



Early Childhood Newsletter

Monthly Highlight from Creative Curriculum

Music and Movement

We do a lot of singing and creative movement in our program. Singing and moving to music give the children a chance to hear and appreciate different kinds of music, express themselves through

their movement, and practice new skills. The children love our daily time for singing together, and it helps them learn to cooperate in a group. Here are some of the things we do to encourage a love for music and movement.

- We listen to all different kinds of music.
- We play instruments to make our own music.
- We give the children colored scarves and paper streamers to use as they move to the music.
- We use chants to help us get through the daily routines, such as clean-up time.
- Sometimes we take a tape re-

order outside and play jazz or folk music, and the children dance and act out songs.

What You Can Do at Home

You don't have to play an instrument or sing on key to enjoy music with your child. Taking a few minutes to sit together and listen to music can provide a welcome break for both of you. Also, the music you share with your child doesn't have to be "kid's music" only. It can be reggae, country, jazz, classical, rap, or any other music you like. Here are some ideas for enjoying music and movement with your child.

- Children love a song or chant about what they are doing at the moment, especially when it uses their name. While pushing your child on a swing, you might chant, "Swing high, swing low, this is the way that [your child's name] goes."

• Songs and finger plays help keep children occupied at challenging times, for instance,

during long car trips, while waiting in line, or when grocery shopping.

• Songs can ease your child into tasks like picking up toys, getting ready to go outside,

undressing for a bath, and so on. You might try making up a chant to the tune of "Here

We Go 'round the Mulberry Bush" such as, "water is filling up the tub, up the tub, up

the tub. . . ." or "Pick up a toy and put it on the shelf, put it on the shelf. . . ."

• Musical instruments can be made or improvised at home easily. You (or your child)

already may have discovered that cooking pots and lids make wonderful instruments.

Sharing music with your child is a wonderful way to build a warm, loving relationship. It's a gift that will last forever.

May
2010

Author Studies:



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Flowers,
Mom &
the
Garden

May 3-14

Color: Purple

Shape: Triangle

Number : 9

Letters : F and M



Ocean Wonders

May 17-28

Color: Yellow

Shape: Rectangle

Number: 10

Letters: O and C

Sunscreen and Safe Shoes



The sun is shining brightly , so we must prepare to keep our children safe in the sun. Each child will need their own labeled bottle of sunscreen to keep at the center. Parents or guardians will need to sign a release form stating that our staff at YES can apply sunscreen daily.

While the shoes of the season are sandals and flip flops they are not the safest shoes for children to be playing in. Since we want your children to be safe on the play ground we would suggest having them wear tennis shoes daily. Please keep in mind that all summer shoes must have straps on the back of them.





Character Counts



Respect

Respect is showing others they are valued for who they are, for their character, not what they look like or what they have. It means never insulting or making fun of others who are different in looks, ability, race or religion. A respectful person is polite, and does not use bad language or hit.

What Parents can do to promote respect:

- 1) Teach children by treating others, including children, with respect. Avoid ugly remarks about others, especially those that demean because of race, religion, ethnicity, or looks.
- 2) Encourage your child to avoid hitting, teasing and rudeness by your praise and example, and impose consequences for disrespectful conduct.
- 3) Insist that your child address others by Mr., Mrs., or Ms., unless the adult requests to be called by his or her first name.
- 4) Always be polite and use polite expressions such as "please", "thank you", and "excuse me". Encourage your child to do likewise. Find nice things to say about others and teach your child to do so.
- 5) Young children are naturally physical and may hit or push. Practice ways to help your child keep their hands to themselves.

May Bookmobile Schedule

River Crossing: May 4 9:00—10:00

14th Street: May 11 10:15—10:45

Eastside Learning Center: May 25 10:00-10:30



Remember to send your child's library card. If your child does not have a library card, ask your child's teacher for information. You can

fill all the necessary information out at your center to get a library card for your child.

What a great opportunity for your child to get new books to bring home to share and



The Local Best will be mailing postcards soon. Each card has a unique code. We ask that you vote for YES using this code. Local Best voting May 3-16. Please consider voting for YES in the preschool and childcare categories.