

# Students Benefit from Guest Speakers



Little Steps founder, Mandy Black, works with Teen Parent Students.



Beautiful baby blankets were a gift from Little Steps. Thanks!



Students look forward to Ms Kim's visits on Tuesday.

A common question asked at Teen Parent is "What Schedule are we on today?" In addition to academics, the students at Teen Parent are constantly being educated on becoming the best parent that they can be. Sometimes our schedule is modified to include these vital classes.

Little Steps is a local organization that comes bi-weekly to teach parenting skills and life skills and to give encouragement to teen parents. Students who work through the curriculum set by Little Steps earn "Baby Bucks" which can be used to "buy" baby supplies. Several Teen Parent students were able to take a field trip to the Baby Boutique and brought back some great items. Way to go girls! Keep earning those baby bucks.

The Greenville Family Partnership comes weekly and teaches the Teen Parent students about child development and parenting skills. Mrs. Hooper and Mrs. Neves leads the classes on Tuesday morning.

Also on Tuesday, Mrs. Simmons, an Occupational Therapist, works with the new moms and their babies. Moms are taught different ways to play with their baby that will strengthen muscles and help the baby develop physically. Knowing what a baby should be able to do at a certain age (like rolling over) helps the new mom monitor their baby's progress.

Ms. Tiffany Whitney is a Social Worker with Greenville County Schools. Students always look forward to her visits because she is positive and instantly makes them feel good about

their abilities. The floor is open to discuss topics or problems that are common to pregnant teens. Topics have included communication skills, dealing with bullies, self-esteem, relationships with the father of the baby and many more.

In addition to these regular speakers, other people come to Teen Parent to further educate and help students. The organization, Cribs for Kids conducted a workshop on safe sleep for infants. Students who qualified were given free "Pack-and-Play" cribs. Members of the Upstate Fatherhood Coalition came and spoke about the importance of a positive male role model in the life of a child. Former Teen Parent students came and shared their stories and encouraged students to "hang in there" and finish school. We have even had a dental hygienist join our group to discuss how to take care of a baby's teeth! We are thankful for this important information that helps keep babies healthy.

The wide variety of speakers and community support make Teen Parent a great place to learn, to be encouraged and to be empowered to be the best mom that you can be.

**Thank you speakers!**



Greenville Family Partnership provides valuable parenting information.



Ms. Simmons teaches moms how to play with their infants so that muscles will be strengthened.



Smiles always appear when students work with Ms. Whitney!