

REVISED BSD K-5 PROCEDURES

The Bozeman school district has finalized the kindergarten-fifth grade enrollment procedures.

Parents, teachers and administrators met and have devised the following plan to ease the annual enrollment scramble at the district's more popular elementary schools. The main points include:

- A lottery system will be implemented in order to eliminate the current "first in line" system.
- In order to keep siblings together (as much as possible) and also accommodate families who live close to a school, the guiding criteria for placement will be: Individualized Education Programs (IEP), siblings who would be attending the same school, radius, first choice and lottery. Incoming kindergarten siblings of any student currently enrolled in a Bozeman elementary school in grades K-4 (not

grade 5, because that 5th grader will have moved on to 6th grade and a different school) will have first priority to enroll in the school that their sibling currently attends.

- A 1/2 -mile radius will be used to better accommodate families who live within walking distance of a school.
- Families who have remained on the wait list from the previous school year, i.e., those families for whom a spot never became available, will remain on the wait list into the next school year if they so choose and will be contacted periodically by the school secretaries.

Because of the current crowdedness in Bozeman school district's elementary schools, the priority system will continue to be based on space availability.

A dedicated link on the district's webpage is now available. The link includes specific information about enrollment procedures, as well as a list of Frequently Asked Questions. Go to: <http://www.bozeman.k12.mt.us/enrollment/>

Turn Wasted Time Into Great Times

We all carry spare tires and jacks for emergency roadside assistance. Why not be prepared in the same way for the parenting moments that test our resolve and build our character? We've all been there – the doctor's appointment that turns into an hour-long event, or the time spent waiting "patiently" for a restaurant table. During the times we need "emergency parenting assistance," help can be just a duffle-bag away!

For me it all started with a simple bag that held an extra soccer ball, a coloring book and crayons. I tossed it in my mini-van for a trip to see the fireworks. To my amazement, it was used that day and twice more that same week. The bag continues to be one of my most effective parenting tools. If you'll spend just 20 minutes throwing this bag together, I guarantee you'll save yourself some frustration, and even enjoy some "wasted time," when you least expect it.

Look around the house for toys and objects that are simple, compact, and inexpensive such as:

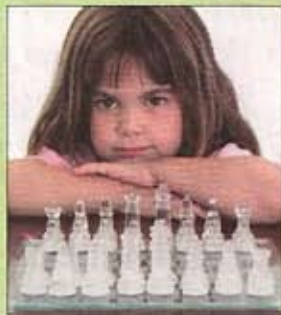
- Coloring book
- Blank spiral-bound notebook
- Crayons or washable markers
- Bubble juice and blower
- Small ball
- Balloons
- Legos
- Simple puzzle
- Short books for quick reading
- Individual snack bags of long shelf-life foods (ie. cookies, pretzels, dried fruit)

Brainy Kids Online

March 12-18 is Brain Awareness Week and what better way to celebrate than to, well, use your brain.

Start by going to www.dana.org/kids, an online resource to find many links to fun, brain flexing activities, labs and lesson plans for kids, teachers, and parents.

Click on Brains Rule for interactive games and to meet scientists; Cool Science



for a website full of biology activities; and KidsHealth to find out why your body makes earwax or what tiny things look like under a microscope. Teachers can find lesson plans on the Human Genome Project or lead their students on a tour of the CyberMuseum of Neurosurgery.

The Dana Foundation, founded in 1950, is a private philanthropic organization with interests in brain science, immunology, and arts education.

Falling Down Is Part of Growing Up...

So be ready with this award-winning parent and kid-friendly medical kit.

Invented by Arizona mom, Richelle Nassos, after her son had an allergic reaction to a bee sting and she "frantically dug through the messy, family first-aid kit and manuals looking for something that would tell me how to help my child."

The Medibag comes in a bright red "doctor's bag" with a quick-action first-aid flip chart, an instructional CD about safety proofing your home, and children's first-aid products, including those highly coveted kid band-aids. Practical and appealing, the medibag has



won numerous juvenile products awards including a National Parenting Center Seal of Approval and a 2006 Family Choice award. Go to www.me4kids.com to order. Locally, the kit is available at Bibs and Binkies, (Bridger Peaks Mall on 19th Ave. in Bozeman).