



Strong Families DeSoto Looks Forward to a Great 2011!

The Afterschool Centers on Education prepares for a busy Spring Semester.

The Afterschool Centers on Education (ACE) program offers many exciting after school activities that keep kids engaged in fun activities and after school learning. Here is a list of many of the Fall activities.

Amber Terrace Elementary

ATE Rhythm Club
Scrap Booking
Swing Dancing for Adults

Cockrell Hill Elementary

Exploring Geography
Etiquette 101
Accounting (Value of a Dollar)

Frank D. Moates Elementary

Tap/Ballet/Mileage Club
Rosetta Stone ESL/Spanish (adults)
EA Sports Active

Northside/The Meadows

ACE Etiquette
ACE Business School
Jazz Dance

Ruby Young Elementary

KeyBoarding
SLANT 45 Community Garden
Terrific Tuesday Parent Academy

Woodridge Elementary

Tap/Modeling
Hot Dots (Math & Science)
Bring on the Books

DeSoto East Middle School

Wii Sports Club
Dallas Black Dance theater
Culinary Measurements

DeSoto West Middle School

Boot Camp Health and Fitness
ASL- American Sign Language
Dallas Black Dance theater

McCowan Middle School

Rosetta Stone (Students and Adults)
Arts/Crafts/Theater Performances
Cooking and Sewing Classes

DeSoto High/Freshman Campus

Robotics
Archery
Digital Film Making



Strong Families DeSoto is a parent involvement effort of DeSoto ISD in collaboration with DeSoto ISD and Strong Fathers-Strong Families, LLC

Contact These Campuses and Site Supervisors to Learn More about ACE!

Amber Terrace Elementary
Kim Walker
972-223-8757 ext. 401

Cockrell Hill Elementary
Antoinette Hill
972-230-1692 ext. 606

Frank D. Moates Elementary
Wanda Gardner
972-230-2881

Northside/The Meadows
Chris Scales
972-224-6709 ext. 402

Ruby Young Elementary
Angela Thomas
972-223-6505 ext. 601

Woodridge Elementary
Brandi Meeks
972-230-3800 ext. 607

DeSoto East Middle School
Dennis Perkins
972-223-0690 ext. 319

DeSoto West Middle School
Alisha Garrett
972-230-1820

McCowan Middle School
Nevelyn Ward
972-274-8090 ext. 641

DeSoto High School
/Freshman Campus
Earnest Johnson
972-230-0726

Strong Families Start with Strong Parenting Skills



How can
parents
raise good
readers?

Q: I know it's really important for kids to be good readers. When should I start helping my child with reading? What are some ways I can do this?

A: It's never too soon to start! Long before children actually "learn to read," they build reading skills. For example, talking and singing build verbal skills. And listening to books teaches about the written word.

Some of the best ways to prepare for reading are:

- Encourage your child to talk. Then listen to her. Ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.
- Teach about books and printed materials—how to hold them, turn pages, and follow words from left to right.
- Use the alphabet. Sing the alphabet song. Point out letters. Have fun writing words, such as your child's name.
- Emphasize the sounds of language. Use nursery rhymes and songs. Let your child hear how words are made up of smaller parts and sounds.
- Read aloud to your child. Help her see the connection between printed words and the words you say.

Source: Bonnie Armbruster, Fran Lehr and Jean Osborn, "A Child Becomes a Reader: Birth Through Preschool," *The Partnership for Learning—National Institute for Literacy and RMC Research Corporation*.

Family time is a worthy investment

Spending time with children isn't always easy or convenient. But the results are amazing. You may be surprised by how much the time means to your child—and how much it will mean to you.

Try these simple ideas:

- Establish new traditions. For example, prepare breakfast with your child once a week.
- Do simple chores. Kids enjoy learning new things, such as how to water plants or sort clothes.
- Watch your child play. Notice what he enjoys. Find new and creative ways to join in.
- Limit TV and video games. Choose reading, exercise, make believe and other fun pastimes instead.
- Plan uninterrupted activities together. Put them on your family calendar, even if it means you must rearrange your schedule to accommodate them.

Source: Alan Greene, "Spending Time With Kids," Parenting Health Center.

Parent Assistance and Community Partnerships



GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Parent Assistance Center (PAC) is available to parents to receive assistance with needs, questions and/or concerns pertaining to their children who attend DeSoto ISD. The Parent Assistance Center is available to assist you regarding areas such as enrollment, conflict resolution, disciplinary actions and general assistance.

The director of the PAC has direct access to district administrators and therefore will be able to have issues addressed in a much more efficient manner while allowing appropriate staff to stay focused on our academic mission.

Debbie Garner, Director

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