

## Family Connects coming to our entire Region

In June of 2019 the Oregon Legislature passed a bill that mandated universal home visiting by a registered nurse for every family in Oregon with a new baby. The bill also extends these home visits to those who have adopted a baby and those who are fostering a baby. The program that was chosen for these home visits is called "Family Connects".

The Oregon Health Authority immediately issued a Request for Applications to begin early adoption of the Family Connects program, and our region--Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties--was one of the areas chosen.

Since February we have been working with a team from Duke University, the creators

of the program, and going through the process of bringing this amazing resource to our families. One interesting fact here is that Lincoln County has been using the Family Connects model since 2017, so this is not a new program for residents of Lincoln County.



The Family Connects model is this: when a family has a baby, the hospital staff will ask the family if they wish to receive home visits. If they agree, a registered nurse will come to their home to check on the status of the baby, the mother, and other family members in the home. A family can receive from 1-3 visits from the nurse, depending on need. These home visits will be covered by OHP and by all Oregon-based health insurance. If a family needs additional services, the home visiting nurse will refer the family to other home visiting services, such as Healthy Families or the local health department home visiting nurses to see that the family gets more help.

Family Connects is projected to begin services in Linn and Benton counties after the first of the year, and Lincoln County residents will continue to see the same wonderful service they have enjoyed for the past few years.

### What's Happening

- ✓ The next Pollywog Partner Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, from 9-10:30am. This will be a remote meeting, using the Zoom platform. Meeting log-in information will be available on the Early Learning Hub website, and we will also be sending out a Google invitation.
- ✓ Currently there are 1364 individuals in the Pollywog database, as well as 20 prenatal and 39 parenting education classes, 7 courses taught in Spanish, and 119 referrals have been sent through Pollywog. Fall classes are currently listed on the Pollywog website, and Fall classes will begin Monday, Sept. 28. All classes are still being taught remotely.

## Upcoming Pollywog Partner Meeting

The last few months have been a whirlwind of new ideas, new information, new programs, and new software! It's not possible for me to give some of these things justice in a paragraph or two, so I'm going to recommend (beg, plead!) that you plan on attending the upcoming Pollywog Partner Meeting on Thursday, October 8, from 9-10:30 via Zoom. The Zoom information will be posted on the Early Learning Hub website and a Google Invitation will also be sent with meeting information.

However, because I like you, I'm going to give you a little "teaser" about some of the things we're going to be discussing/unveiling/demoing at the Partner Meeting! Kristi Collins will be discussing the State's Preschool Promise initiative and the Coordinated Enrollment piece that the Hub is working on. The Family Connections staff and I will be demonstrating the new "Bright by Text" notification software that we just contracted for, AND, we'll be unveiling the new Community Alignment Specialist position that the Oregon Health Authority is funding. Hope to see you there!!

## Pollywog Partner Update

Below is a list of all of the Pollywog Partners, by county, who are trained and ready to receive referrals through the Pollywog database:

### Linn County:

Linn County Home Visiting Nurses  
Kidco Head Start  
Samaritan Albany General Hospital  
Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital  
Obria Medical Clinic  
Family Tree Relief Nursery  
DHS (Albany & Lebanon) - no incoming referrals  
Family Connections  
WIC  
Old Mill Center / Healthy Families

### Benton County:

Old Mill Center / Healthy Families  
Old Mill Center / Preschool & Counseling  
DHS (Corvallis) - no incoming referrals  
Community Doulas

### Lincoln County:

Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital  
Lincoln County Home Visiting Nurses  
DHS (Newport) - no incoming referrals  
CSC (Newport)

More will be coming soon!

- Olalla Center
- Welcome Center at GAPS
- Samaritan Health Center (Newport)

## Contact Us

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