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ARKids First and Arkansas Public Libraries Partner to Focus on Summer Safety

ARKids First visits eight communities to help keep kids safe this summer

June 1, 2011; LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – ARKids First, the state’s CHIP program (Children’s Health Insurance Program), has partnered with the Arkansas Public Library System’s popular summer reading program to provide educational materials and a series of safety events during May, June and July. The educational materials and events are aimed at keeping kids safe during the summer and encouraging parents of already enrolled kids to utilize ARKids benefits for well-child doctor visits.

All public library branches in the state’s system will have summer safety educational packets available for children who register for free summer reading programs. A series of eight summer safety events will be held at public libraries throughout the state. The events will focus on educating kids and their parents about summer safety through fun and interactive activities with Radio Disney. All events and materials are available at no cost. Quantities may be limited at some libraries.

According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in five children (infancy to age 17) has had one or more emergency room visits over a 12-month period. Medicaid patients are more likely to frequent emergency rooms than those with private health insurance. Arkansas has one of the nation’s highest rates of all-terrain vehicle (ATV or 4-wheeler) injuries for children younger than 16 years old. The CDC reports that the two most commonly diagnosed conditions in emergency rooms are injury and poisoning – both preventable.

ARKids First serves more than 300,000 kids in Arkansas who might have been uninsured without this option. The program encourages parents to develop a relationship with a primary care physician and set up well-child check-ups for their children in order to stay current on immunizations and other important screenings. Among other benefits, ARKids First also covers vision and dental care without a referral from a doctor.

For more information about ARKids First, visit www.ARKidsFirst.com. For more information about the events, visit www.radiodisney.com/littlerock. For more information about Arkansas public libraries, visit www.asl.lib.ar.us.

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ARKids First Summer Safety Road Show – 8-Town Tour

Max Milam Library

Tuesday, June 07 at 2-3 p.m.
609 Aplin Avenue
Perryville, AR 72123-8577

Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Main Library

Wednesday, June 08 at 2-3 p.m.
Saracen Landing
200 Lake Saracen Drive
Pine Bluff, AR

Marjorie Walker McCrary Memorial Library

Saturday, June 11 at 9:30-10:30 a.m.
South Court Yard Lawn
204 East 2nd St.
Lonoke, AR 71601-5006

Esther D. Nixon Branch Library

Monday, June 13 at 10:30-11:30 a.m.
703 West Main Street
Jacksonville, AR 72076-4507

Grant County Library

Wednesday, June 29 at 10-11 a.m.
210 North Oak St.
Sheridan, AR 72150-2495

Ward Public Library

Wednesday, July 06 at 10-11 a.m.
405 Hickory St., suite 100
Ward, AR 72176

Vilonia Library Branch

Thursday, July 07 at 3-4 p.m.
#3 Bise Dr.
Vilonia, AR 72172-9028

Malvern-Hot Spring County Library

Friday, July 15 at 10-11 a.m.
202 East Third St.
Malvern, AR 72104-3738