

Utter MomSense

The monthly newsletter of MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers @ Libertyville Evangelical Free Church

September 2, 2011

MomSense: Bold - Loving - Sensible

Welcome to a new year of MOPS! I'm excited to learn and grow together in our MomSense this year. MomSense is something we all have already, but certainly something we each can grow in as well. Think back to your earliest days of being a mom. There were some things that came naturally and some that we learned from books, our moms or websites. Where ever and whenever we gain knowledge and skills in our mothering, it all becomes a part of our unique, individual MomSense. In short:

Mom Intuition + Common **Sense** = **MomSense**

And I love our theme verse for this year:

God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible. [2 Timothy 1:7]

To me this verse feels so do-able ... manageable if you will. Like breaking down a daunting large project [i.e. clean the whole house for out of town guests] into smaller, 'bite-sized' tasks [i.e. one room at a time, or even one part of a room at a time]. I didn't become the mom that I am to Becka (7) and Zack (5) overnight. It's been a growth process. And I'm still learning!

So join us on this year's MOPS journey as we grow to be more bold, loving and sensible as moms. I can't wait to see what God does in our lives!

~ Chrissi Wall, MOPS Coordinator

Save these Dates for Girls Nights Out

- **Monday, September 5th (Labor Day) 7pm at Portillo's** -- Come and join us for food & adult conversation. This is a great way to get to know other MOPS moms! Bring a friend to join the fun!
- **Monday, October 17th at 7pm at LEFC** - Cook Ahead evening. Prepare several freezer meals ahead of time with the help of other MOPS moms. Sign-up ahead of time so you'll know what to bring.
- **Monday, November 14th - 7pm @ LEFC** - The Newly Wed Game
- **Thursday, December 8th - 7pm @ LEFC** - Christmas Project Night and Cookie Exchange
- **Thursday, January 26th - 7pm @ LEFC** - Swap and Game Night
- **Thursday, March 8th - 7pm @ LEFC** - Movie Night
- **Monday, April 30th - 7pm @ LEFC** - Cafe Night

Plan to join us!!

I Love Shoes! by Mandy Poplawski, Mentor Mom

I love shoes. My sister and I are a bit fanatical about them. She actually walked into a mirror (she walked into her own reflection!) on an obsessive quest for shoes! Ask my daughter about it! Two mantras I always taught her were “a girl can never have too many lipsticks” and “the shoes make the outfit!”

So, in my love for shoes, I absolutely hate seeing abandoned shoes along the roadway. I know I would NEVER randomly lose one shoe on a road! Today, I saw two flip flops lying alone on a sidewalk. My first thought when I see an abandoned shoe is, “what horrible thing must have happened to that person to lose a shoe!” I know that is probably extreme, but abandoned shoes make me sad.

Sometimes, as moms, we can feel like that abandoned shoe.

While we are knee deep in dirty diapers, runny noses, and discipline issues, we can often feel that life has left us on the side of a road and no one misses us or appreciates us for what we have been through to be so “abandoned.”

We can feel that life is passing us by, that our BC (before children) careers have passed us by, and that freedom and fun have passed us by. That is why I love MOPS and why I am so happy for everyone who has decided to be a part of it this year.

Being a part of MOPS helps remind us that we are not alone and abandoned; there are many other moms going through the same struggles and joys that we are going through. MOPS

provides a place where lifelong friendships can be formed, where we can find encouragement, and where we can take some time for ourselves every other Friday.

MOPS also provides the opportunity to learn about God

and his great love for you! Through the speakers and the relationships you will form, it is our hope that you find that God

never leaves “shoes” abandoned on the highway. We each have great value in his eyes and we are deeply cherished by Him!

So, welcome to MOPS! I look forward to this year and hope that we can all develop the friendships and relationship with God that show us that we are never like those abandoned shoes on the road!



Coffee Fundraiser

One of the ways we keep costs down is doing several fundraisers during the year. This fall we're selling coffee:



<http://www.parklakechurch.com/#/missionary-coffee>

There are 8 delicious flavors to choose from, available in whole bean or ground. Cost is \$13/bag - Checks payable to LEFC. Order forms will be distributed October 7th & **orders and money are due October 21st.** Contact Amy Cope with questions: abcpe@gmail.com 847-543-4761



Did you know our MOPS has a group on Facebook?

Join us! MOPS (Mothers of PreSchoolers) at LEFC

We'll post reminders, announcements, weather closing info., etc. Check in often!

MOPS Meeting Schedule

<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
September 2	January 6
September 16	January 20
October 7	February 3
October 21	March 2
November 4	March 16
November 18	April 20
December 2	May 4
December 16	May 18



MOPPETS Guidelines

Just a few highlights of our MOPPETS Guidelines:

- Children can be dropped off between 8:45 and 9am. This allows you to get them settled and then come downstairs for refreshments before our program begins.
- Please label all of your child's items including sippy cups, diaper bags, etc.
- Please do not bring your child to MOPS if s/he has had a fever within the last 24 hours; has a green or yellow runny nose; or has a rash of any kind that may be contagious. We ask this in protection of all the children and workers. Please understand you will be asked to remove your child from MOPPETS if s/he is showing

any of the above symptoms during the morning.

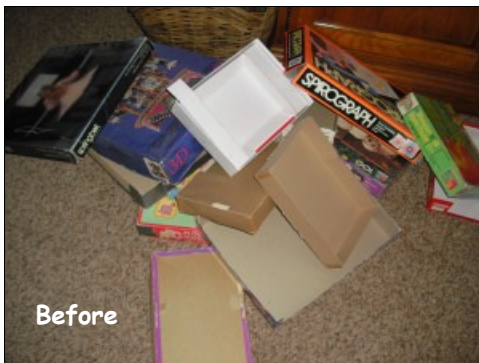
- If a child is biting other children in the room, s/he will be asked to take a week off from MOPS only after the second biting incident.
- Our desire is for all moms in the program to enjoy a morning away from kids with peace and quiet as we learn and fellowship. Therefore, we do invite nursing Moms with their newborns only to bring their children downstairs. All other children must remain in their classrooms. If your child is experiencing separation anxiety, we encourage you to talk to his/her teacher to discuss options or activities your child enjoys to help with

those first minutes which can be difficult.

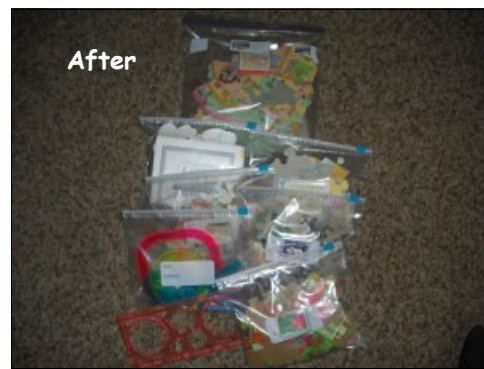
- Due to limited space, moms will only be allowed to bring their own children to MOPPETS. If you are a caregiver for someone's children, please make other arrangements for them.
- Please pick up your child no later than 11:15. The workers really appreciate your promptness.
- Any questions or concerns, please talk to your child's teachers, Beth Gehring or Chrissi Wall.

Our desire is for all moms in the program to enjoy a morning away from kids with peace and quiet as we learn and fellowship.

Quick Tip for Storing Puzzles by Jill Savage



I recently cleaned out our toy room and did some major reorganizing. Many of the puzzle boxes were damaged. I cut out the picture of what the puzzle looked like and taped it to the outside of a plastic zip-lock bag. Once the puzzle pieces were in the bag,



I was amazed at how much less space the puzzles took up! [From: <http://www.jillsavage.org/2011/04/quick-tip-for-storing-puzzles/>]

Book Sale

The Friends of Lake Forest Public Library hold a huge book sale in the fall. This year the sale runs Friday, September 16, 9am-8pm; Saturday, September 17, 9am-5pm; and Sunday, September 18, 9am-5pm. There is a wide variety, lots of children's materials, reasonably priced, and Sunday is Half Price Day! The sale is held at the Lake Forest Recreation Center at 400 Hastings Road, Lake Forest.

Park Playdate

Friday, September 30th at
Independence Grove

Meet at 9:30 at the playground
Some schools are off that day --
Older kids welcome, too!

Better Moms Make A Better World



431 W. Austin Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048

www.lefc.com
847.362.8155

MOPS 2011-12 Steering Team

Coordinator & Publicity

Chrissi Wall
847-837-8537

Hospitality

Anna Cue
847-918-0811
Sharon Reid
847-234-4010

Finance/Registration

Amy Cope
847-543-4761

Creative Activities

Jodi Hasner
847-356-2552

MOPPETS

Beth Gehring
847-223-1906

Small Group Shepherd

Mary Sun
847-837-1741

Mentor Moms

Mandy Poplawski
847-970-9521

Jana Crabtree
847-970-2385

