



EPHRATA AREA EDUCATION FOUNDATION
803 OAK BOULEVARD
EPHRATA, PA 17522

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 20, 2011

Foundation Receives Grant for Early Childhood Initiatives

September 20, 2011 – The Ephrata Area Education Foundation recently received a grant for over \$4,700 from the Lancaster County Community Foundation. The grant will be used to expand early childhood initiatives provided by the Ephrata Area School District.

The grant will help fund a series of four free workshops called *Plant the Seed of Learning: Purposeful Play*, designed for parents and their children through age 2. The workshops will begin in November and are being launched through a partnership between the District and Ephrata Community Hospital. The workshops are designed to help lay the foundation of learning and will offer information on early childhood education in a playful environment. Each session will address a different topic. Parents and their children may attend all four sessions if they would like.

The workshops will be held at the Ephrata Community Hospital Health Pavilion A from 6:00 - 7:00 PM on the following Thursdays: November 10, 2011; January 12, March 8, and May 10, 2012. Pre-registration is required. Please call (717) 738-6667 to register.

The grant will also provide funding for the District to purchase materials and age-appropriate books to be distributed by staff at Trout Run Family Practice, Baca Pediatrics, and Lake Street Family Practice during well-child checks. The materials will guide parents with suggestions on how to read to their child. Reading aloud to very young children has been shown to increase expressive and receptive language skills in toddlers and to raise reading scores and verbal performance in elementary school.

The Foundation is a non-profit, community-based organization dedicated to enriching the educational opportunities offered by the public schools in the Ephrata Area School District by securing financial support and providing leadership. The Foundation provides financial support for Teacher Venture Grants, Alternative Education, Early Childhood Initiatives, and programs at the District farm. Please visit the Foundation website at www.ephrataeducation.org for more information.

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For additional information, please contact:
Kati Farrer, Development Director
Ephrata Area Education Foundation
717-721-1465
K_Farrer@EphrataEducation.org

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