

“Great Beginnings” Offered to Ida County Families

Most expectant parents attend prenatal classes, but what happens once the child arrives and the parenting actually begins? Ida County Extension delivered a series of workshops in April 2007, to help parents and caregivers learn about their challenges and joys of parenting with infants, toddlers and preschool age children



Extension Family Specialists: Renee Sweers, Jan Burk, Eugenia Hanlon; and Ida County Extension Education Director, Kathy Schmidt, pooled their talents to offer four “Great Beginnings” workshops. Topics included: Ages and Stages of Development, Guidance and Positive Discipline, Play and Encouragement, Helping Children Cope with Anger and Conflict, and Building Family Strengths. Ten families enrolled in these sessions and each received free meals, childcare, take home activities and attendance incentives. Financial needs for this program were met with a generous contract from Ida County Empowerment for \$2250. Westminster Presbyterian Church of Ida Grove provided the location, and two local youth donated sixteen hours of time and talents for child care.

Comments from participants included:

“I learned...

- all children develop at their own speed.”
- all children learn differently.”
- to be more patient with children.”



“Now I will...

- not worry so much.”
 - read through material and try new methods.”
 - try to make chores fun.”
 - remember and encourage my child for...”
 - try to be more interactive with the children.”
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For more information about this program or other Iowa State University Extension resources, contact the Ida County Office at (712) 364-3003. Information is also available on the Iowa State University Extension website at www.extension.iastate.edu.

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... and justice for all

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