



Prepared parents. Healthy families.

Parent Newsletter May 2021

Family Connects is here!

Pollywog and the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties is proud to announce the arrival of our newest resource for families!

Having a new baby can be overwhelming and all families have questions about their newborns. Family Connects helps families give their babies the best possible start in life.

When you sign up with Family Connects, you will get a free home visit with a nurse home visitor three weeks after delivery. The nurse will check your baby's weight and health and answer any questions you have about feeding, soothing, and taking care of your baby.

The Family Connects nurses are also trained to help parents manage postpartum anxiety and depression. They can connect your family to resources in the community for other needs, like housing, food, child care, health care, and help with returning to work, if needed.

You don't have to worry about cleaning the house or even showering before the visit! The nurse is just there to help and Family Connects visits are completely confidential.

Family Connects nurses know our communities because they work in the Linn, Benton, and Lincoln Counties health departments. They know many resources in our communities and are skilled in helping families. Your nurse home visitor can visit up to three times and then help you find other programs for further support.



Family Connects visits are completely free to families! Right now, visits are available to most families, depending on location. As Family Connects grows, visits will be available to all families in our communities.

Due to COVID-19, Family Connects visits are virtual, via video or phone. Family Connects visits will be in-home as soon as possible.

All families can use
a little help

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Available To All Families

Now all families in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties have access to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, thanks to a \$55,000 grant from the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton and Lincoln County.

"As a regional Early Learning Hub, it was important to our Governing Board that families in all of our communities throughout the region have access to this high-quality opportunity to have books delivered directly to their homes for their young children. With this grant we were able to support United Way in their efforts for full regional access," said Kristi Collins, Director at the Early Learning Hub of Linn, Benton & Lincoln Counties.

The Imagination Library is a 60-volume set of books beginning with a special Welcome book. Each month from birth to age 5, a book is sent out to your child as a gift to help inspire their love of reading. All books within the program are age-appropriate and are selected by early childhood experts. Books are

also available in bilingual or Spanish editions. You can see the entire booklist online www.imaginationlibrary.com/usa/book-list/

Over 200 Corvallis children were signed up in the first 24 hours! You can sign your child up for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library by visiting the local United Way website at unitedwaybl.org/imaginationlibrary or by calling the Corvallis-Benton Public Library at 541-766-6793.



Pollywog Needs to Hear Your Voice

Pollywog is seeking bloggers for our Parent Voice blog! Parent Voice content must be thought-provoking and engaging to parents and families with children ages 0-5 years old.

The blogger will submit posts of 800-1000 words and accompanying photos every two weeks. Posts can be about the blogger's personal parenting experiences and opinions, and can also include researched information where appropriate.

A Parent Voice blogger should have excellent writing skills and be able to write

in a way that encourages Pollywog families to continue the conversation either online or elsewhere. Photography skills are also important so that posts are visually interesting. Our blogger needs to be living and raising children in Linn, Benton, or Lincoln Counties and be aware of community events and parenting resources.

This position is as an "independent contractor" and not an employee of LBCC or the Parenting Education Department. Parent Voice bloggers are paid \$50/per blog.

If you are interested in applying for this position, please submit a cover letter, resume, and a blog sample to leanne.trask@linnbenton.edu.

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