

Care1st Avondale Resource Center Newsletter

Need Tax Help? Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is Here!



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites provide tax preparation and financial education at no cost to those who need it most. Taxpayers who use the service say they use refunds to open a savings account, pay bills, and enroll in job training to begin the new year on fresh footing. IRS trained and certified VITA volunteers ensure families and individuals receive tax

credits they qualify for including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), developed to increase financial stability among working taxpayers. United Way's VITA volunteers focus on connecting every qualified Maricopa County taxpayer to a tax credit that could transform their lives.

The Care1st Avondale Resource Center is a VITA site during tax season (January 30-April 16, 2016) on Tuesdays from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

What to bring with you:

- Social Security Cards, or IRS ITIN cards or ITIN letters for all household members
- Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse
- Proof of income, including W-2 and 1099 forms
- Name, address, and tax ID number of childcare provider
- Amount of money paid to childcare provider in 2015
- Account and routing numbers for direct deposit
- If filing jointly, both adults must be present to sign return



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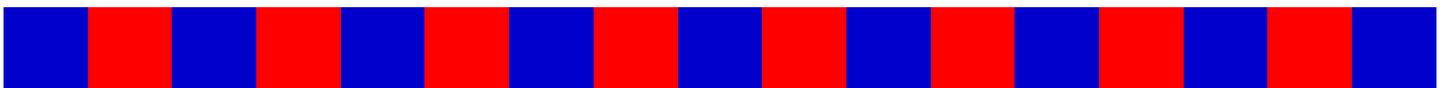
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Bubbles, Baking and Bath Toys: Building Science and Math Skills in Young Kids

Students in the United States rank in the lower third among developed countries when it comes to science and math literacy, meaning our kids may not be able to compete for the jobs of the future. Economic development and educational efforts focus on building Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM) skills in K-12 schools, but we may be missing a critical opportunity if we ignore kids under 6.



Toddlers and preschoolers learn naturally by exploring and experimenting. What appears to adults as play is really forming and testing theories, then trying out different variables. According to the Center for Early Education in STEM, simple childhood games can promote significant STEM skills. For example:

- Building structures – knocking them down, testing them with weight, etc. – engages kids in reasoning about physics.
- Cooking engages children in science, math, and literacy through measuring ingredients, seeing how foods combine and change, and reading recipes.
- Singing and dancing convey counting concepts, and making musical instruments with everyday objects helps kids learn how to control aspects of sound like pitch, loudness, timbre and duration.
- Through water activities, kids experiment with movement and volume, filling cups or pails, then watching how holes in objects affect water flow.
- In playing card and board games, children use math, oral language, reading and writing; reason about strategies; and, learn to take turns and take another person's perspective and negotiate.

Families can help kids develop those skills by asking questions like:

- What do you think will happen?
- Why do you think it ended that way?
- How do you think things will be different if we change something?

Victoria Bray is the Southwest Maricopa Outreach Coordinator and can be reached at vbray@azfif.gov. To learn more about how to help your young children stay healthy and ready to succeed visit, www.azfif.gov.

In addition, parents can share their knowledge, starting in the early years. Things that may seem obvious to us – like weather changes, traffic patterns and the change in an egg when it's cracked, then cooked - are fascinating new concepts for children that give them a foundation from which to build future knowledge.

By encouraging the development of STEM skills in the early years, we help kids learn by experimenting with their environments and give them skills that will help them be successful in school and in life.

Services Spotlight

On the Go!

The Arizona Science Center presents the “On the Go!” workshop. Children ages 3-5 will have the chance to explore the physics of transportation and experiment with different vehicles of movement. Kids can also check out a custom-designed Maglev track and explore how magnetism may change the future of transportation. Join us on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. at Care1st Avondale Resource Center. To register, call 623-333-2703.



Taking Turns Toybrary



Taking Turns Toybrary wants families to "Play It Forward!" with fun and educational toys! Taking Turns Toybrary is a no-cost toy-lending library open to everyone at the Care1st Avondale Resource Center every Thursday from 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The Toybrary is a great way for families to bring a variety of motivating toys and games into their home at no cost! Kids are invited to stop by with their parents to check out cool toys that make learning fun. The Toybrary operates similar to borrowing books from a traditional library. Families can sign up with a government-issued photo ID, and each child is able to borrow one toy at a time for up to 2 weeks.

A child’s “job” is play, and play helps kids develop important skills, gain independence, and build confidence! Taking Turns Toybrary offers a rotating selection of toys and games that help kids practice and improve motor, visual perceptual, sensory and self-care developmental skills. Does your child have a favorite character or need to practice specific skills? Let us know, and we will include toys that match your child’s interests when we rotate the toys available at the Care1st Avondale Resource Center mini-branch. To learn more, contact 623-333-2703.

Goodwill Career Services

Are you looking for work? Goodwill Career Services can help! Goodwill Career Services is available at the Care1st Avondale Resource Center every Monday from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. They can assist you with interview preparation, resume writing, employment leads, employment skills classes, referrals and more! For more information, call 623-333-2703.



Upcoming Events

February 2016

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29					

- Taking Turns Toybrary: Feb. 18 and 25 — 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- Arizona Science Center “On the Go!”: Feb. 10 — 5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Developmental, Hearing and Vision Screenings: Feb. 16 — 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Goodwill Career Services: Feb. 1, 8, 22 and 29 — 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Darkness to Light: Healthy Relationships: Feb. 23 — 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

- Car Seat Class: Feb. 24 — 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Raising A Reader: Feb. 1, 8, 22 and 29 — 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- TOPS Teen Parenting Class: Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24 — 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Open Saturday: Feb. 20 — 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
- President’s Day: Feb. 15 — Closed

Care1st Avondale Resource Center

328 W. Western Avenue, Avondale, AZ 85323

623-333-2703

resourcecenter@avondale.org

Monday-Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. and Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Open 3rd Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

