

UNITED SERVICES EARLY  
CHILDHOOD CENTER...  
VOTED #1 PRESCHOOL IN  
ST. CHARLES COUNTY!



united services

# PARENT LINK

May 2010

*A newsletter for the families of United Services*

## Year End Notes!

- Summer is just around the corner! If you are leaving United Services at the end of the school year, please turn in your security key cards. If your child is continuing in care over the summer, or returning in the fall, just hang on to your card. Please return your card to any office or place in the payment boxes. You will receive a refund of your security card deposit a few weeks after the return of the cards. Thanks for your cooperation!
- Parents or legal guardians must pick up any medications within 5 days of the end of the school year. We cannot send medications home with the children. Medications NOT picked up will be destroyed.
- **BEST WISHES to our graduates! We know you will do great in kindergarten...please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing! Moms, Dads and Guardians..thanks for sharing your little one with us!**

## FAMILY SURVEY



Next week we will be sending you via e-mail a link to participate in our annual Parent Survey. This link will also be available on our website, [unitedsrvcs.org](http://unitedsrvcs.org). It is so important for us to hear from you about your experiences with United Services, and we appreciate your input! Please take a few minutes...your responses and comments will help us plan for the future!

**ATTENTION UNITED SERVICES EAST PARENTS!** We now have pea gravel in the playground at US East...this is a new sensory experience for the kids, and they are loving the opportunity to explore! Just a reminder, though, to check your child's shoes and pockets to empty out any stray rocks that may have made their way home!



*Suzanne's Corner...a message from  
Suzanne Salmo, United Services Social Worker*

## DID YOU KNOW?

- State law requires that all children 7 and under be restrained in some type of car seat or booster seat.
- Children 12 and under ALWAYS ride in the back seat. The air bags actually recommend that kids be 16 years of age before they ride in the front seat! Their bodies are not yet developed enough to handle an impact if they are riding in the front seat.
- It is recommended that children be in a booster seat until they are 8 years old, weigh over 80 pounds, AND are over 4 feet 9 inches tall. (My daughter was 10 before she stopped using a booster seat and my son was 8.)

## If you think your child is ready for just a seatbelt – do the seatbelt test:

- The lap belt sits low on the hips (across the pelvic bone), not across the stomach.
- The shoulder belt is on the shoulder, not on the neck, under the arm, or behind the back. The shoulder belt should come across the collarbone.
- Your child's back is firmly against the seat back, knees bend naturally at the front edge of the seat, and your child can sit this way for the entire ride.
- The seat belt is snug, flat, and comfortable. If the seat belt does not fit right the child must use a booster seat.

## Remember...

- Never buy a used car seat. You will not know the history of the seat. Car seats now have expiration dates on them!
- Children must be 1 year old AND 20 pounds before you turn the car seat forward-facing.
- It is safer for children to be in rear-facing car seats. Rear-facing car seats tip during impact which helps them absorb the impact instead of the child absorbing the impact. You can schedule a car seat check with Central County Fire and Rescue by appointment by calling 636-970-9700.
- NEVER LEAVE A CHILD ALONE IN A CAR.
- Set an example for your kids by buckling up!

Visit [www.safekidssaintcharles.org](http://www.safekidssaintcharles.org) for more info!

## United Services Restructuring

This week you should have received a mailing regarding our recent organizational restructuring at United Services. If you did NOT receive the letter, or have additional questions, please do not hesitate to give us a call! It is our hope that this restructure will help us continue to better serve our families!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- May 8 WALK WITH US, Quail Ridge Park, 9 a.m. Runners, 10:00 a.m. Walkers!
- May 19 SIBSHOP, US East, 6-8 p.m.
- May 21 Golf Tournament, Bear Creek Golf Course
- May 22 SIBSHOP, Missouri History Museum 10–11:30 a.m.
- May 27 Last Preschool Class Day



## PRESCHOOL OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE!

*Have YOU registered your child for preschool classes for fall?! If not, please do so ASAP!*

- We have limited openings at **US West** for afternoon classes (openings exist for 4 year olds in the afternoon sessions AND 2 year olds for the morning session).
  - We have a variety of openings for our **AFTERNOON** classes at **US East**. Remember, families enrolling in afternoon classes at our St. Peters location receive **50%** off one month's tuition (applicable to December 2010 tuition). We will also continue the Spanish curriculum enhancement for the 2010-2011 school year.
- We are now accepting registrations for preschool in Warren County, which will open in August 2010! Both afternoon and morning sessions are available. **United Services Warren County** will be located at 395 Veteran's Memorial Parkway in Warrenton.

**Help us spread the word about United Services!**

## Are you shopping?! Are you spending money?!

Don't forget the United Services **SCRIP** program! You can obtain **SCRIP** gift cards for just about anything...check out the website at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) for a full list!

If you order through the website, you'll need the code: 8C51532B2L121! We order once a week on Thursdays, and then the cards you ordered are available the next week.

We do also keep cards in stock...Dierbergs, MidTowne IGA, ShopNSave, Applebee's, Kohls, Mr. Goodcents, Qdoba, St. Louis Bread Company, Walgreens, and Wal-Mart/Sams. You can purchase these cards at the front desks, or call Melanie at 636.926.2700, ext. 303.



## GO "HAWG WILD" AT THE BALLPARK!

**Here's your opportunity to enjoy the Cardinals play on August 21, 2010, while helping United Services at the same time...**

For each ticket purchased, the Cardinals will make a \$5 donation to the charity designated by each HOG Chapter. The St. Charles Harley Davidson chapter has designated **UNITED SERVICES** as their charity. Now **THAT'S a WINNER!**

Ticket prices range from \$25-\$90. Only 1,500 tickets are available and may be purchased online at [www.stlcardinals.com/hawgwild](http://www.stlcardinals.com/hawgwild) (be sure to earmark St. Charles HOG Chapter), by phone at 314-345-9500 OR at the St. Charles Harley Davidson dealership just north of I-70 at Cave Springs exit.

For more info, please contact Jeanne Palombo at 636-926-2700 ext. 101.

**Thanks for going HAWG WILD**

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ...ON HAND!

### *What are the Stages of Hand Development?*

- 1-3 months: awareness of two hands
- 3-6 months: reaches hands out together to get an object
- 5-10 months: transfers objects between hands
- 10-18 months: stabilizes with one hand, manipulates object with the other (i.e. holds drum and hits with stick)
- 18-36 months: both hands manipulate but do different actions

Most literature cites that hand dominance is established by age seven. Hand Dominance is mainly influenced by genetics, and there is a strong predisposition for one hand to be more skilled than the other. About 10% of the general population has left hand dominance. About 1% of the population is ambidextrous—they can use either hand interchangeably. There are also some people who interchange their dominance depending on the task. For example, those who swing right with a baseball bat, but left with a golf club. These type of activities involve larger body movements and engage the legs, shoulders, trunk, and hands.



**OPENINGS FOR PART-TIME INFANT/TODDLER CARE AT US EAST .** We have a **limited number of part-time infant/toddler openings** at our St. Peters location. Call Heather Jones at 636.926.2700, or e-mail [hjones@unitedsrvcs.org](mailto:hjones@unitedsrvcs.org)