In the beginning

We often speak of the importance of preschool home experiences to a person’s education; preschool years provide the foundation for the formal education that follows.

By my definition, education includes any and all experiences that have a formative effect on the way we think, feel and act, with the role of a teacher being “to help another person learn”. To learn what, you say? To learn all the things that will help them later in life. That’s what education is all about: helping people change their behaviour, gain new information, develop new skills or change their attitude.

Since education begins in the home, we need to deliver some of our education services there as well – services to parents, to other family members and directly to the children themselves. That can be tricky because each home is different, but so is each child. Support may come in the form of home visits, information for parents, training sessions, books or periodicals, notice of upcoming educational events, or just old fashioned tips that work. Local early childhood centres lend themselves well to the delivery of services to the home, school-based programs may have to work harder to make and maintain the home connection. Readers who are interested in the social and emotional development during preschool years may find the item Handle with Care, in the next column, of particular interest.

Virtual Tour of Education

March 3, 2015
7:00-9:00 pm
(Snow date: March 10)
Southport Room
Stratford Town Hall

A virtual tour through Island education. Please bring your iPhone, iPad or other device.

Handle With Care

“Handle with Care” is a simple interactive program to help parents and caregivers, including those who work in early childhood settings, promote the mental health of young children from birth to 6 years of age. Click here to read all about the Handle with Care program.

For more information about a program near you, please contact Alice Taylor, PEI Coordinator, Handle with Care Program (also a Director of Education 20/20 Inc.) at tayloram@eastlink.ca or Eileen Conway Martin at econwaymartin@gmail.com.

Guest Editor: Don Glendenning

Unless you inform us otherwise, we will continue to send you newsletters.