



Youth Enrichment Services
Caring. Preparing. Enriching.



Early Childhood Newsletter

Monthly Highlight from Creative Curriculum

The Library

The Library Area is a very important part of our classroom and of your child's life. It's where

children gain the foundation for reading and writing. It's also a place where children can relax and enjoy the wonderful world of children's books. We encourage children to look at books, to listen to taped stories, to retell stories, and to scribble and "write" throughout the day. Sometimes children dictate stories to us, which we record in books."

We read stories to the children every day. Reading introduces new ideas, helps children learn how to handle problems that come up in life, and mostly encourages them to develop a love for books.

As children listen to us read, their own reading skills begin to develop.

Here are some of the things we do as we read.

- We look at pictures and ask:

"What do you see?"

- We encourage children to predict what will happen next: "What do you suppose will happen now?"
- We encourage children to repeat words, rhymes, and phrases they've memorized.

What You Can Do at Home

Research has shown us the important role families play in helping children learn to read and write. The single most important thing you can do is to read to your child every day. When your child sits next to you as you read, he begins to connect books with good feelings.

Here are a few more things you can do with your child.

- Encourage your child to talk about the stories you read.
- Ask questions like, "I wonder what will happen next?"

or "I wonder why . . ."

- Try to relate the story to something in your child's life ("That dog looks just like Grandpa's").
- Visit the library and check out books that interest your child.
- Give your child paper and pencils, pens, or markers and let him experiment with writing.

Don't worry if his writing isn't perfect! If you'd like some help choosing books—or guidance on how to read with your child—please come see us. To keep your child's home library well stocked, you can draw on the resources of your local public library. When you take time to read to your child every day, you are doing the very best thing to help your child grow up to be a successful reader.

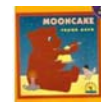
Easing the Transition for Children going to Kindergarten

Not only is the first day of kindergarten a big step in a child's life, it's also a milestone for parents. Leaving a child at school on the first day can be an emotional experience, and it's hard to prepare for the feelings that may overcome both the child and the parents when it's time to say good-bye. For children, the first day of kindergarten means they are suddenly entering a new and strange world. For parents, the first day means their child is no longer a baby.

Following are some tips that should help make the adjustment to kindergarten a little bit easier—

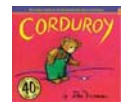
- Start talking about kindergarten several weeks before the first day of school. Remind the child how exciting it will be to meet new friends and learn new things. If the school offers some sort of orientation program or tour of the school, make sure to attend one or both. If a child knows what to expect, the transition on the first day will be easier. If possible, plan a get-together during the summer with some of the other children who will be in the same kindergarten class. It will be easier for any child if she knows at least one child in the classroom on the first day.

August 2010



Frank Asch

Don



Freeman



Mother Goose on the Loose

(July 26– Aug. 6)

Color: Purple
Shape: Rectangle,
Number: 15
Letters M and G

End of Summer, Back to School Fun



(August 9-20)

Color: Blue
Shape: Oval
Number: 1
Letters: S and Y



My Family and Friends

(Aug. 23- Sept 3)

Color: Green
Shape: Triangle
Number: 2



Character Counts



Here is an activity you can do at home to help teach "Trustworthiness"

The Boy who cried Wolf!

Tell the children the story about the boy who cried, "Wolf!" A young shepherd boy (a child who helps take care of his families sheep), for his own entertainment, make believes and screams that a big wolf has come. The people in the village run out to help him. After he pulls this prank several times, the villagers realize he's just pre-tending. One day a wolf really comes, but this time when the boy cries out, everyone ignores him. The wolf eats the flock of sheep.

Discuss the importance of telling the truth all the time. Use the following questions in your discussion:

- What happens if someone lies a lot? (Others stop believing you)
- Why didn't the people believe the boy when there really was a wolf? (Because his repeated lying made him untrustworthy.)
- What is the best way to make sure people believe us all the time? (Always be honest)



August Bookmobile Schedule

River Crossing: 9:00—10:00

August 11

14th Street: 10:15—10:45

August 4

Eastside Learning Center: 11:15 to 12:00

August 3

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 read.