Every person whether teacher, parent or child is brought to an Adventist early childhood program by God. We may not always know why, but we each have a small part in building a connection between Christ and those who do not know Him.

Such is the philosophy of Director Jana Wolverton and the staff of Loving to Learn Early Childhood Development Center and School Age Center. Operating since 1984 and licensed for a total of 75 children age 12 months to 12 years, the teachers and staff serve the local community of both Adventist and non-Adventist families with an emphasis on community.

The Loving to Learn Childcare/Preschool Program is located on the Auburn Adventist Academy Campus and licensed for 45 children. About a block down the road from the academy is the Kindergarten/School Age Program located on the Buena Vista Campus and licensed for 30.

Being on the Auburn Adventist Academy campus has its privileges. The Childcare/Preschool Program takes advantage of the academy swimming pool for their summer program and swimming lessons. The academy, in turn, utilizes the center for some hands-on lab time for their Early Childhood Development Class. Best of all, the Washington Conference Camp meeting is held on the academy campus every year and both the preschool and school-age center take the children to the meetings!

Recently, the Loving to Learn staff have started to pray with each other at the start of everyday. This prayer time has helped them bond and renewed respect for each individual’s personal Christian walk. In the entrance way, there is a white board called “Our Prayer Board”. Employees and clientele are encouraged to write a prayer request or praise and the staff all pray for the written requests.

This type of ministry is very important. The program staff may be the only connection to Christ these individuals ever receive. The Loving to Learn team really feels a purpose in what they do and want the experience of these families to be a positive and a memorable one. Several families which are not practicing Adventists have enrolled their children because they have had some past connection with the Adventist church. Many of them have started to become active members in the Adventist church again. In addition, there have been non-Adventist families who have become Christians and church members because they either enrolled their child or worked at the center.

Part of the ministry at Loving to Learn is to offer Bible studies to anyone interested. Many of the enrolled families are single parent homes with no extended family to help and support them. The staff feel they are an extension of each family, hence the importance of a listening ear and prayer.

One of the ways the center markets to the Adventist community is to invite people from within the church and conference to come as a guest speaker, or to share a special hobby with the children. They are also on a visitation schedule for the constituent church pastors. Several pastors give worship or eat and play with the children and the little ones love it!

“I really believe that Christ is and will use our centers to reach people who otherwise would have no need for Christ,” writes Wolverton. “Kids truly have a unique way of convincing their parents to do and try new things. Children influence their parents in a way only a child can... [and] a seed is planted into a parent’s heart... Jesus used children as an example to show how pure His love for each of us is; we need to utilize this resource for spreading the gospel to the whole world.”

Submitted by Jana Wolverton of Auburn, Washington.

We are not child care workers, we are missionaries for Christ

Dates to Remember:

June 26
PUC ECEC Advisory (Westlake Village, CA)

July 10-12
NAD ECE Task Force (Vancouver, BC, Can.)

October 2-4
NAD ECE Task Force (Westlake Village, CA)

October 28-29
PUC ECEC and “K” Teacher Workshop (Ontario, CA pending)

November 7-10
NAEYC/ACCN Annual Conference (Chicago, IL)

Inside this issue:
Missionaries for Christ
American Academy of Pediatrics Warnings
The American Academy of Pediatrics Warnings

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) provides parents and child care professionals with much needed advice on the health and safety of young children. Here are some recent publications from the AAP regarding summer, travel and home safety.

Preparing Children for Flying
Talk to children about the long lines they will be encountering while at the airport and plan some appropriate non-tangible games in order to keep them occupied and content. Be especially sure to explain to them the security screening process at airports beforehand. Let them know that whatever they are carrying, such as backpacks and stuffed toys, will be put in the x-ray machine and returned to them once they have passed the security guard.

Be prepared for long flights and layovers by bringing new and interesting books and activities on board the airplane as the familiar favorites tend to hold little to no interest in such an exciting environment. If previously taught, children can learn and understand proper plane etiquette such as speaking softly, remaining in their seat and not kicking the seats of others. Finally, remember, not all children (and adults) enjoy flying. Motion sickness, pain, ear pressure and pressurized cabins that may be too hot or cold can make one miserable. Make previous arrangements to accommodate for the discomforts of flying and the trip will be much more enjoyable for everyone.

FUN IN THE SUN
Source: [http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/tanning.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/tanning.htm)

**Babies under 6 months:**
- Avoiding sun exposure and dressing infants in lightweight long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and brimmed hats that shade the neck are still the top recommendations from the AAP to prevent sunburn. However, when adequate clothing and shade are not available, parents can apply a minimal amount of sunscreen with at least 15 SPF to small areas, such as the infant’s face and the back of the hands.

**For Young Children:**
- Apply sunscreen at least 30 minutes before going outside, and use sunscreen even on cloudy days. The SPF should be at least 15.

**For Older Children:**
- The first, and best, line of defense against the sun is covering up. Wear a hat with a three-inch brim or a bill facing forward, sunglasses (look for sunglasses that block 99-100% of ultraviolet rays), and cotton clothing with a tight weave.
- Stay in the shade whenever possible, and limit sun exposure during the peak intensity hours - between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Use a sunscreen with an SPF (sun protection factor) of 15 or greater. Be sure to apply enough sunscreen - about one ounce per sitting for a young adult.
- Reapply sunscreen every two hours, or after swimming or sweating.
- Use extra caution near water, snow, and sand as they reflect UV rays and may result in sunburn more quickly.

HEAT STRESS IN EXERCISING CHILDREN
Source: [http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;106/1/158](http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics;106/1/158)

- The intensity of activities that last 15 minutes or more should be reduced whenever high heat and humidity reach critical levels.
- At the beginning of a strenuous exercise program or after traveling to a warmer climate, the intensity and duration of exercise should be limited initially and then gradually increased during a period of 10 to 14 days to accomplish acclimatization to the heat.
- Before prolonged physical activity, the child should be well-hydrated. During the activity, periodic drinking should be enforced, for example, each 20 minutes, 5 oz of cold tap water or a flavored sports drink for a child weighing 90 lbs, and 9 oz for an adolescent weighing 130 lbs, even if the child does not feel thirsty.
- Clothing should be light-colored and lightweight and limited to one layer of absorbent material to facilitate evaporation of sweat. Sweat-saturated garments should be replaced by dry garments.
- Practices and games played in the heat should be shortened and more frequent water/hydration breaks should be instituted.

POOL SAFETY
Source: [http://www.aap.org/family/tippool.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/tippool.htm) and [http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/watersafety.cfm](http://www.aap.org/healthtopics/watersafety.cfm)

Analyses of all childhood drownings in the United States in 1995 showed that most drownings (78%) among infants occurred in the home, primarily in bathtubs (55%) and buckets (12%).

Children between 1 and 4 years of age were most likely to drown in swimming pools (58% of drownings among 1- to 2-year-olds and 51% among 3- to 4-year-olds). However, more than 25% of drownings in this age group were in other freshwater settings, such as ponds, rivers, and lakes (Brenner, R. [Aug. 2003] AAP Technical Report).

According to the AAP, drowning typically occurs when a child is left unattended during the brief time it takes to answer the phone or put food in the oven. Every year, child safety campaigns warn that children should never be left unsupervised around water – be it a swimming/wading pool, natural body of water, bathtub, toilet or bucket – even for a short amount of time. To help keep children safe around water, here are a few reminders:

**Supervision** – Adults should take turns serving as the designated water supervisor. Block out all distractions and always be in a position to see, hear and respond to a child in the water. The AAP recommends adults should be within “an arm’s length providing ‘touch supervision.’”

Remember: not all drowning victims yell or make noise for help. Focused, observant supervision is required. At all times, proper staff/child ratios must be maintained.

**Environment** – Install a fence at least four-feet high around all four
The American Academy of Pediatrics Warnings, continued

sides of the pool/hot tub. The fence should not have openings or protrusions that a young child could use to get over, under, or through. Make sure pool gates open out from the pool, and self-close and self-latch at a height children can't reach.

**Gear** – Parents, caregivers, and pool owners should learn CPR and keep a telephone and equipment approved by the US Coast Guard (i.e., life preservers, life jackets, shepherd’s crook) at poolside. Parents should be cautioned not to use air-filled swimming aids (such as water wings) in place of personal flotation devices (life preservers).

**Education** – Enroll children in swimming lessons with a certified instructor. However, the AAP reminds us that “swimming lessons will not provide ‘drown proofing’ for children of any age.”

**BUG SAFETY**

- Don't use scented soaps, perfumes or hair sprays on your child.
- Avoid areas where insects nest or congregate, such as stagnant pools of water, uncovered foods and gardens where flowers are in bloom.
- Avoid dressing your child in clothing with bright colors or flowery prints.
- To remove a visible stinger from skin, gently scrape it off horizontally with a credit card or your fingernail.
- Combination sunscreen/insect repellent products should be avoided because sunscreen needs to be reapplied every two hours, but the insect repellent should not be reapplied.
- Insect repellents containing DEET are most effective against ticks and mosquitoes, and can prevent Lyme Disease.
- The concentration of DEET in products may range from less than 10 percent to over 30 percent. The benefits of DEET reach a peak at a concentration of 30 percent, the maximum concentration currently recommended for infants and children. DEET should not be used on children under 2 months of age.
- The concentration of DEET varies significantly from product to product, so read the label of any product you purchase.

For more information on DEET: [http://www.aapnews.org/cgi/content/full/e200399v1](http://www.aapnews.org/cgi/content/full/e200399v1)

**PLAYGROUND SAFETY**

Source: [http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/maytra.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/maytra.htm)
Source: [http://www.aap.org/family/playgrd.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/playgrd.htm)

- The playground should have safety-tested mats or loose-fill materials (shredded rubber, sand, wood chips, or bark) maintained to a depth of at least 9 inches. The protective surface should be installed at least 6 feet (more for swings and slides) in all directions from the equipment.
- Equipment should be carefully maintained. Open "s" hooks or protruding bolt ends can be hazardous.
- Swing seats should be made of soft materials such as rubber, plastic or canvas.
- Make sure children cannot reach any moving parts that might pinch or trap any body part.
- Never attach—or allow children to attach—ropes, jump ropes, leashes, or similar items to play equipment; children can strangle on these.
- Make sure metal slides are cool to the touch and can prevent children's legs from getting burned.
- Parents should never purchase a home trampoline or allow children to use home trampolines.
- Parents should supervise children on play equipment to make sure they are safe.

**BICYCLE SAFETY**

Source: [http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm)
Source: [http://www.aap.org/family/tbikmyth.htm](http://www.aap.org/family/tbikmyth.htm)

- Do not push your child to ride a 2-wheeled bike until he or she is ready, at about age 5 or 6. Consider the child's coordination and desire to learn to ride. Stick with coaster (foot) brakes until your child is older and more experienced for hand brakes.
- Take your child with you when you shop for the bike, so that he or she can try it out. The value of a properly fitting bike far outweighs the value of surprising your child with a new one. For more information on finding the proper fit, go to [http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm#choosing](http://www.aap.org/family/bicycle.htm#choosing)
- Buy a bike that is the right size, not one your child has to "grow into." Oversized bikes are especially dangerous.
- Your child needs to wear a helmet on every bike ride, no matter how short or how close to home. Many accidents happen in driveways, on sidewalks, and on bike paths, not just on streets. Children learn best by observing you. Whenever you ride, put on your helmet.
- When purchasing a helmet, look for a label or sticker that says the helmet meets the CPSC safety standard.
- A helmet protects your child from serious injury, and should always be worn. And remember, wearing a helmet at all times helps children develop the helmet habit.
- A helmet should be worn so that it is level on the head, not tipped forwards or backwards. The strap should be securely fastened, and you should not be able to move the helmet in any direction. If needed, the helmet’s sizing pads can help improve the fit.

**SKATEBOARD AND SCOOTER SAFETY**

Source: [http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/marskate.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/archives/marskate.htm)

- Children should never ride skateboards or scooters in or near traffic.
- All skateboarders and scooter-riders should wear a helmet and other protective gear.
The American Academy of Pediatrics Warnings, continued

- Communities should continue to develop skateboard parks, which are more likely to be monitored for safety than ramps and jumps constructed by children at home.

LAWN MOWER SAFETY
Source: http://www.aap.org/family/tipplawn.htm

- Try to use a mower with a control that stops the mower from moving forward if the handle is let go.
- Children younger than 16 years should not be allowed to use ride-on mowers. Children younger than 12 years should not use walk-behind mowers.
- Make sure that sturdy shoes (not sandals or sneakers) are worn while mowing.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Have anyone who uses a mower wear hearing and eye protection.
- Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary, and carefully look for children behind you when you mow in reverse.
- Always turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unblocking the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
- Do not allow children to ride as passengers on ride-on mowers.