

Ripon Preschool Launches

By Monica Cane

Pre-K teacher Amy Hunt is offering a new fun-filled, swift moving, creative course for children preparing to enter kindergarten in 2010 through her home based learning program entitled Miss Amy's Pre-K Connection. By way of interactive activities, games, stories and art, Miss Amy's students will study the alphabet, numbers, phonics, language, math, science, writing, social and motor skills, nutrition and more.

The curriculum used in her class derives from a program called Pre K Scholars (www.prekscholars.com) that was created by Amy Schwary a graduate from USC who majored in Education. Wanting to make sure her own child was well prepared for Kindergarten, Schwary created the Pre-K Scholar program. She then developed a user friendly, hands-on Pre-K kit for teachers/moms interested in implementing the Pre-K program with their own children and others in their home, church and community.

The guiding education principle for Pre-K Scholar which states that all students are capable of learning any concept or skill if appropriately presented is what attracted Amy Hunt to use the curriculum and open Miss Amy's Pre-K Connection.

As a credentialed teacher who taught kindergarten, first and second grades prior to having her two sons, Hunt considered the home-based Pre-K program to be an ideal setting for someone with her teaching experience who desired the flexibility of being at home with her kids while working part time.

"This is not a preschool in the familiar sense with snacks and naps" Hunt said. "It is straight instruction with class sessions running 90-minutes per day." She plans to offer two separate sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10-11:30am and 1-2:30pm.

Hunt is still accepting late sign-ups for her introductory eight-week summer session that began last Monday, June 8, while she also prepares for a fun, positive, comprehensive learning environment for this fall and spring 2010 students.

During the 90-minute sessions, students will review one of the 22 lesson plans developed around the letters of the alphabet, in addition to studying phonic flash cards, guessing games and learning vowels through Addy the Acrobat, Eddie the Eraser and Otto the Oceanographer.

Neuroscientist Eric Knudsen is noted as saying, "Early childhood provides a window of opportunity to dramatically shape a child's brain when it is rapidly developing. Children who attended high-quality preschool do significantly better in K-12 than children who do not (due to the fact that) in early childhood, children develop the linguistic, cognitive, social and emotional building blocks for later development."

For more information about Miss Amy's Pre-K Connection here in Ripon, call her at (209) 253-0081 or (530) 391-4742. Her email address is amyhunt22@charter.net. Her website is www.prekconnection.com.