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New “Learn and Play Group” starts in Liberal August 7

Looking for a special way to spend time with your child? Want to find out what resources are available to you and your child in Liberal? Join the Learn and Play Group which will be meeting from 10 to 11 a.m., the first and third Saturdays of the month at the Cooper-Clark Room of the Liberal Memorial Library. The first session will be held on August 7.

“We wanted to provide an organized Learn and Play Group targeting working parents and parents of special needs children, ages newborn to five years old, to help them learn new ways to interact with their children and to provide them with information on the different resources that are available to them in our community,” said Elizabeth Stamper, executive director of the Liberal Area Coalition for Families.

Each session will include a Learn and Play activity with the parents and children, a presentation by a local agency that provides services to children, a snack and time for the parents to interact with each other. Sara Schallert will be organizing and conducting the sessions.

“We wanted to pick a time that would allow many working parents to participate,” said Stamper. “Most of the groups that are available to parents of young children meet during the normal work day which makes it tough for a working parent or a single parent.”

The sessions are free to the participants but those interested are asked to register ahead of time by calling 620-655-7177 or emailing _coalitionfromfamilies@hotmail.com. “We would like to have an idea of how many people will be at the session so we can plan for materials and snacks,” Stamper said. However, participants will also be able to register on Saturday, August 7.

Currently there is funding to provide the sessions through December 2010. Funding for the Learn and Play Group sessions is being provided by the Smart Start Grant and the Seward County United Way. “Based on the success of the program during the first four months, we would be able to seek additional funding to continue it,” Stamper said.

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