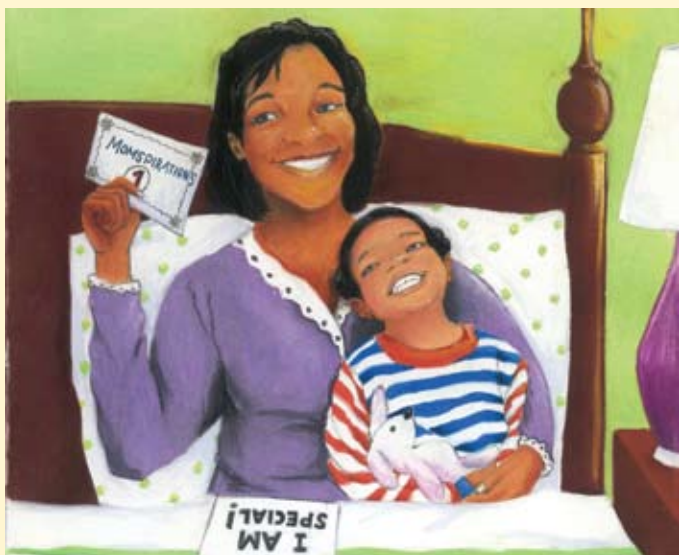


shortstuff

By Karen Kullgren



Lighten Your Child's Journey

Local writer Lorraine D. Gordon has written a charming new children's book, *Dancing with Momspirations* (illustrated by Mavis J. Turner), about the power of positive language and how it affects the way we think and behave. With anecdotes not a bit syrupy, but strong and loving, Gordon reminds children that they have a lot to offer the world and that they are loved. Narrated by the author's 7-year-old daughter Shelby, the book includes instructions on making your own Momspirations cards. www.dancingwithmomspirations.com

Keep Little Skin Safe

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) who brought us the valuable Skin Deep Cosmetic Safety Database, now has a Parent's Buying Guide: Safety Guide to Children's Personal Care Products. According to EWG, it "helps parents navigate around bogus claims and find safer products with fewer ingredients linked to allergies, cancer and other concerns for children." The guide covers products from baby wipes to shampoos. It includes ingredients to avoid and better/best picks from many brands, plus important findings like why children are particularly vulnerable and how exposures add up. www.cosmeticsdatabase.com/special/parentsguide



Carpe Librum - Seize the Book!

Turning the Page is a terrific nonprofit dedicated to enriching the development of D.C. public school children. You can help with their annual fundraiser, Carpe Librum. Donations of gently used books, CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes will be accepted at book drives at any Adams National Bank location throughout the District, or go to www.turningthepage.org. And turn up for great deals at the main sale April 11 - May 16 (see website), or at George Washington University, April 21 - 22 and Georgetown University, April 23-24.

Bid Big for Children

Washington Parent and Washington Woman magazines are pleased to be Mentor Sponsors of the National Center for Children and Families' (NCCF) 6th Annual Art & Soul Charity Auction at the Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda. On Friday, April 11, 7 - 10 p.m., guests will enjoy live jazz, elegant hors d'oeuvres and cocktails and can bid on original artwork, fine jewelry and unique dining and travel experiences. Proceeds will benefit NCCF's Greentree Shelter (GTS) and Greentree Adolescent Program (GAP). www.nccf-cares.org

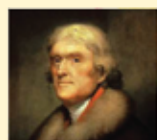


Make Way for VIPs - Very Important Poultry

Is *Washington Parent* going quackers? Daniella Harris, account executive, was recruited to be Honorary Duck Master for the March of the Peabody Ducks at the Peabody Little Rock Hotel during the annual Parenting Publications of America convention. Every day, at precisely 11 a.m., the ducks leave their deluxe accommodations and, to the sounds of a John Philip Sousa march, take the elevator down to the lobby, waddling down a red carpet to dive into the marble fountain where they spend their days. They are accompanied by their Duck Master, who is clad in scarlet-and-gold trimmed jacket and carries a brass head duck cane. (The march is reversed at 5 p.m.). Daniella took to her fowl shepherding like a duck to water!

Warm Up to Scholarship Money

The first recipient of the 2008 Jefferson Prep Global Warming Scholarship is Yong Yi Wu, a senior at JEB Stuart High School. The \$1,500 college scholarship was established to honor students who have an active interest in protecting the environment, and applications are still being accepted for 2008 awards. Jefferson Prep, an educational services company, provides exam preparation, tutoring, language courses and adult education courses. www.jeffersonprep.com



Jefferson Prep



PLAY HARD!

Outback Play Systems reminds readers that April 20-26 is National Playground Safety Week. It's time to inspect and maintain playsets for the long play season ahead. If you're shopping for a new one, be sure it's compliant with ASTM safety standards and made of all California Redwood for maximum durability and safety. Outback Play Systems offers Woodplay and Oasis brands to help your child play hard and think creatively. Visit their showroom in Chantilly, or call for a free catalog: 703-263-2660. Custom design your own playset interactively at www.woodplay.com.