WESTERN PA. HOMESCHOOLERS

ON Monday March 1, Western PA had its first impromptu homeschooling get-together! John Holt arrived in Pgh. for an interview on KDKA TV show "Pittsburgh 2-Day". Homeschooling families, many with children along, made up almost half the studio audience. We were all so grateful to meet each other and share experiences. We also felt this beginning of Western PA support shouldn't end with one day-- we all have so much to talk about! And so the idea of this directory was formed-- a way to help us all get to know each other, meet, visit, write letters back and forth, continue and begin friendships.

We also hope to act as a sort of clearinghouse for Western PA resources (nm nQNakalaak7t;qqq/''''''''',,,,, ,m,.... mmn,bu hysw bn hh.x.xx) (This last line is compliments of my little 20 months old Jacob-- how he loves our electric typewriter!). We are setting up a file (my son Jesse helped sort folders and write "home school file box" in FANCY letters on a transformed cardboard box), of relevant homeschooling materials. We're including letters that Western PA families have written to school districts, curriculum outlines that have gained approval from local superintendents, etc. Copies of any correspondence that you think might be useful to others , or requests for information, can be sent to me, Susan Richman.

Also we're hoping to share ideas for Western PA homeschooling activities. Uses of museums, places our children have enjoyed visiting, workplaces that children can visit (even if not in an "official" school group!) social activities or opportunities, places that allow children ACCESS to the world. We welcome any letters from families describing ways they are using what's available NOW in Western PA.

Hope to hear from many of you soon! I hope our children especially enjoy meeting other children who are "growing without schooling", too. It's as important for them to know that they are not alone in this type of learning, as it is for all of us parents.

Sincerely,
Susan Richman

P.S.- Just another idea that occurred to me - would anyone be interested in perhaps putting together a VERY simple sort of magazine with stories and poems and small drawings done by our children? I'm thinking of photocopies + stapling, no fancy printing or binding, low-budget. Might be a nice way for them to share what they are doing. If anyone thinks this might be a nice idea for some time in the future (once a year?), let me know.

Also - Sue Lynn says in PAUN that she'd be interested in helping set-up pen-pal arrangements among children or parents - write to her with name, age, interests, etc., and she'll try to match pen-pals.