



Watch Me Grow: A Books, Blocks, and Balls Event

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Background

Watch me grow is the developmental screening, information, monitoring, and referral system in NH for families with children ages 0-5. The developmental questionnaires used are the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3) and Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional (ASQ:SE-2). New Hampshire Family Voices (NHFV) provides free support and referral services to families caring for children with special health care needs through family centered care and family professional partnerships.

Books, Blocks, and Balls (BBB) is an interactive parent event where families with young children are provided with an entertaining venue to receive information about developmental screenings, child development, and community resources.

Description of Project

A BBB event is an opportunity for parent education, community engagement, and to help detect developmental delay. Books encourages emergent literacy skills, blocks strengthen math and fine motor skills, and balls encourage gross motor development. These are the steps to create a BBB event:



The books station consisted of a book tent with a variety of developmentally appropriate content and a storyteller. Other activities include a puppet theater and the option for the child to record a story.



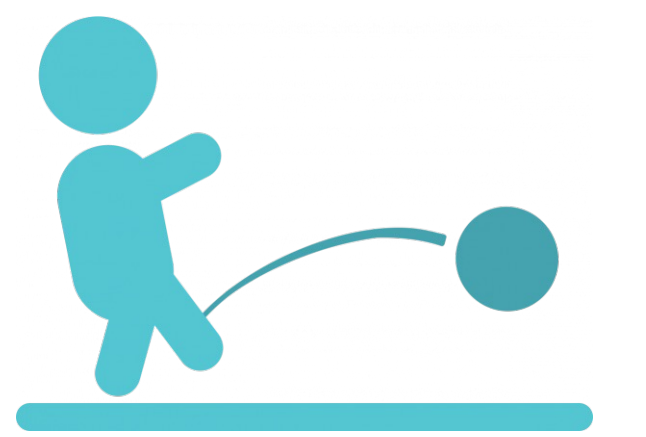
The blocks station had 1/2 inch blocks, magna tiles, an abacus, and arts and crafts materials. There are several other options for activities such as solving a puzzle made out of blocks, create large boxes, including scales to weigh things, and creating shapes with playdough.



The balls station had a ball pit, several balls of different sizes to throw or kick, and an obstacle course made of bubble wrap with a wheelbarrow. Other activities that may be included are bubble popping with a bubble machine and dinosaur digging through sand with tools.

Summary

- For the first BBB event ever done by NHFV, it went fairly well; the set up was easy with several volunteers
- The children utilized all the activity stations and had an enjoyable time
- All parents received screening materials and resources were available



Takeaways and Next Steps

- Watch Me Grow: BBB event is an easily replicated experience where families can increase their understanding of child development, what they can do to support it, and where they can go to access resources.
- Focusing on advertising and giving ample notice are two key components to bring in a larger audience
- More BBB events will be held in the future and activities can be changed based on the venue and participation rates

