

Foundation sets second 'Brain to Five' series on childhood development

The Post-Crescent

APPLETON – Last year, the Appleton Education Foundation joined forces with leading experts from the Waisman Center of the University of Wisconsin-Madison to offer a speaker series on brain development in early childhood.

This year, the foundation and Waisman continue the partnership with a second community education series, this time zeroing in on the latest research on environmental influences affecting a young child's growth and development.

The lineup of speakers was announced today.

Kicking off the presentations Feb. 18 at Appleton East High School is Waisman Center Director Marsha Mailick Seltzer, who will discuss the impact of autism on families.

Seltzer will be followed by fellow Waisman brain investigators Mary Schneider and Julie Poehlmann, who have done research in such areas as prenatal brain development, fetal alcohol exposure, preterm birth and maternal depression, and Nan Brien, retired associate director of the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families.

Brien will wrap up the four-month series with a discussion of how cutting-edge research on early childhood development can be applied to real life.

More than 2,000 people attended the 2008 "Brain to Five" series, said foundation

Brain to Five lineup for 2009

Presentations, all free and open to the public, and early-childhood experts:

■ 7:30 p.m., Feb. 18, Appleton East High School: Marsha Mailick Seltzer on "An Unanticipated Life: Parenting a Child with Autism"

■ 7 p.m., March 11, Appleton North High School: Mary Schneider on "Prenatal Environments Shape Brain Development"

■ 7 p.m., April 22, Appleton North High School: Julie Poehlmann on "Risk and Resilience in Infancy and Early Childhood: Preterm Birth and Maternal Depression"

■ 7 p.m., May 6, Appleton North High School: Nan Brien on "Healthy Surroundings: Applying Research to Real Life"

Child care available:

Apple Tree Connections, 5020 N. Providence Ave., Appleton, will offer free child care all four dates of the speaker series. Contact Jennifer Desarmo at 920-560-5437.

On the Web: www.appletoneducationfoundation.org

Executive Director Julie Krause, and she hopes this second installment will further heighten awareness of early childhood learning and the importance of brain development, as well as bring such local resources as educators, child care agencies, funding organizations and businesses into the discussion.