



Preemie Professional

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Dianne I. Maroney, RN, MS, CS

The Imagine Project, LLC



Photo Credit: Dianne I. Maroney

Years in Field:
31

Background:
Former NICU Nurse, mother of a 26-weeker, specialty in long-term effects of prematurity on the infant and family.

Check Out:
Dianne is a 2x author:

The Imagine Project
<http://bit.ly/ImagineProject>

Your Premature Baby and Child
<http://bit.ly/YourPrematureBaby>

Professional Tip!

For a few minutes every day, see your preemie as absolutely perfect.

Advocate: Feeding Tube Awareness Week

Many preemies have a feeding tube during the NICU stay as they work toward eating orally. And many also go home on a feeding tube. **February 9-14 2014 is Feeding Tube Awareness Week** brought to you by the **Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation**. Learn more, and get great resources and inspiration by going to their website at: <http://www.feedingtubeawareness.com>

Preemie Resource: Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation

PreemieWorld provides a number of free handouts to be used in the **NICU and beyond** in its "Freebies For You" section of the website. **This month's freebie is the brochure for the "Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation."** "Feeding tubes are a way to feed our children," comments Deb Discenza, co-Founder of PreemieWorld, LLC. "Yet parents of preemies are

stressed, isolated and have a ton of questions. This is where the FTAF works its magic connecting parents to one another and to resources." Parents and professionals alike will appreciate this freebie in that it is easy to print and reproduce. **Download it here now:** <http://bit.ly/TubeAware> **and check out more like this here:** <http://bit.ly/PreemieFreebies>

To Do List



CONGRATS: Jessica Guthrie of Eli's Hope is the winner of the "little man" DVD; and Maii Thompson is the winner the book, *My Bubble Wrap Girl*.



LIKED US YET?: PreemieWorld is doing another PreemieWorld Facebook page contest. See page 2 of this newsletter for details!



Download PreemieWorld's FREE tools <http://bit.ly/PreemieFreebies> and pass them onto NICU Parents as part of your welcome packet.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



2014 Young Child Conf & Expo
Los Ninos Services, Inc.
April 23-25, 2014
New York, NY
<http://www.youngchildexpo.com>

NEO Conference
Pediatric Center for Research,
Education and Quality
February 20-23, 2014
Orlando, FL
<http://www.neoconference.com>

*Tools and Resources
for the Preemie Community*

Support: Prematuridade

Year Established: April 2011

Web: Prematuridade.com

Outreach: International

Background: Denise Centeno worked for 5 years as a nutritionist in her local NICU in Porto Alegre, south of Brazil. She quickly realized the importance and the lack of finding reliable information and connections in Brazil. And so Prematuridade.com was born.

Programs: Information and resources for families, support program, participant in World Prematurity Day activities, partnered with EFCNI. Check the website for more info.

Org: Capturing Hopes Photography

From her own personal experience of having a child who passed away at 6 months of age, Deneen Bryan saw the incredible need for professional photography at such a tenuous time. With the encouragement of the Ronald McDonald House staff and her own family, Capturing Hopes Photography was born.

Established:
January, 2013

Focus:
Professional photography for the families of babies in the NICU.

Type of Outreach:
Winston Salem, NC area and NICUs nationwide upon request.

Website:
www.capturinghopesphotography.org

Programs:

- Provides photos for babies in the NICU 2-3 days a week.
- Provides support volunteers
- Provides free photography services for local children's non-profit events in the Triad area of North Carolina.

Cool Fact:

In 2013 alone, CHP has provided over 500 NICU photography sessions.

PreemieWorld: "Like" Us On Facebook & You Could Win!

Visit PreemieWorld's FB page at:
<http://bit.ly/FBPreemie>

**"Like" our FB page
from 2/3/14 to 2/26/14
and you could win a copy of the
award-winning *little man* DVD
from PreemieWorld!**

<http://bit.ly/FBPreemie>

*Parents & Professionals:
Subscribe to our FREE newsletters
today @ www.PreemieWorld.com*



Premie-Friendly Rattles

The Details:

By:
Magical Innovations

Website:
www.MagicalInnovations.com



The Genius:

Premie parents often liken their tiny infants to “warriors.” And what warrior couldn’t use a little strength training? Enter the Baby Barbells aka “Premie Rattles” by Magical Innovations.

Developed by a Physical Therapist, this colorful product weighs less than an ounce, is developmentally stimulating and is balanced so as to not twist the baby’s wrist. And *bonus*: it is dishwasher safe (top rack).

This is a must-have for NICUs, therapists and parents of premies and full-term babies.

COOL: You could win 5 packages of the “4-pack” rattles and a 2-pack as well! Enter for your chance to win by signing up for Premie Family at <http://bit.ly/preemie1> or Premie Professional at <http://bit.ly/preemie2> from 2/3/14 - 2/26/14.

After the NICU: Feeding Tubes & People

Premie Parents that are working with a feeding tube at home often encounter challenges with family and friends and others who don’t understand feeding challenges. Here are some tips to educating others:

- Be clear and matter of fact that this is just the way your child is able to get nutrition while you work toward oral feedings.
- Give the feeding tube a fun nickname to lighten things.
- Keep your own emotions positive toward feeding tubes and others will emulate your behavior.
- Realize that you need people around you who support you. Let go of those who do not.

Premie Professional Online

NICU Professionals Group: (www.LinkedIN.com)

“SMART: Physical Therapy Could Help with Premie Development - <http://ow.ly/sYUUC>”

“Deploy these managerial concepts in your NICU to increase efficiency and save time”

Early Intervention Professionals Group: (www.LinkedIN.com)

“COOL: Special Update on the Resilient Premie Adelynn! - <http://bit.ly/PremieAdelynn>”

“Premies’ ‘Excessive’ Crying Tied to Risk of Behavior Problems Later - <http://ow.ly/sxSKI>”

Premie World (www.Twitter.com):

“RESEARCH: Growth Factor Heals the Damage to Premie’s Brain - In Mice - <http://ow.ly/sYUst>”

“PremieWorld Founder Highlighted in Parenting Special Needs Magazine - <http://bit.ly/PSN4PW>”

BE THE COOL PRO: Tell Your Families about the “Premie Network” on Inspire.com:

Deb Discenza of PremieWorld moderates this global network of *over 17,000 parents* from NICU to home to school. www.inspire.com/preemie

Check out these groups and more by referring to the “Get ‘Social’ With Us” on page 4 for more information. Have news or research to share with us? connect@preemieworld.com

Get "Social" With Us!



www.PremieWorld.com
www.LittleMantheMovie.com



@PremieWorld



- PremieWorld
- Premie Parent's Survival Guide to the NICU



PremieWorld



Check out other LinkedIN groups we moderate:

- NICU Professionals
- Early Intervention Professionals
- Premie Parent Support Group Leaders
- Premie Parents
- Little Man the Movie

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True or False: Myths About Feeding Tubes

Premies in the NICU with serious feeding issues can often lead the to requirement of a feeding tube as they approach their discharge date. Unprepared, parents are full of questions and concerns about the long-term. Our friends at the Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation help us to dispel common myths.

You can't eat by mouth when you have a feeding tube. False. Tube feeding can supplement what is eaten by mouth. As long as your child is allowed by her doctor to eat and drink, she can continue to do so after receiving a feeding tube. Oral eating should be encouraged as much as possible to maintain or develop oral eating skills.

Tube feeding is forever.

It depends. Some children have medical conditions that will require them to have feeding tubes their whole lives. But for many children, tube feeding is temporary. Children are able to wean off their feeding tubes once they are no longer medically necessary. It is often difficult to estimate how long a feeding tube will be needed, especially if the child's medical condition is not yet fully understood.



Visit our friends at the Feeding Tube Awareness Foundation at: www.feedingtubeawareness.com