

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • May 1, 2015

I love that Pickaway-Ross is a center of education for all ages, from our pre-schoolers to our Adult Education students.



We also do a great job providing learning opportunities to community members. One such way is through the pre-school parent meetings that Betty Pettit organizes.

Betty, who has worked in the Early Childhood Education program since 2008, plans the monthly meetings based on concerns or needs that parents have expressed.

Meeting topics have included community concerns, fire prevention, car seat safety, nutrition, music and movement, kindergarten readiness and science experiments.

Some meetings repeat each year but have a different focus.

For example, Betty plans a meeting around nutrition each year, but one year the focus was Dollars & Sense, which addressed how to stretch food dollars and how to understand food labels and nutritional values while another year, the focus was on the revised food pyramid.

An average of 15 parents attend each meeting and there are always door prizes.

This month, Kelly Minney with Help Me Grow gave a presentation on car seat safety, explaining the rules and guidelines on car seats. She also provided a booster seat as a door prize.

Beth Tackett, who works in the Director's Complex, has been attending the meetings since her oldest, Dakota, attended the pre-school.

She said she's been using car seats for years but found information in Kelly's presentation very helpful.



Betty Pettit gets a hand selecting door-prize winners from Lexie Morgan, who will attend the pre-school next year.



Beth Tackett

Another presentation that resonated with Beth was a session on fire prevention.

"This is very important," Beth said, recalling a video that showed how quickly a couch that caught on fire could spread. "It only took minutes" for the whole house to be on fire, she said.

Tips that parents received in that meeting included having a fire safety plan, a meeting place and having a drill.

Beth and her husband, Willard, talked with their children – in addition to Dakota, now 18, there's Olivia, 9; Isaiah, 5; Josiah, 4; and Elijah, 13 months – about a meeting place in the event of a fire.

"Olivia asked 'What if I know my brother is in the other room,' and I told her, 'You take care of yourself and I'll take care of your brother.' "

The meetings also create a sense of community for parents, Betty and Beth said.

"It's very helpful for new parents who may not have others they can ask," Beth said.

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