



# Start Off Smart

Presented by Owen County Learning Network

November 2011

## SOS November Birthdays

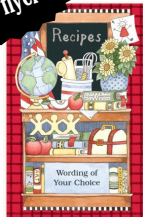
- 7th Eli Fields
- 7th Frankie Woodruff
- 11th Zoey Kay
- 13th Alex Freeman
- 14th Aydia Lambert
- 16th Addison Koontz
- 16th Breana Snyder
- 19th Jayden Hester
- 20th Emma Bishop
- 21st Jerrid Thompson
- 21st Shelby Ranard
- 26th Ryan Mobley
- 28th Garret Smith
- 28th Eva Day
- 30th Joshua Barnett
- 30th Aaliyah White



Would you like to see a picture of your child on our birthday page? E-mail a picture to [jmcguire@socs.k12.in.us](mailto:jmcguire@socs.k12.in.us) Make sure you e-mail it the month *before* their birthday and include child and parent names.



see flyer!



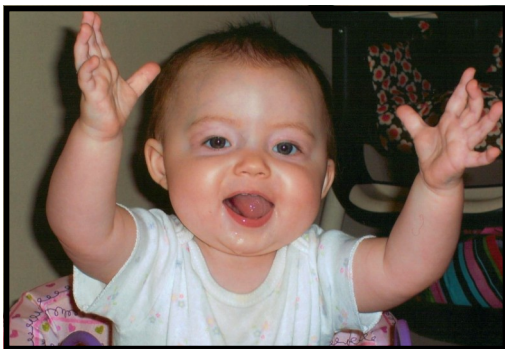
**Welcome** to our new Start Off Smart assistant, Barbie Barker. Barb is helping with the SOS program. She is shown in the picture holding a copy of the OCLN cookbook, which would make a great Christmas gift!



Special guests dropped by the Start Off Smart October play group.

Left: OCLN board member, Greg Linton, joins staff and SOS families at an activity table.

Below: OCLN board member, Mark Rogers, along with OCLN staff members, Jenny McGuire, Barbie Barker, and Olivia Jeffers.



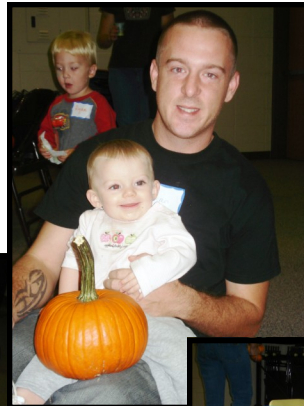
Above: Happy Birthday to Shelby Ranard, daughter of Samantha Ruble.

Right: Happy Birthday to Joshua Barnett, son of Kimberly Konecny.



# Fall

# Play Group Fun



## Pumpkin Pounding -

It's the perfect time of year to pick up a pumpkin and let your kids "whack away!" You will need:

- Large round pumpkin
- Wooden golf tees
- Toy hammers

Poke the tips of the golf tees into the pumpkin so they are secure, give your child a little hammer and let them hammer away. It's great for hand-eye coordination, burning up energy, and getting rid of frustration! Makes a fun fall party game, too!



## Book Corner

Read, read, read to your bunny!

Nothing helps your child's early literacy skills as much as reading together. So read to your child at least once every day. *Suggested books to get you started:*

Read to Your Bunny  
Time for Bed  
If You Give a Mouse a Cookie  
Nursery Rhymes

# Kindergarten Readiness Tips

Will my child have the skills he needs?

Here are a few skills that are important. See if you can recognize the skills your child has already mastered.

- Separates from parents without being upset
- Begins to share with others
- Starts to follow rules
- Buttons and zips clothing
- Manages bathroom needs
- Identifies basic shapes
- Sorts objects by color, size, and shape
- Counts to ten
- Recognizes groups of more than one
- Recognizes rhyming words
- Bounces a ball
- Cuts with scissors

Check off the skills your child has mastered (M), is working on (W), and isn't doing yet (NY). Help your child by reading to him every day, counting out and sorting objects, and practicing self-help skills. Re-check in 3 months.

## Pumpkin Pudding for Kids



1 can pumpkin



Graham crackers



Vanilla pudding (use pudding cup)



Candy corn (optional)

Whipped cream



Kids can make this with mom's help! Put graham crackers in a ziplock bag. Let child crush them with a toy hammer or rolling pin. Place a tablespoon of crushed crackers in bottom of cup. Put vanilla pudding in a bowl. Add a teaspoon of pumpkin and mix. Spoon on top of cracker crumbs. Spoon whipped cream on top and more crushed graham crackers. Add a few candy corns if you'd like...enjoy!



## Play & Learn Group

### 2011 - 2012 Schedule

We're excited to start a new year of Play Group at SES! Mark the dates and plan to join us at the Leah Watt Center.

#### 2011 Dates

Wednesday, September 14	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, October 12	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, November 16	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, December 14	9 to 11 am

#### 2012 Dates

Wednesday, January 11	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, February 8	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, March 21	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, April 18	9 to 11 am
Wednesday, May 16	9 to 11 am



Do you like to shop Walmart, Target, and Toys R Us online for Christmas? When you shop online at these & hundreds of other stores visit [www.Goodshop.com](http://www.Goodshop.com) first and choose Owen County Learning Network as your charity. A percentage of your purchase will be given to support the programs of OCLN!

## Thank you!

We'd like to say "thank you" to all our supporters. The generosity of our funders makes it possible to serve the Owen County community with educational programs and free books.

**Smithville** CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



Owen County Community Foundation

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."*  
- Winston Churchill



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#### SOS Staff

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Cindy Terrell

Olivia Jeffers  
Barbie Barker

