

# Early Years are Learning Years

## Hands-On Learning Fair ~ Celebrating 20 Years

The Northeast Chapter of NDAEYC will be sponsoring its annual Hands-On Learning Fair on April 16, 9:45-1:00, in the Purpur Arena in Grand Forks. The Learning Fair is a **FREE** family event to observe the Month of the Young Child and Child Abuse Prevention Month. This is a milestone for us—we are celebrating 20 years of bringing this event to our community! Mayor Mike Brown will kick off the event by signing a giant proclamation, along with past proclamation signers going back to 1992.

Young children and their families will have the opportunity to engage in over 50 play-based age-appropriate learning experiences together. There is a special area for infants and toddlers, in addition to the regular activities encompassing language & literacy, science & health, sensory exploration, music & movement, social & life skills, manipulatives, and art. Local early childhood programs and many other entities involved in early education and development provide the learning activities.

The purposes of the Learning Fair have remained consistent over the past 20 years:

- ❖ To provide an exciting way for children ages birth to seven and their families in the Grand Forks and East Grand Forks area to mark this special month.
- ❖ To underscore the importance of parent involvement to healthy development and optimal early learning in children.
- ❖ To create awareness of learning as a process that begins at birth and continues lifelong, with the most rapid brain development occurring during early childhood.
- ❖ To highlight the nature of appropriate early education as hands-on, or experiential, building on children's inborn curiosity and motivation to understand their world.

The Hands-On Learning Fair has been able to thrive because of the dedicated community partners on the planning committee. We look forward to this 20th annual celebration of young children, their families, and early childhood professionals!