



## EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

The Ephrata Area School District is dedicated to the success of all children, including the youngest members of our community. Statistics strongly support the need for early-learning development, as over 85 percent of a child’s communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills are developed by age five. Additionally, data shows a strong correlation between early literacy skills and a child’s chance for academic success, directly reducing the chance for a future of poverty or crime. Young children need the influence of parents and family members to help build this foundation and prepare them for success in school and in life.

Families with children through Kindergarten-age are invited to participate in a variety of FREE early learning activities:

- The **Parent2Parent Academy** is an online parenting academy where parents receive \$25 gift cards upon completion of each course.
- **Plant the Seed of Learning** classes are offered at Keystone Villa Senior Community in Ephrata for parents and children through age two to experience themed, hands-on activities.
- **Parent2Parent** representatives make home visits, deliver age-appropriate learning materials, and foster relationships between the District and families with pre-Kindergarten age children.
- **Free play dates** and **Mini Mounts Nights** with guided early learning activities are regularly held at local parks, the Ephrata Rec Center, and each District elementary school.



For more information on the early learning programs offered by the Ephrata Area School District, click on the **Early Childhood** link under **Community Resources** at [www.easdpa.org](http://www.easdpa.org).

## PROJECT BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

*Project Build a Better Future*, a new program offered by the District this school year, teaches students ages 18-21 with special needs how to prepare for life outside the classroom. A classroom at *EHS@Washington* has been converted to an apartment where students have



hands-on experiences with cooking, cleaning, and living life independently. In addition, students are taught about the use



of public transportation, work and volunteer opportunities, and resources available to them in the Ephrata community. Several students have already gained employment and internships with the help of the program.

“We believe students with special needs can be productive members of society while feeling

a sense of pride and happiness in their lives. It’s a rewarding feeling to see all parts of a student’s community come together to help him or her meet personal goals,” said Mrs. Susan Summers-Steffy, Ephrata Area School District Coordinator of Student Support Services.