



Positive words of encouragement from the members of Pelham Road Baptist Church



October 2010

# POSITIVELY

PELHAM ROAD

## HEAL AND REPAIR by speaking and touching

*Let the little children come to me —Jesus (Matthew 19:14)  
Then he took the child by the hand —Jesus (Mark 5:41)*

A baby is born with more than 100 billion brain cells. Some of these cells are already connected to other cells at birth. But much of the brain's wiring does not happen until after birth. In the first three years of life, brain cells form connections in many parts of the brain. The most important of these connections involves language development.

In two brain scans (shown at the bottom of the page), one belongs to a child who has been cared for, interacted with verbally, and stimulated. The other brain scan is a child who has had little interaction, and offered no stimulation. Areas of the neglected child's brain have failed to form altogether.

As you can see, there is a big difference between those who have interaction with spoken language and those who don't. All young children need frequent

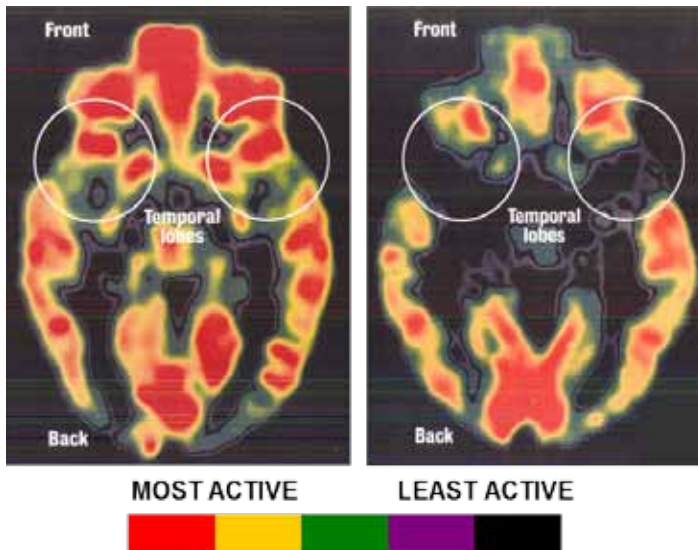
conversations, interactive read aloud time, and questions that develop vocabulary and thought.

Now for the power of touch.

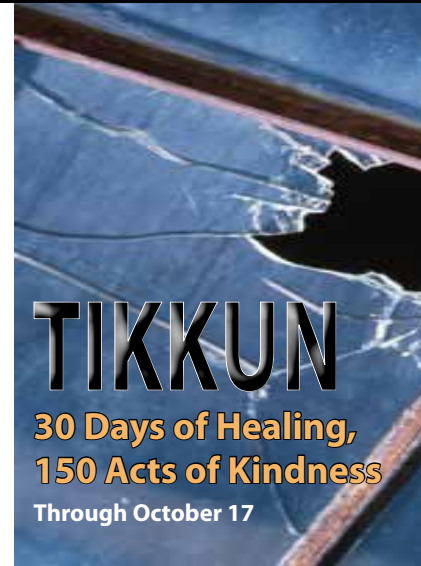
Hippocrates, the Greek physician known as the father of modern medicine, was a zealot for massage in the fourth century B.C. He wrote, "The physician must be acquainted with many things and assuredly with anatripsis, the medical art of rubbing."

Skin is the human body's largest organ, containing millions of receptors — about 8,000 in a single finger tip — that send messages through nerve fibers to the spinal cord and then to the brain. Positive, nurturing touch appears to stimulate the release of endorphins, the body's natural pain suppressors. That may explain why a mother's hug can literally "make it better" when a child skins his knee.

Source: The brain scan comparison was adapted from the Special Edition of Newsweek, Spring/summer 1997



Healing the world is not that simple, but it is a start. Start by reading to children and holding them in your arms. It may not change the world tomorrow, but it will change the child today. —John



**TIKKUN**  
30 Days of Healing,  
150 Acts of Kindness  
Through October 17

Our Child Development Center offers each member an opportunity to speak to children through reading and offer a kind touch through rocking to help them develop.

Become a Reader and Rocker or adopt a classroom. Email CDC director Susan Kear, [susan@pelhamroad.org](mailto:susan@pelhamroad.org) if you want to help a child's brain look like the photo at left in the graphic, rather than the deprived one at right.

Angelette and Emily read to and hug our two-year-olds everyday. Read about classroom 105 inside.



# Readers and Rockers – Why?

By Melissa Holtzclaw



## Why I volunteer to read to children

by Ann LeGrand

1. I love children.
2. I know how busy teachers are and anything I can do is a help to them.
3. I love the look on a child's face they they "get it."
4. It gives me a good feeling to help others.
5. As a retired teacher, I miss teaching.
6. Children love the individual attention they receive.
7. Sometimes my attention is the only individual attention they get in a day.
8. I hope I can help a child succeed.
9. Children need to know that an adult cares for them.

*Ann has been a volunteer reader at Pelham Road Elementary School and was one of the first to sign up to be a Reader and Rocker in our Child Development Center.*



The experience of having Ann LeGrand and Tom Hitt in my classroom has been more valuable than I expected it be for the children. They look forward to having a different face and voice read stories to them. Ann and Tom each bring a different perspectives and experiences to the classroom on a regular basis. Last year my students would ask regularly when they were coming back and anticipated their visits. In fact, Ann has already started volunteering again this year and has been stopped in the hall by former students for a hug and a kind word.

Often we forget that many children don't have the experience of being read to in an environment other than school by a teacher. Volunteers like Ann and Tom help children see how reading is important to "real people," not just their teachers. Seeing the benefit they brought to the children last year has caused me to work harder this year to have more readers in my classroom.

I've read so many different

studies that support the idea of reading to infants and how it is linked to student achievement in the school years. I attended one seminar in particular that made a huge impression on me by saying that students who started school without enough "reading lap time" were at a huge disadvantage.

Today, working parents are so busy. Parents that work until 5:00 or after must do all their loving, reading, nurturing, feeding, and teaching between the hours of 5:00 and 8:00 when it is time to put them to bed. Parents then must choose which of these activities they will do in that small window of time.

This church has a chance to help take this burden off working parents while helping the children as well. If they know that they are receiving help during the day and their child is being held, rocked, and read to, perhaps parents won't worry so much about not fitting it all in each day. I believe it is a great ministry benefiting both parents and children.

If you can give even a single half-hour to come to our CDC classrooms to read a story to a few children, please volunteer for our Reader and Rocker program. Email Susan at [susan@pelhamroad.org](mailto:susan@pelhamroad.org).

Melissa Holtzclaw, a second grade teacher at Pelham Road Elementary School, knows how important it is to have volunteers come to a classroom to read to children.



**TOM HITT** wishes more men would experience what he has as a volunteer reader at Pelham Road Elementary School, working with Melissa Holtzclaw's classroom.

"Even though you would call Pelham Road an affluent school, there are kids who are bused in and don't get read to," Tom said. "I will sit in a rocking chair and they sit in front of me. When I get ready to leave, they say thank you and give me hugs. It's been a great experience."

Tom said not many men volunteer to read to children but he thinks that it is important for men who can to do so. "For kids who only have moms at home, it's interesting and educational for them to hear a guy reading to them," he said.

Tom encourages men at Pelham Road who can to volunteer for our Readers and Rockers program. "My advice to our retired folks is to stop sitting around feeling sorry for yourself. Get out and go read to the kids!"

## Birthdays in October

SCRIPTURE, Joan	2	MCCOWN, Mary	14	MCGILL, Corrine	21	RONALD, Caroline	25
FALLIS, Catherine	3	GREER, Ginger	15	STURGIS, Joel	23	HASTY, Ben	26
HAWKINS, Randy	3	LESLIE, Bill	15	ELLIOTT, Betty	24	MCCAULEY, D.B.	26
SMITH, Jill	4	DOLL, Dennis	17	HASTY, Wes	24	GARRETT, Betty	29
BORTZ, Mirah	6	LONG, Scott	17	ROBERTS, Phillip	24	FERNANDEZ, Mike	30
PARKER, Corbett	8	RITCHEY, Pat	17	GRAHAM, Lillian	25	ELMORE, Brenda	31
RONALD, Tom	9	JENSEN, Sybil	18	HAYES, Jeff	25		

## ROOM 105

IT'S NOT AREA 51 BUT FUN(NY) THINGS DO HAPPEN HERE

Our Child Development Center has been in operation for 20 years and many changes have occurred in the physical plant, the staff, and in childcare rules and regulations. What has not changed is the solid support of the church, the wonderful children and families that we serve, and the needs of a growing program. We have started the school year with 136 children in 11 classrooms and an After-School Program. Each area is different.

This month the focus will be on Room 105, a two-year-old room. Angelette Gantt and Emily Whitley are the teachers in the room. The children in this room are at an active age, learning so

many things. When you think about the fact that two years earlier they could do nothing for themselves except eat and cry, you realize how much they have already learned. This year will be spent increasing language

development, fine and gross motor development, learning abilities, and, of course, social/emotional development. This will be an important year to learn how to get along with others and how to take care of themselves.

Angelette and Emily come to us with several years of experience and a true love of the toddler child. Both have great patience and many ideas to help these children grow and learn. Both teachers are active in setting up activities and art projects for the children to engage in during the day.

The teachers are limited not by their ideas and plans, but by lack of art supplies such as colored construction paper, glue sticks, glitter, and colorful feathers. They are limited by the lack of children's CDs, and books for their music/movement activities and literacy activities. For physical development they lack balls of all sizes and bean bags. For increasing learning abilities, they are lacking baby dolls, baby doll clothes, and rubber animals for letting imaginations roam. Room 105 could also use some volunteers to come in regularly to read, help with art projects, and even play ball in the classroom or on the playground.

just moved back to the Greenville area after spending two years in Georgia working with a college ministry. I grew up in Simpsonville, and attended Clemson University where I got a degree in special education. I love working with children and have wanted to be a teacher since I was in fourth grade. When I'm not working, I read and spend time with my family and friends.—Emily Whitley

Emily Whitley and Angelette Gantt teach the two-year-olds in room 105. They would like a Sunday School class to adopt them!



I enjoy working with children and I learn from them every day. We do art and read every day. We build with our blocks and play dress-up each day. We play outside and enjoy exploring nature.

I have been working at our CDC for two years. I have a two-year-old daughter, Neveah. I go to night classes from 6 until 10 at Virginia College to earn a degree in Medical Assistance. On weekends, I work at Quaker Steak and Lube. —Angelette Gantt

If your Sunday School class is willing to adopt one of our CDC classrooms, email Susan. You can decide how you want to help the classroom.

To meet Department of Social Services regulations for a licensed facility, classroom 105 needs a changing table with steps and a guard lip. The classroom also needs a large rug for group time and more bookshelves for toys. The room needs more cars and trucks, blocks, and dress-up clothes, a sand/water table, magnifying glasses, and peg boards for science and math.

Most of all Room 105 needs the continued prayers and support for the teachers and the children who work and play here and for the families who trust us to help their children grow and develop each day.—Susan



# PELHAM ROAD

BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 25818  
Greenville, SC 29616



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## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2010

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Sue H. Poss ADMINISTRATOR  
SUSAN KEAR CDC DIRECTOR  
Ron Rich PASTOR EMERITUS

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## A working family, the Ashmores know why the CDC is important

The Ashmore family is a prime example of **WHY** we have a Child Development Center in our church. Caroline is working as a patient care technician in the neuro-science center at Greenville Memorial Hospital. She is also in school at Greenville Tech getting her nursing degree so she can eventually have more time with her daughter, Grace. As a nurse, she can work three 12 hour shifts and spend more time at home.

Grace has been attending our CDC since she was 8 weeks old. Caroline said she was raised in a Christian daycare center and wanted the same for her daughter. She sees it this way – You are going to have to PAY for child care if you are a working mom in school...so why not pay to have the **ADDED VALUE** of Christian education. Our CDC uses Bible

stories in the curriculum to enhance the values we teach the kids every-day. As Caroline put it, "God is at the center of both our church and CDC."

Caroline said that one of the hardest decisions a mother has to make is put her baby in childcare. That's why she is excited about the church partnership with our CDC. Having church members rock babies and read to kids will add value to an already strong program. The more **HEARTS** involved with our kids the better!

Kevin Ashmore grew up at Pelham Road. He remembers when the church met in the little house.

Kevin loves turn of the century motorcycles. Caroline enjoys horseback riding and gardening. Next April, they will have been married 10 years. Their wedding was the first that John performed at Pelham Road.

We are thankful for parents like Kevin and Caroline who want the best for their children. We are thankful for a CDC that puts kids and their faith formation first. We are thankful for a church that partners with parents and teachers in teaching and loving kids. Studying the Bible is important. Practicing what we learn through ministries like our CDC is priceless and has eternal value! —Sam



Grace and mom Caroline all dressed up.



Grace and dad Kevin after a day at school and work.