

# MILESTONES & MIRACLES NOW SERVING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS

## West Virginia Early Head Start Purchases Unique Tool

Martinsburg, WV ([milestonesandmiracles.com](http://milestonesandmiracles.com)) August 5, 2012

Milestones and Miracles, LLC is expanding its audience to include early childhood educators. RESA 8 (Berkeley, Jefferson, & Morgan Counties WV) Early Head Start Program recently purchased 14 copies of *1-2-3 Just Play With Me*, for use within their home based program.

Early Head Start (EHS) is a federally funded community-based program for low-income families with infants, toddlers, and pregnant women. Its mission includes promoting healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women, enhancing the development of very young children, and promoting healthy family functioning. Educators from EHS work with parents of young children in their home on child development education, among other things. The educators in Berkeley County will soon be using *1-2-3 Just Play With Me* as a tool when making these home visits.

"*1-2-3, Just PLAY With Me*", a comprehensive, developmental card set, aimed to promote interactive play in children from birth to three years of age is a set of 75 interactive cards that feature fun, easy PLAY activities designed to help teach overall childhood developmental skills from birth to three years in a parent-friendly way. Color-coded to mark the five primary areas of infant/toddler development, the cards are an easy-to-use guide for parents and caregivers who wish to quickly reference their children by age and stage of development. Developmental milestones are included on the front of the large, aesthetically-pleasing cards. On the back of each card, every developmental milestone is paired with 'back-to-basic' style PLAY that engages family and child.

Pediatrician-approved, "*1-2-3 Just PLAY With Me*", touches on additional topics such as toilet training and discipline tips. Milestones and Miracles complete the reference for children from birth to three years of age with book and toy recommendations. The authors, Speech Language Pathologist Lacy Morise and Physical Therapist Nicole Sergent, both of whom work in home based early intervention, feel the content on the cards is vital and valuable for child development and are excited to see it expanding to programs like EHS.

Co-owner, Sergent says, "While our product makes a wonderful gift for a parent of a new child, the depth of the information and the user friendly design, make it a wonderful resource for professionals as well. We believe it will be helpful to Early Head Start's staff to quickly reference the cards and easily access both milestones typical in a particular area of child development and paired appropriate and fun play strategies that they can share with the families they serve." Morise adds, "The play suggestions included in the cards are ones we have used in the homes where we have worked as therapists for years. All include simple supplies and toys that are found in most homes and include the most important factor for early learning - the child's parent."

Sergent and Morise met with the Early Head Start Staff on September 5, 2012 from 9-11 am at the RESA Office in Martinsburg, WV to not only introduce *1-2-3 Just Play With Me* and to train the EHS Staff on practical ways to use the set in the home, but to also share information about the importance of play on development & how play is changing in our society. The pair looks forward to sharing this information and their product with other Early Head Start Programs and preschools and child care centers in the future.