Family Living **Focus** Chester Co. **Extension Agent Becky Scotland**

Celebrating Diversity: Learning to Play Together

We live and work in a world filled with diversity. Our young children (2 to 5 years) are exposed to many different experiences every day through their play activities. To ensure that children receive a well-balanced knowledge base, we need to provide a wide variety of opportunities. One such area is the celebration of our diversity. Parents and caregivers naturally provide activities that help children learn about the world around them. Through a child's play we can do the following:

·address a child's fear of differences

•help children live cooperatively with others

prevent prejudices in chil-

experience a variety of social environments

Children begin to notice differences very early in life. This classification process carries over from the toys and objects they play with to the people they encounter each day.

Many adults have had embarrassing experiences of being in a public place and the child pointing and loudly commenting on another person's differences-handicap, skin color or age. As you can see from the development chart below, children begin to make these associations very early in life.

Developmental **Characteristics Charts** For Children

2 years—Begin to notice gender and racial differences.

2.5 years—Learn appropriate gender labels: boy/girl. Learn names of colors and begin to apply to skin color.

3 years—Children notice physical disabilities. Show signs of being influenced by societal norms and biases. May show "pre-prejudice" toward others based on gender, race or disabil-

3.5 years-Children are trying to figure out what aspects of themselves will remain con-

• "Will I always be?"

• "Can my skin change color?

4-5 years—Children will display what they think is gender appropriate behavior. Children will avoid other children because of race or disability they are fearful of differences.

Parents and care providers need to incorporate time for children to explore their world. Through a variety of activities children can experience new cultures. Highlighting the foods, music, clothing and celebrations of other lands makes the experiences real to children. Families can add activities into the child's daily schedule and celebrate the diversity of our world.

Foods: Select breads from

Armstrong County Needs Dairy Promoters

WORTHINGTON (Armstrong Co.) — Since 1973 young people have reaped benefits from representing Pennsylvania's Number 1 agricultural industry: Dairy! Any one interested in helping further the tradition of sharing farming aspects with the people of Armstrong County should consider devoting a year of their spare time Here are the qualifications.

Junior Representatives: 1.) Individuals must be between the ages of 13 and 16 years old, single with no children. 2.) You must

around the world and discuss how they are created and served. You might select pita from the Middle East, croissants from France, steamed buns from China, or soda bread from Ireland.

 Music: Listen to music from other lands noting the differences and similarities in rhythm. Try to create the sounds you hear. Learn a song in another language like Fre're Jacques or Feliz Navidad.

•Clothing: Today clothing has a universal look but for celebrations or special occasions families may wear outfits of the past like: Japanese kimono, African kente, and Caribbean bashiki.

 Celebrations: Children love special events, so create a celebration for the children. By using the library for research on days to celebrate you can create a festival almost any time. Provide "dress-up" clothes, snacks, play activities and music to set the stage for your celebration. Enjoy the celebra-

have a sincere desire to promote the dairy industry and user of REAL dairy products. 3.) Junior Representatives must be willing to learn about dairy products and the industry. 4.) Be available to attend a one day mini-seminar to learn about meeting people, appearing before people, and promoting

Dairy Maid and Dairy Ambassadors' qualifications are identical to the Junior Representative's with thes exceptions: You must be self involved in the dairy industry or have a relative (grandparent, parent, sibling, uncle or aunt) employed full time in a dairy related industry; or, served one full year as Junior Representative.

Young people between the ages of 16 and 24 compete for the title of Armstrong County Dairy Prince or Princess. The qualifications required for this position generally follow those of Dairy Maid/Dairy Ambassadors. However, individuals may become eligible to compete for prince or princess after completing a year as Dairy Maid or Dairy Ambassador. They must also attend training seminar and specific state dairy functions. Competitors for this ti-

tle must have: a 3- to 5-minute speech and a skit of 3- to 5-minute length. Both items should have an effectiv, message to the general public about the dairy industry and its products.

The Armstrong County Dairy Promotion Committee is a group of volunteers who strides to promote dairy products and create better relations between the farming community and general public. The group provides educational and nutritional information about the dairy products and the dairy industry. The committee is guided by the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services and also the American Dairy Association.

Serving as dairy representative helps you not only become more confident; but also opens the door for future rewards such as state or national scholarships. The interested individuals must have a completed application returned to our group by June 1. Full details on becoming Armstrong County Dairy Royalty are just a phone call away. For additional information, call Betty (814) 257-8846, Marlene (724) 548-5220, or Willetta (724) 545-6419. Committee volunteers are also welcome.





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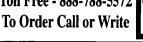
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