



Philosophy & Curriculum

Welcome to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Truckee Meadows Early Learning Center, a licensed childcare center and preschool for children from newborns to age 12. This handbook answers many questions parents may have regarding our programs and our policies. If you would like further information, stop by the office or call us at (775) 322-9030

EARLY LEARNING CENTERS MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to inspire and enable the healthy development of all young children, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring members of the community. We strive to provide an age-appropriate environment that will enhance the child physically, emotionally, socially, and mentally. To achieve this mission we have implemented a curriculum that is developmentally appropriate for each child's needs and abilities.

PHILOSOPHY

The Early Learning Center provides opportunities for children to develop physically, emotionally, socially, and mentally. We believe in an atmosphere in which each child is respected and free to experiment and investigate, free to have individual ideas, and free to master those ideas in a planned environment. Children learn the pleasures of doing things for themselves, and thus develop a positive self-concept. Our program sets limits to help children learn safety, value of property and respect for the rights of others. We do not attempt to bring about quick changes; rather, we believe that with parent cooperation, positive learning experiences will establish a foundation for each child's personal achievement.

PROGRAM GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

The Center strives to present a program that will assist the family by:

- Providing children with an atmosphere that encourages a healthy and full life
- Planning an environment of sound principles in early education and development
- Respecting a child as a developmental whole, and
- Providing age-appropriate growth and learning opportunities.

With these goals as the foundation of our philosophy, teachers are encouraged to utilize their creativity and expertise to enrich your child's growth. The Early Learning Center is dedicated to providing the support and programming necessary for the excellent care, learning, and growth of your most precious gift: YOUR CHILD.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is designed to give children the opportunity to explore a wide range of developmentally appropriate activities within a warm and supportive environment. We believe that children who have been encouraged to develop a positive self-image (self-worth) will reach out and develop new skills at their own pace.

INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM (Ages 6 weeks-3 years)

The Infant and Toddler Programs offer a loving, caring, and nurturing atmosphere for children from ages six weeks to three years. Children are provided with a stimulating environment, which consists of learning experiences designed for the child's total development, while respectful and trusting relationships are established between children and caregivers.

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Theme: Back to School & All About Me No letters, numbers, shapes or colors this month. We will focus on learning about the classroom rules, expectations and how the classroom works.			1	2	3	4
5	6 New Room Transitions	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Meet the Teacher & Back to School Barbeque 5:30– 7:00	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Senior Citizen Day (make & deliver cards)	22	23	24 Return "All About Me" Posters	25
26	27 Parents return ASQ3	28	29	30	31 Spirit Day	

Developmental Milestones for Tumbleweeds by the Age of One Year:

Social/Emotional:

- * Hands you a book when he/she wants to hear a story
- * Repeats sounds or actions to get attention
- * Puts out arm or leg to help with getting dressed
- * Plays games such as “peek-a-boo” and “pat-a-cake”

Language/Communication:

- * Uses simple gestures, like shaking head “no” or waving “bye-bye”
- * Says “mama” and “dada” and exclamations like “uh-oh!”
- * Tries to say words you say

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving):

- * Looks at the right picture or thing when it’s named
- * Starts to use things correctly; for example, drinks from a cup, brushes hair
- * Puts things in a container, takes things out of a container
- * Follows simple directions like “pick up the toy”



PAYMENT INFORMATION

All tuition fees are due by the Friday before each week or a late fee of \$5 per day will be charged. **No exceptions for absences, vacations or holidays, annual staff development day.** If you have any questions about billing, check with the office. If you need to bring your child in on a non-scheduled contract day, the charge will be \$45 per day if your child is over 36 months old and \$55 per day if under 36 months old. Based on availability. Please make checks payable to Boys & Girls Clubs of Truckee Meadows. Make payments in the front office. **DO NOT** leave checks in the classrooms. Please use payment drop-box for checks only. Teachers are not responsible for collecting payment. No cash accepted.

Homemade Pine Cone Bird Feeder:





Materials: pine cone, peanut butter, twine, bird seed

Directions:

- *Cut twine to tie around top of pinecone to hang from tree branch
- *using spatula, spread peanut butter over pine cone
- *Pour birdseed into bowl & roll the pinecone in the birdseed



SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Theme: Community Helpers *we will have visitors from the community Color: Green Shape: Octagon Letters: Hh, Ss, Ff				<i>Show & Tell every Friday has to be with an item that represents the letter of the week.</i>	1
2	3 Labor Day No School	4 <i>*Letter of the week: Hh</i>	5	6	7 <i>Show & Tell: Hh</i> Grandparents Luncheon	8  Great Reno Balloon Races
9 <i>National Grandparents Day</i>	10 <i>*Letter of the week: Ss</i>	11 Heroes Day Wear red, white & blue	12 	13	14 <i>Show & Tell: Ss</i>	15
16	17 <i>*Letter of the week: Ff</i>	18	19 <i>Pajama Day</i> 	20	21 <i>Show & Tell: Ff</i> Career Day: <i>What do you want to be when you grow up?</i>	22  First Day of Autumn
23	24 Dress Up Day: <i>Favorite Fall Sport (or fall colors)</i> Review letters: Hh, Ss, Ff	25 My Home: <i>What makes your home a home?</i>	26		28 Spirit Day CACFP Income sheets are due	29
30						

Developmental Milestones for Bluebirds at 18 months

Social/Emotional:

- * Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- * Points to show others something interesting
- * Explores alone but with parent close by

Language/Communication:

- * Says several single words
- * Says and shakes head "no"
- * Points to show someone what he/she wants

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving):

- * Knows what ordinary things are for: for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- * Points to a body part
- * Scribbles on his/her own
- * Can follow one-step verbal commands without any gestures; for example, sits when you say "sit down"

Movement/Physical Development:

- * Can help undress herself/himself
- * Drinks from a cup
- * Eats with a spoon
- * Walks alone



Spookley Graham Cracker & Movie Night

You will need a graham cracker, orange frosting, M & M eyes, and a licorice mouth and a good movie!!!



DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP YOUR CHILD




- Late Pick Up Fees - A late charge of \$30 for the first 10 minutes after designated pickup time followed by \$3 per minute will be collected for the time a child remains in the center.
- The Center Policy regarding late pick-ups: After the first late pick up, you will be called with a warning and after the third late pick up you will be suspended from the center for ONE week. If you wish to remain at the center, it is your responsibility to pay for that week in full before returning.

Our parking lots can be busy places during drop-off and pick-up times. Please be aware that the speed limit is 10 mph. Please hold your child's hand in the parking lot. Please make sure that your child does not run ahead of or behind you. Remember, your children are priceless. We urge parents to NEVER leave children unattended in or around a vehicle – **"NOT EVEN FOR A MINUTE."**

- NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO AN ADULT SUSPECTED OF BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS.
- Children should arrive at school by 9:00 am as it is very difficult for your child to come to a class in progress and it does tend to disrupt the entire class.
- If, for any reason, your child will be in later than 9:00 am, you **MUST call before 9:00 am to reserve your spot for the day. Children being dropped off after 9:00 am, that did not call, will not be accepted.**
- Children will not be released to anyone under 18 without parental authorization. (Forms are available in the office.)
- Each family is given a key fob that must be used to enter the building. Additional key fobs can be purchased for a \$10 fee.
- Each parent must present their finger print/ individual code upon entering the building and upon departure each day. **A \$5 charge will be added to the account if children are not checked in by their parent/guardian.**

Children are not allowed to be dropped off at naptime (12:00-3 pm).

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>*Letter of the week: Ii</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Show & Tell: Ii</i>	6
7	8 <i>*Letter of the week: Tt</i> <i>Columbus Day</i>	9	10	11	12 <i>Show & Tell: Tt</i> <i>Wear orange/ black</i>	13
		Conference Week Oct. 8– Oct. 12th				
14	15 <i>*Letter of the week: Gg</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Show & Tell: Gg</i>	20
						
21	22 <i>*Review letters: Ii, Tt, Gg</i>	23	24	25	26 Nevada Day Observed No School	27
						
28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween *wear your costume</i> <i>Halloween Party 10:00-12:00</i>			
					Theme: Seasons Shape: Circle Color: Orange/Black Letters: Ii, Tt, Gg	

Developmental Milestones for Wolves & Rattlesnakes (by the age of 2 years)

Social/Emotional:

- * Shows more and more independence
- * Plays mainly beside other children, but is beginning to include other children, such as in games

Language/Communication:

- * Points to things or pictures when they are named
- * Says sentences with 2-4 words
- * Follows simple directions
- * Points to things in a book

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving):

- * Begins to sort shapes and colors
- * Completes sentences and rhymes in familiar books
- * Follows two-step instructions such as "Pick up your shoes and put them in the closet."
- * Names items in a picture book such as cat, bird, or dog

Movement/Physical Development:

- * Stands on tiptoes
- * Kicks a ball
- * Begins to run



WHAT TO WEAR

Please send your child to school in COMFORTABLE, WASHABLE PLAY CLOTHES. Remember that your child will be involved in painting, water play and other messy play experiences. Jeans, shorts and old t-shirts are VERY APPROPRIATE for our program. Send your child to school wearing tennis shoes or athletic shoes. Good fitting shoes aid in developing large muscle skills. No cowboy boots or open-toed shoes!


WHAT TO BRING

- All children need a complete change of usable clothing in their cubbies DAILY!
- We do not allow toys from home as they may be disruptive or get lost or broken. We assume no responsibility for lost or damaged items. We DO allow children to bring items in for "Show and Share Day," which is every Friday. (**Toy firearms, knives and swords will not be accepted at any time or for any reason**). LABEL EVERY ITEM WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.
- All children need a blanket and fitted crib sheet to be used during nap time, as required by Social Services. Blankets and sheets must be taken home and washed weekly. LABEL EVERY ITEM WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME.



To play it as **The Gratitude Game**, each color represents a type of thing you are grateful for. These were our categories, but you can modify them if you want:

GRATITUDE GAME

-  Name a Person You are Thankful for
-  Name a Place You are Thankful for
-  Name a Food You are Thankful for
-  Name a Thing You are Thankful for
-  Name Anything of Your Choice

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Theme: Taking Care of Me (Dental hygiene, being thankful, family, friends, five senses) Colors: brown and red Shape: Hexagon Letters: Jj, Uu, Nn</p>			1	2	3 
4 <i>Daylight Savings Time Ends</i> 	5 <i>*Letter of the week: Jj</i>	6 <i>Election Day</i> 	7	8	9 <i>Show & Tell: Jj</i> <i>Stone Soup (bring a veggie)</i>	10
11 <i>Veteran's Day</i>	12 <i>*letter of the week: Uu</i> Return Family Turkey Project	13	14 <i>Crazy Hair Day</i>	15	16 <i>Show & Tell: Uu</i>	17
18	19 <i>*Letter of the week: Nn</i>	20	21 <i>Pie with Parents 3:30-4:30</i>	22-23 Thanksgiving Break 11/22—11/23, No School 		24
25	26 <i>*Review letters: Jj, Uu, Nn</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>Show & Tell: Nn</i> <i>Spirit Day</i>	

Developmental Milestones for Foxes (by the age of 3-4 years)

Social/Emotional:

- * Take turns in games
- * Shows concern for crying friend
- * Fully dresses and undresses self
- * Cooperates with other children
- * Talks about what he/she likes and what he/she is interested in

Language/Communication:

- * Follows instructions with 2 or 3 steps
- * Says first and last name, age, and sex
- * Carries a conversation using 2 to 3 sentences

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving):

- * Does puzzles with 3-4 pieces
- * Understands the idea of counting
- * Names some colors and some numbers
- * Uses scissors
- * Starts to copy some capital letters

Movement/Physical Development:

- * Hops and stands on one foot up to 2 seconds
- * Catches a bounced ball most of the time
- * Pours, cuts with supervision, and mashes own food



HEALTH AND SAFETY

At the time you enroll your child, you will be required to provide proof of all immunization records as required by the state and the Early Learning Center. Immunizations must be kept current throughout your child's enrollment in our program. Your child must have a health evaluation (Well Baby Check) completed by a licensed physician. Students not in compliance with immunization requirements will not be allowed to enroll until the proper immunizations are received. *No grace period will be provided.* Please verify that your child's health is adequate for participation in program activities before bringing him/her to school. Follow these guidelines in determining if your child is well enough to attend school.

SYMPTOM YOUR CHILD MUST REMAIN HOME UNTIL:

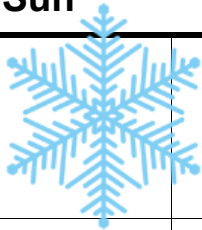







- *Fever over: Oral – 100.4 degrees Rectal - 101.4 degrees Axillary – 99.4 degrees
- *Infectious rhinitis, i.e., colored nasal discharge, or nasal congestion associated with a cough and fever.
- *Vomiting, regardless of the reason.
- *Conjunctivitis – such as pink eye or thick discolored drainage.
- *Coughing associated with respiratory infection.
- *Skin rash and/or eruptions of unknown origin.
- *Parasites, i.e. nits, crabs, lice, etc.
- *Diarrhea – change in consistency, frequency, color, or odor of stool that is uncontainable.
- * If a running nose is related to allergies, a child's medical record must reflect the allergies, or we need a note from the doctor stating that the child has allergies.

As the holiday season begins to draw near, your local U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots will be gearing up. Since 1947, Marines have been making Christmas wishes come true for needy children. 100% of the Toys collected by Reno Toys for Tots stay here within Washoe County.

Watch for your local donation center!!!



December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Theme: All Things Cold (What to wear, winter, family traditions) Colors: red, white, & green Letters: Kk, Dd, Vv Shape: star</p>					<p>1 <i>Breakfast with Santa @ 9th St....all of our families are welcome</i></p>
2	<p>3 Happy Hanukkah  <i>*Letter of the week: Kk</i></p>	4	5	6	<p>7 Show & Tell: Kk Toy Swap! <i>Bring an old toy from home to swap with a friend</i></p>	8
9	<p>10 <i>*Letter of the week: Dd</i></p>	11	12	13	<p>14 Show & Tell: Dd Christmas Party Wear your P.J.'s</p> 	15
16	<p>17 <i>*Letter of the week: Vv</i></p>	18	<p>19 Ugly Sweater Contest</p>	<p>20  <i>Presents for Angel Tree are due</i></p>	<p>21 Show & Tell: Vv Last day to fill Bags of Love for teachers</p>	<p>22  First Day of Winter</p>
23	<p>24  <i>Christmas Eve (closed)</i></p>	<p>25 </p>	<p>26 <i>*Review letters: Kk, Dd, Vv</i></p>	27	28	29
30	31					

Developmental Milestones for Mustangs (By the age of 5, Pre-K, Kindergarten)

Social/Emotional:

- * Wants to please friends
- * Can tell what's real and what's make-believe
- * Shows more independence

Language/Communication:

- * Speaks very clearly
- * Tells a simple story using full sentences
- * Says full name, address and birthday
- * Comprehends the concept of "time" (now, tomorrow, before, etc.)

Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving):

- * Recognizes numbers and letters
- * Can draw a person with at least 6 body parts
- * Can print some letters and numbers
- * Recognizes patterns; can copy geometric shapes
- * Grasps basic math skills (one-to-one ratio)

Movement/Physical Development:

- * Hops, may be able to skip
- * Can do somersault
- * Uses a fork and spoon and sometimes a table knife
- * Uses the bathroom on their own



WISH LIST FOR CLASSROOMS

- DRESS UP CLOTHES
- BOOKS
- OLD T-SHIRTS FOR SMOCKS
- NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES
- OLD CHECK BOOKS FROM CLOSED ACCOUNTS
- WRITING TABLETS, NOTEBOOKS, PENS, PENCILS AND OTHER WRITING MATERIAL
- SCRATCH PAPER, ROLLS OF NEWSPAPER, CONSTRUCTION PAPER & AND OTHER ART PAPER
- OLD CARDS, WRAPPING PAPER, RIBBON, YARN, STRING & ITEMS FOR COLLAGE
- SCIENCE AREA MATERIALS– SHELLS, ROCKS, BUGS, PLANTS, OLD X-RAYS



ITEMS MAY CHANGE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR SO PLEASE CHECK THE PARENT BOARD IN YOUR CLASSROOM DAILY!

JANUARY FAMILY FUN BUCKET LIST

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Build a snowman |  Celebrate MLK Day |
|  Make a bird feeder |  Have a pajama day |
|  Try a new flavor of hot chocolate |  Make a snowflake craft |
|  Have a snowball fight |  Bundle up and go for a walk |
|  Make snow angels |  Build a blanket fort |
|  Go sledding |  Play a board game |



JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Happy New Year!</p>	<p>1 New Year's Day <i>(closed Dec. 31st & Jan. 1st)</i></p>	2	3	4	5
6	<p>7 *Letter of the week: Aa</p>	8	<p>9 Pajama Day</p>	<p>10 </p>	<p>11 Show & Tell: Aa</p>	12
13	<p>14 *Letter of the week: Ll</p>	15	16	17	<p>18 Show & Tell: Ll Animal Day! <i>Dress like or bring your favorite animal</i></p>	<p>19 </p>
<p>20 </p>	<p>21 *Letter of the week: Pp Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	22	23	24	<p>25 Show & Tell: Pp</p>	26
27	28	29	30	<p>31 Spirit Day</p>	<p>Theme: Animals Around the World Colors: white & silver Shape: triangle Letters: Aa, Ll, Pp</p>	

The Parent-Teacher Relationship: Why It's More Important Than Ever

Parent-teacher relationships don't just happen. They are built over time through consistent communication, collaboration, creative problem-solving, a common goal and, most importantly, trust. Because teachers change every year, the constants in these relationships are the parents and children. So it's essential that parents develop leadership skills in setting clear goals (beyond testing), have meaningful and productive conversations, and create an action plan for supporting their child in the short-term and long-term. Learning is not a sprint; it is a lifelong journey, and at every turn there are opportunities for new growth and development. Research shows that a strong parent, child and educator relationship helps boost student achievement and outcomes.

"When schools, teachers, and parents work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more," said NEA's Eskelsen. "I am thrilled that this year's Mom Congress is emphasizing the importance of cultivating strong relationships between parents and teachers. Parental involvement is a critical component to student success. When parents and teachers work as a team, children soar to new heights."




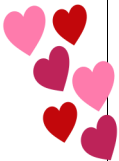


Weather Conditions

In the event of heavy snowfall or other inclement weather, please be aware of the following:

- The Center will follow the guidelines provided by Washoe County Schools/Health Department/Weather Services, unless for some reason the school closure is contained to a specific school or area. Closures at a specific school or area will not result in a closure at the Center provided that the main roads and side roads are passable.
- A message regarding open/closed status will be recorded on the Center's telephone answering machine by dialing (775) 322-9030. Always check our Facebook page and if possible we will send out emails as well.
- Every effort will be made to make a closing announcement by 6:00 A.M. School closures will be broadcasted on local television and radio stations and Facebook on the morning of the closure.



February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<p>Theme: Our State (state animals, city, state, capital, state song) Colors: pink & red Shape: heart Letters: Bb, Mm, Xx</p>				<p>1 <i>Wear your favorite jersey</i></p>	<p>2 Happy Groundhog Day! </p>
<p>3 <i>Super Bowl</i></p> 	<p>4 <i>*Letter of the week: Bb</i></p>	5	6	7	<p>8 <i>Show & Tell: Bb</i></p>	9
10	<p>11 <i>*Letter of the week: Mm</i></p>	12	13	<p>14 Valentine's Day Party <i>*wear pink and/or red</i></p> 	<p>15 <i>Show & Tell: Mm</i></p>	16
17	<p>18 <i>*Letter of the week: Xx</i> President's Day</p> 	19	20	21	<p>22 <i>Show & Tell: Xx</i></p>	23
24	<p>25 <i>*Review letters: Bb, Mm, Xx</i></p>	26	27	<p>28 <i>Wear Nevada Wolf Pack shirts or blue</i></p> 		

Reading, Talking and Singing With Your Child Helps Boost Their Brain Power

Kids start developing communication skills from the moment they're born. Teach them skills to last a lifetime

The first five years of a child's life are critical for speech and language development –the brain is best able to absorb language during this period. That's why it's important to talk, listen, read, sing, and play games with young children, every day! **Reading to your child is important at every age.** Children who are read to enter kindergarten with 20,000 words in their vocabulary, compared to 3,000 words for children who are not read to. While reading with your child, it's not what you read that counts – it's how! Make the story come alive by changing your voice or using sound effects and motions. Point out pictures that match your words. Ask questions!

Newborn to 12 months old

Newborns quickly begin to recognize important sounds in their environment, such as their parents' voices. Baby babble is your child's way of communicating. Respond to them in their own language, or talk to them in your normal voice about everyday things. When your child is experiencing an emotion, name the emotion and continue talking so they learn to associate emotions with words. All of these activities help build their vocabulary and communication skills. Try playing a game of peek-a-boo. This simple activity teaches your child that you exist, even when they can't see you.

1-2 years old

Daily experiences at this age will determine how your child's brain cells will form and connect to one another. Help them learn new sensations by letting your child play with something textured, like a dry sponge while you do the dishes. Ask them how they feel about it, and name the object for them. Simple activities like singing your child's favorite song – and encouraging them to sing along with you – build vocabulary and communication skills. The more sound they hear, the more they will appreciate language.

2-3 years old

Toddlers are learning to explore the world at this stage. Ask your child questions and encourage them to talk about their observations. Conversations like these help children pay attention to what they see and use their memory. Use household objects, like cups, to build towers and have fun knocking them down with your child. You are helping your child explore and discover how the physical world works.

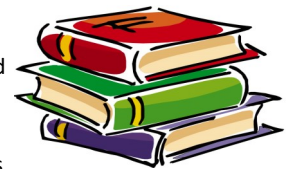
3-4 years old

At this stage, kids begin to form reason and start building a concept of how and why things work. Listen to their reasoning, and explain why things are the way they are. Show your child how to turn the light switch on and off. Say "on" and "off" and see if they can match your words. This helps kids learn the essential concept of cause and effect. Whenever possible, be silly together. Dance to your favorite song. Shake a leg, wiggle your hips and follow each other's dance steps.








4-5 years old

Begin to mentally challenge your child at this stage. Ask questions throughout the day, and let your child form their own answers. Questions will help them exercise their working memory. Continue to involve them in everyday activities. When you're cooking, have your child taste a few grains of salt and sugar, and talk to them about the difference. They are learning to explore their senses at this stage, so let them experiment!

By the age of five, your child's brain will have grown to 90 percent of its adult size! Keep up with their development by incorporating age-appropriate activities that are not only fun, but also educational



MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Theme: Weather (wind, rain, kites, photosynthesis, thunder, rainbows) Colors: green & gold Shape: oval Letters: Cc, Rr, Ww				1	2
3	4 <i>*Letter of the week: Cc</i>	5	6 <i>Mismatch Day</i>	7 	8 <i>Show & Tell: Cc Sign up for St. Patrick's Day Party</i>	9 
10 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> 	11 <i>*Letter of the week: Rr</i>	12	13	14 	15 <i>Show & Tell: Rr St. Patrick's Day Party (wear green)</i>	
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 <i>*Letter of the week: Ww</i>		20 <i>Spring Begins</i> <i>March Madness</i>		22	23
24	25 <i>*Review letters: Cc, Rr, Ww</i>	26	27	28	29 <i>Spirit Day</i>	30
31						

Preschool- and Kindergarten-Age Benefits:

- Fulfills curiosity — something that is common in children as young as three years old, and which if fulfilled early can be sustained in later years, positively impacting academic performance.
- Positively affects brain structure.
- Builds a desire to learn well past preschool age.
- Additional daily or semi-daily physical activity that might not happen at home.
- Head start in emotional development. Getting praise early in life for accomplishments builds positive self-worth which can pay off academically.
- Head start in social development. Manners and social protocols are learned through incidents, with an adult “correcting” behavior when necessary. Preschool gives children an early outlet to learn appropriate social behaviors and develop more effective interaction skills.
- Building of trust in other children and adults.
- Learning discipline and structure, balanced with fun.
- Encouragement of scribbling can lead to early learning of writing, which has obvious academic benefits.
- Early introduction to letters and numbers improves foundational reading and math skills, respectively, both of which affect later academic success.
- Early introduction to math means time to absorb and understand by the time kindergarten comes around.
- Improved self-esteem.
- Readiness for kindergarten and beyond.
- Improved scores in achievement tests.
- Less likely to be sad or unhappy, which can happen to children as young as three years, and which can then persist in near-future years.
- Confidence from familiarity, since at present, kindergarten curriculum may significantly overlap preschool activities.
- Become better readers
- Early successes in kindergarten and beyond. High-quality preschool education has been shown to benefit both middle-income and low-income families, as well as improve overall academic achievement.

Later-life benefits:







- Less likely to commit a felony.
- Less likely to drop out of high school.
- Less likely to need government assistance.
- More likely to go to college, and thus more likely to earn more in a lifetime.
- More likely to own a house.

April: National Bedtime Story Month

- * Find a book with some easy characters (like bunnies) and challenge your kids to help you make character-shaped shadows as you read
- * Wrap up enough books for the entire month and let your child have the fun of unwrapping a book every night for their bedtime story
- * Sit down together and write or make up your own bedtime story together. This does not have to be completed in one sitting. Start the story one day, draw some illustrations the next day, write the middle of the story the third day, etc. Or verbally tell a progressive story; you can record it.
- * It is important to talk about the beginning, middle and end of the stories!



APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>*Letter of the week: Ee</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>Show & Tell: Ee</i>	6
7	8 <i>Letter of the week: Oo</i>	9	10  Rainbow Day <i>*wear as many colors as possible</i>	11 <i>Show & Tell: Oo</i>	12 Closed for Staff Development	13 <i>Staff Retreat (April 12th–14th)</i>
14	15 <i>*Letter of the week: Zz</i> <i>Boston Marathon (we will have mini-marathon)</i>	16	17	18 	19 <i>Show & Tell: Zz</i> Easter Party <i>(pictures with Easter bunny & egg hunt)</i>	20
21 	22 <i>*Review letters: Ee, Oo, Zz</i>  Earth Day	23	24 <i>Administrative Professional's Day</i> 	25 <i>Take our daughters & sons to work day</i>	26 Spirit Day Community Clean Up Day <i>clean up around BGCTM campus</i>	27
28	29 <i>Sign up for Cinco de Mayo Day</i> Conferences begin April 29– May 3rd	30	Theme: Spring (Easter, Earth Day, Gardening) Color: purple Shape: Trapezoid Letters: Ee, Oo, Zz			

Chores

Kids can start taking on household chores and small tasks as early as two years old. There are so many chores a child can do to help them reach their next milestone. Depending on their age, these tasks range from cleaning up toys to putting on pajamas. Keep in mind, your child won't know how to do all of these chores right away, so a little guidance is necessary. Having your child complete these tasks in their early years will help with their overall development in the long run.

Age: 2-3 Years

- Put the Toys in the Bin: Telling your child "I bet I can put these away faster than you" will make the chore more of a game and more fun for your child. Cleaning up toys may allow your child to walk up and down stairs, or simply walk across the room with a toy in their hand, helping with their gross motor skills. They also have the chance to identify where things belong. Using a "clean up" song is also very helpful, this is a strategy many day cares/preschools use; use the same one your child hears in those settings.
- Sort Clothes by Color: "Let's put all the greys together, all the blues together, and all the white together" helps your child's sensory development. Focus on one color at a time "let's get the red ones!"
- Follow the Leader: Giving your child directions like "throw it in the trash" or "put it by the door" helps them learn how to follow simple instructions.
- Copycat (Housework Edition): From 2-3 years old, children love to do what mommy and daddy are doing. Let them be present as you do housework. If they have a small broom or toy vacuum, they can follow along and copy what you do.

Age: 3-4 Years

- Switcharoo: If your child has a sibling or friend, invite them to do a chore together like putting away toys in a storage bin. Each child brings you one toy at a time and taking turns they put everything away.
- Table Time: "If I put down the napkins, you have to put the forks on top", letting your child follow you around the table helps them understand the concept of in, on, and under. The fork goes on top of the napkin, or the water goes in the glass.
- Close What You Open: Reminding your child to "put the top back on once you're done" will let them practice opening and closing containers whenever they play. Using small jars or storage containers for crayons, craft supplies and small toys is a good way to keep organized and help your child work on sorting skills.

Age: 4-5 Years

- Getting Ready: Use a visual checklist to help a child get ready in the morning. The pictures will help your child develop self care routines like putting on pajamas, going to the bathroom, brushing teeth and getting ready for bed. This will also help them start understanding time.
- Cut Your Food: At this age, your child can cut their own food. Take it a step further and let them pour, cut, and mash food. For example, your child could help you mash bananas for banana bread or potatoes for mashed potatoes.









May: Make a Family Time Jar

Some ideas for your family's jar:

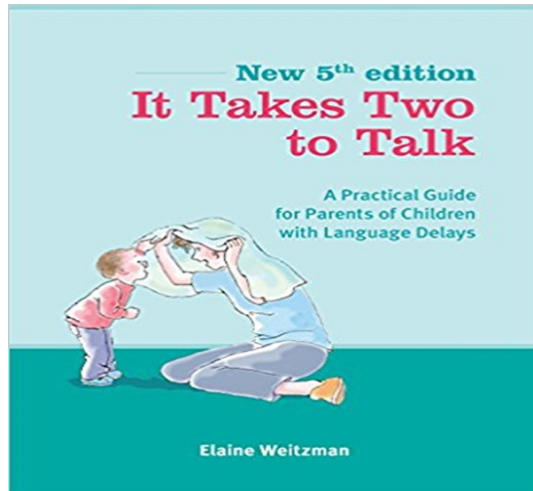
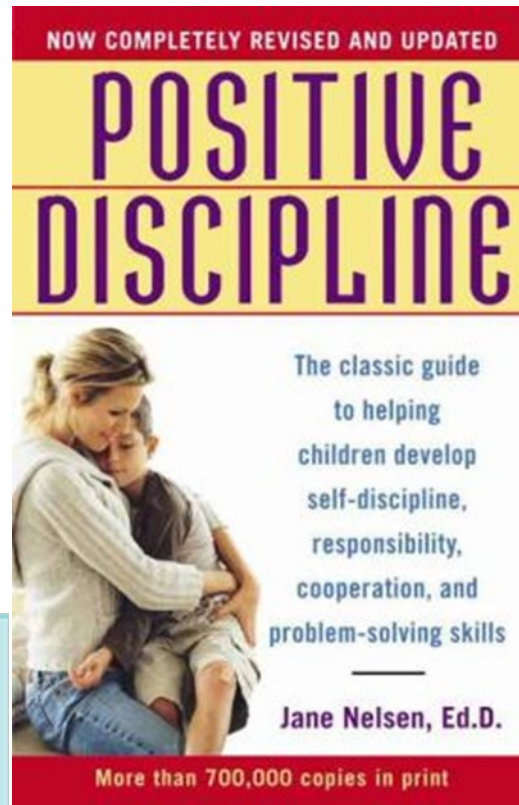
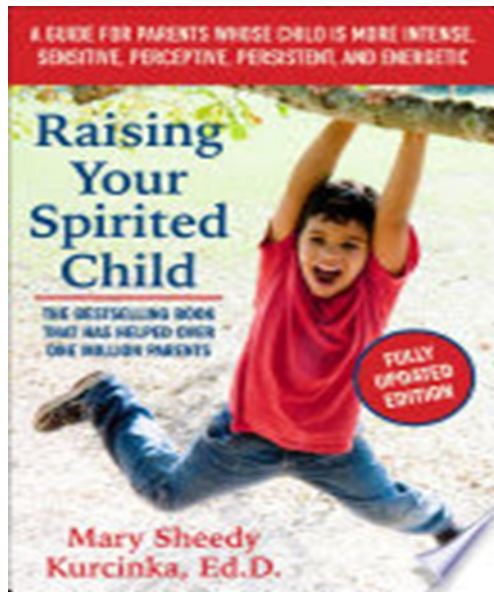
- *visit the local library
- *work on a puzzle together
- *play musical chairs
- *make ice cream sundaes
- *go playground hopping
- *have a water balloon toss
- *have an indoor/outdoor picnic
- *play restaurant
- *make breakfast, lunch or dinner together
- *go ice or roller skating
- *have a silly string war
- *make an obstacle course in the backyard
- *go on a hike



May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Theme: Transportation Color: blue Shape: Octagon Letters: Qq, Vv</p>  <p>shutterstock · 105474767</p>			<p>1 May Day (fingerprint May baskets)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Cinco de Mayo Party *wear red, green & white</p>	<p>4</p> 
<p>5</p> 	<p>6 *Letter of the week: Qq Yearly registration & material fees due: Update enrollment sheet</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Show & Tell: Qq</p> <p>Mother's Day Tea 6:30– 8:30</p>	<p>11</p> 
<p>12</p>  <p>Mothers Day</p>	<p>13 *Letter of the week: Vv</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Show & Tell: Vv</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Inside Out Day</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p>	<p>27 Memorial Day No School</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 Spirit Day</p>	

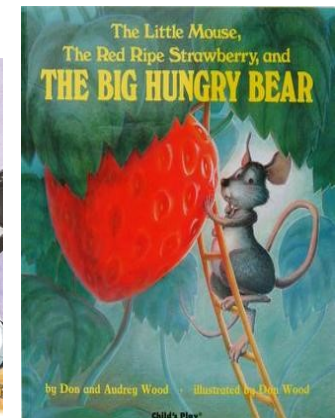
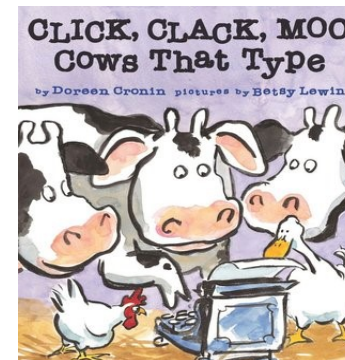
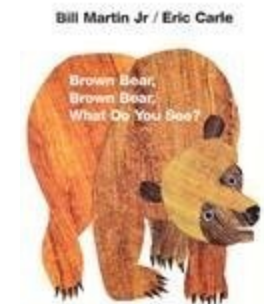
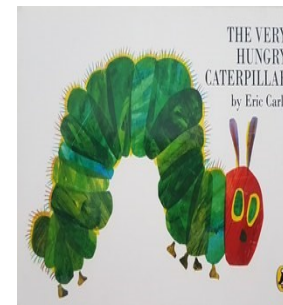
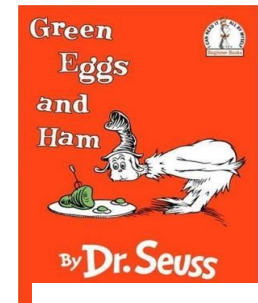
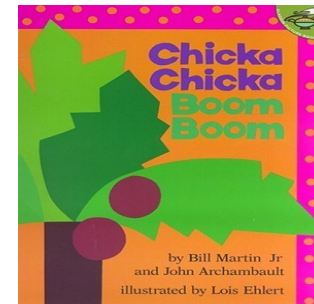
Some recommended books:











Voices & Sounds - Best Read Alouds for Young Children

www.goodreads.com/list

(this site lists over 500 books)



JUNE

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>Theme: Summer Fun (picnics, camping, butterflies, ice cream) Color: yellow Shape: rhombus All letters</p>					1	
2	3	4	<p>5 <i>Bring a sack lunch to picnic with your class</i> <i>Wear your sunglasses</i></p> 	7	8	
9	10	11	12	13	<p>14 <i>Popsicles with Pop</i> <i>Wear your ugliest tie</i> 3:30– 4:30</p> 	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			<p><i>Ice cream party</i></p> 			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		<p><i>Wear your wildest richest rodeo outfit</i></p> 			<p><i>Scrabble Day</i> (wear your favorite letter or word)</p> 	
30						

Fine Motor Skills Checklist for Preschoolers (Ages 3-5 Years Old)

3 Years Old

- Can draw a circle after being shown model.
- Cuts a piece of paper in half.
- Copies prewriting lines of vertical, horizontal, and circle shapes.
- Laces a card.
- Can unbutton large buttons.
- Can cut a long a wide line with 1/2" accuracy.
- Will string 1/2 inch beads.
- Sorts objects.

4 Years Old

- Can copy cross shapes, right and left oblique lines “/” “\”, square and X shapes.
- Can touch the tip of each finger to their thumb.
- Can color within a picture with no more than 1/4" deviations from the coloring lines.
- Can cut big circles with scissors.
- Can move the paper while cutting along a line.
- Completes puzzles of 4-5 pieces.
- Can use a fork correctly.
- Can get dressed and undressed without help.
- Uses dominate hand.

5 Years Old

- Grasps a pencil correctly.
- Begins to print their name.
- Copies a triangle shape.
- Cuts out a circle.
- Opens a lock with a key.
- Draw a diamond shape when given a model.
- Draws a person with at least 6 different body parts.
- Can tie their shoes.

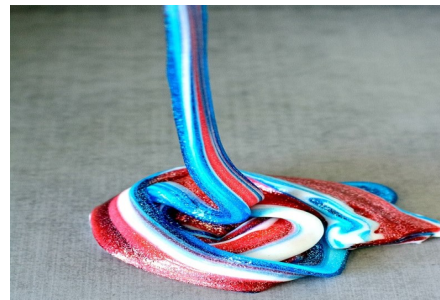
Patriotic Slime

Materials:


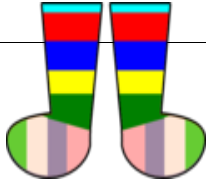


- * 5oz of white school glue
- * Liquid starch
- * Food coloring (pink, blue, green & yellow)
- * Cups and craft sticks for mixing

Pour glue into a cup (red solo cups work great for this), add the tbsp. of water, food coloring and glitter and mix well with the craft stick.

Add liquid starch, approx 1/4 cup or less. Keep stirring and it will start to form. Then take out of the cup and begin kneading. If the slime is too sticky, add a little bit of starch at a time (about 1 tsp or less). Store in sealed container. Repeat 3 more times to make each of the colors. Braid colors together when finished.




JULY

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 <i>Closed for 4th of July</i> 	5 <i>Wear your red, white & blue colors</i>	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 <i>Crazy Sock Day</i> 	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 <i>Stay Afloat Day</i> <i>wear / bring your swimsuits</i> 			
	Theme : Dinosaurs Shape: square Color: red, white & blue All letters					

PRE-WRITING LINE DEVELOPMENT FOR KIDS

 **Vertical Line**
Age 2 - Imitates
Age 3 - Copies/Masters

 **Horizontal Line**
Age 2 1/2 - Imitates
Age 3 - Copies/Masters


 **Circle Shape**
Age 2 1/2 - Imitates
Age 3 - Copies/Masters



 **Cross Shape**
Age 3 1/2 - Imitates
Age 4 - Copies

 **Square Shape**
Age 4

 **Right/Left Diagonal Lines**
Age 4 1/2

 **"X" Shape**
Age 5

 **Triangle Shape**
Age 5



Ways for Preschoolers to Practice Name Writing:

1. Highlighters are awesome for tracing anything! Add in glue and yarn and it's a hands-on experience, or triple the name tracing fun!
2. Rainbow writing! Writing their name over and over again in different colors to make a rainbow. Make it big and fun!
3. Another twist on rainbow writing is rainbow name painting! Paint over and over in different colors!
4. Discover Explore Learn traces letters with paint and Q-tips, put this to their name and the kids will love it!
5. Use glitter glue to practice name writing!
6. Practice writing their name on the sidewalk with chalk.
7. Practice writing their name in a salt sensory tray! No salt? Try flour!
8. Get out the watercolors and trace the letters of their name with a paintbrush!
9. When all else fails, break out a can of shaving cream.

August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 <i>Last day for Pre-K</i>	10
	<p>Please note: We do not provide care the first week of school for Kindergarten. If you need care, you may join Jr. Club</p>					
11	12 <i>New Room Transitions</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 <i>Meet the teacher & Back to School Barbeque 5:30- 7:00</i>	21 <i>Senior Citizen Day (make & deliver cards)</i>	22	23 <i>Return "All About Me" Posters</i>	24
25	26 <i>Parents return ASQ3</i>	27	28	29	30 <i>Spirit Day</i>	31