautiful as the season is, those beautiful traditions can also stir memories of years past with loved ones that may not be with us anymore. Reach out to those you love and let them know how much you care about them. This year has been so unique on so many levels for all of us, but it is with eternal hope that we look forward to better days. Not just the holidays, but for the ordinary days that we can spend together with those we love. It is our wish for you from all of us at the Council of Churches and The One Stop to have a very blessed holiday season and know that we are here for you when you need us now and in to the new year.



## Creating a Feeling of Unity with our Children

One of the most important lessons we can help our children understand is the concept of unity and the realization that the world is bigger than just them. We can start that in our home by assigning jobs or chores and having them contribute to the well-being of the family.

The holiday season is a perfect time to widen this circle to include our neighborhoods. Help children create handwritten notes and cards to leave on neighbors' doors, drop off some at a nursing home to allow staff to share with residents, or create some for the firefighters and police officers and drop the cards off at their stations. What about purchasing inexpensive gloves and hats or scarves and dropping them off at homeless shelter? You



can even extend that out further and "adopt" a resident at a nursing home or patient at a hospital and make their holidays a little brighter.

Paying it forward, giving and doing for others is needed now more than ever and it teaches such an important lesson to our children while creating that sense of unity. We may never know what impact even the smallest gesture of kindness can have on another.

## Snow Man Face Prop

A fun little way to liven up your virtual calls or your holiday pictures is making a Snow Man Face Prop. Simply cut out the inner portion of a paper plate. Then create a top hat with black construction paper and any other color for the ribbon. Decide on a hat decoration. Maybe a holly leaf? Use what you have at home. If you have construction paper you can create from that or otherwise just color on a plain white sheet of paper, cut out and glue to the hat. The stick can be a popsicle stick, a paper towel tube or whatever you have around the house that is similar. Children can get involved by cutting out the pieces and gluing them all together. Then take your pictures and have fun. Maybe you want to do a Santa face or an angel? Get creative and have fun!



## Save The Date!

### CALLED TO CARE FOR KIDS CONFERENCE

#### SAVE THE DATE

Date: March 6, 2021 Time: 8:00am-4:00pm

2021 will be ONLINE!

Registration information coming soon!

For additional information check out

[www.ccozarks.org](http://www.ccozarks.org)

Bringing together Sunday School Teachers, Child Care Providers, Foster Families, VBS Teams, Children's Ministers, and interested community members to support children and families.



**CALLLED TO CARE  
FOR KIDS**

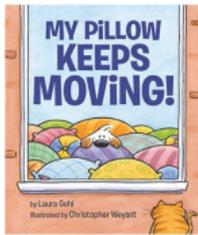
Sponsored by The One Stop for Early Childhood, Council of Churches of the Ozarks, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Lighthouse Child and Family Development Center, and Every Child Promise

## Resource Spotlight: Library Fun!

We love the way our friends at the Library have adapted their services to offer services during this time!

# Zoom Into Storytime

Join us for some very special virtual storytimes via Zoom for kids in preschool-grade 2. These interactive events encourage singing, dancing and some show-and-tell to keep little ones fully engaged with the storytime provider and each other. **Registration for these Zoom storytimes must be made by a parent or guardian by emailing [imagine@thelibrary.org](mailto:imagine@thelibrary.org) and providing their library card number. A link and a password to access the virtual event will be shared with registered participants.**



## We Love Pets!

**Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m.** Let's celebrate our beloved animal companions with a special Zoom storytime with Library Center youth services staffer Sarah. Sarah will share Laura Gehl's hilarious picture book, "My Pillow Keeps Moving," plus songs and movement activities. Kids are invited to bring their favorite pet to this virtual event, and parents or guardians will have the choice to turn their Zoom cameras on for a unique show-and-tell.

Whether your pet is a dog or cat, a fish or a favorite stuffy, we can't wait to see you both! **Registrations accepted November 20-December 5.**

## Hats Off to You!

**Saturday, January 23, 10 a.m.** Grab your favorite hat and join us as Library Center youth services staffer Gwyneth reads books and shares silly songs during our Zoom storytime. What head gear will you wear? A crown, a fancy feathered cap or your firefighter helmet? Parents and guardians will have a chance to turn on their Zoom cameras for kids to share their silliest or most serious head wear! **Registrations accepted January 8-23.**



## Friendship and Kindness

**Saturday, February 13, 10 a.m.** We all need some warmth and fuzziness, so Library Center youth services staffer Chris will share stories and songs about making friends. Parents and guardians can turn on their Zoom camera if they wish, so their little ones can share ways to show kindness. **Registrations accepted January 29-February 13.**

Springfield-Greene County Library District  
[thelibrary.org/kids](http://thelibrary.org/kids)



The One Stop for Early Childhood, 1710 E. Chestnut Expressway, Springfield, MO 65802

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [npiper@ccozaarks.org](mailto:npiper@ccozaarks.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!