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**Diane Day**  
**EAGLE Coordinator**

## FEBRUARY 2008

*EAGLE is a Literacy Resource Program for individuals working with 0 – 5 year old children. Its focus is to provide age-appropriate programming for this age group to enhance school readiness skills.*

### Midwinter Fun

These midwinter days can seem *so* long, but with a little creativity even the dreariest winter day can be filled with family fun (and learning)!! The following suggestions are from Kim Booth, Chickasaw County Extension Before/Afterschool Youth Coordinator:

**Playing With Mirrors** - Small mirrors are ideal for exploring reflections since they can easily be stored in a backpack or purse, allowing you and your child to play anytime, anywhere, for example, while you're waiting for a bus or at the doctor's office. Other advantages of small mirrors are that they can be easily moved around and pointed at different things.

To start off, spend some time just looking at yourselves in the mirror, discussing the reflections of your faces. Then, move the mirror around. See what happens to your reflections when you move the mirror closer, farther away, and to the side. Then point the mirror at different things. How do you have to hold the mirror to get the best reflection of something? How can you hold the mirror so you see the reflection of something without seeing your own?

On another day, try playing around with a large wall or door mirror. With a large mirror, you can see more of yourself and other parts of the room. (You can even see things that are behind you, a really fascinating concept for children to discover!) How much of the room can you see? What objects in the room can't you see? What happens when you move closer to the mirror? Farther away? Is there a way you can stand so that you can look into the mirror and see the reflections of objects in the room without seeing your own reflection? Make up a game of trying to see each other's reflections without the other person being able to see theirs!



**Sorting Collections** - Children are natural collectors. Sorting and categorizing a favorite collection is a great learning activity and a lot of fun. (If your child doesn't already have a collection, encourage him or her to gather items while you are out and about in the world. Shells and rocks are durable collectables and can be rearranged and sorted in many different ways — by size, shape, color, and texture, just to name a few. If found collectables aren't an option, dried beans and seeds from the grocery store, building blocks and other small toys work well too.



Together, observe each item in the collection closely and encourage your child to describe its color, shape, pattern and texture. Try categorizing by one characteristic; putting all smooth shells together, regardless of color or size, or all the blue shells together, regardless of size or texture. As an extension activity, you and your child can create a permanent display of the collection, making labels to describe the categories.

Remember to check your local library for EAGLE book bags this winter too! Book bags containing a book and suggestions for activities with mirrors, sorting activities, and many other concepts are available for checkout at most libraries in Floyd, Mitchell, and Chickasaw Counties. These book bags are rotated periodically and new book bags are currently being developed!!



## EAGLE News!

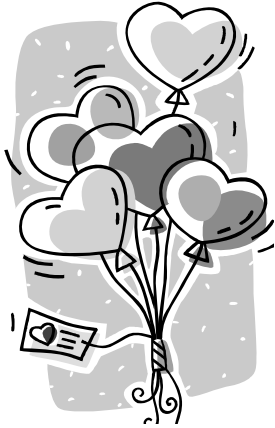
During the past year the EAGLE program has expanded to include visits to WIC clinics and parent support groups in addition to library and preschool programs and attendance at EAGLE library programs continues to grow. I am in the process of developing 105 more bookbags, including several bilingual (Spanish/English) so that I can supply these valuable resources to everyone who is interested in having them. Registered Daycare Provider Crates will soon include a music and movement tote as well. I would like to thank all of the libraries, preschools, parent groups and families who have supported this program and encouraged its growth!

You may be seeing some new faces accompanying me at WIC clinics and programs in the future. Due to the growth of the EAGLE program, I will now have the assistance of my colleagues at Chickasaw County Extension. Please welcome Patrice Holthaus, County 4H Youth Coordinator, and Kim Booth, Before/Afterschool Youth Coordinator!

## Schedule of Events

\*\*Parents – please post this on your refrigerator as a reminder of these upcoming events.

Key: (TYPE OF EVENT) P/C = Parent & Child C = Child P = Parent DC= Day Care Providers

Floyd County	Mitchell County	Chickasaw County
<p><b>Tuesday, February 5 at 9 AM</b> EAGLE presents <i>One Mitten</i> program for 3 to 5 year olds at Central Preschool.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, February 13</b> Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Floyd County (DC).</p> <p><b>Wednesdsay, February 27</b> EAGLE book distribution at Floyd County WIC clinic in Charles City (P/C).</p> <p><b>Thursday, February 28</b> EAGLE book distribution at Floyd County WIC clinic in Charles City (P/C).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Happy Valentines Day!</p>	<p><b>Thursday, February 7 at 9-3</b> EAGLE book distribution at Mitchell County WIC clinic in Osage (P/C).</p> <p><b>Monday, February 18 at 6-7:30 PM</b> EAGLE presents <i>Ready to Read from Head to Toe</i> at The Learning Connection in St. Ansgar (P/C).</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Feb 19 at 9:30-11 AM</b> EAGLE presents <i>Ready to Read from Head to Toe</i> at The Learning Connection in St. Ansgar (P/C).</p> <p><b>Thursday, February 21</b> Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Mitchell County (DC).</p> <p><b>Thursday, February 21 at 12:30 PM</b> EAGLE presents <i>Snowmen at Night</i> at Riceville Preschool.</p>	<p><b>Monday, February 11</b> Registered Daycare Provider Crate Rotations in Chickasaw County (DC).</p> <p><b>Wednesday, February 20 at 9-5</b> EAGLE Book Distribution at Chickasaw County WIC clinic in New Hampton (P/C).</p> 

*Spring Library Programs will be announced in the March Newsletter!!!*