

Preschool News Letter - September 2016

It is time for us to say goodbye to the summer schedule and prepare for the fall. Older siblings will be heading back to school and the children in the center will be heading into their new classrooms.

Young Preschool Classroom:

The young preschool children are talking about the ocean and sea animals. They have created a class mural combining many of their various art experiences into a wall picture. They have created sand, water and fish into a colorful scene.

Children of this age enjoy working with lots of sensory materials and this experimentation and exploration of the senses is important in their growth and development. The other benefits to these curriculum rich experiences engage the children in rich language that is shared as they describe what they see and feel and in some cases smell. They strengthen their hand muscles as they squish and pour and pull things. They practice science and math skills as they pour from container to container, observe how fast and slow materials pour, listen to the sounds items make, notice if they smell as they also sort and count items.

The children enjoyed having a picnic in the classroom. There was some spilt milk moments and the children helped clean them up. They practice self-help skills such as feeding themselves, opening their containers, cleaning up their lunch spot and guiding their parents to do the same.

Encouraging your Young preschool child to work on self-help skills at home will help them to be more successful with preparing them for such activities as playground time, movement and swim.

Middle Preschool Classroom:

The middle preschool classroom is the time when children are becoming more focused on the social interactions with friends. Many have mastered the self-help skills that they learned in young preschool and now they are practicing their social skills. The children work on such skills as turn taking, entering into active play scenarios, inviting others to join them in play as teachers continue to support these interactions by modeling words and actions for the children to practice to navigate these situations independently.

The children have been exploring a variety of new materials in their new classroom. Children work cooperatively to put together large floor puzzles or table puzzles. Some children are practicing pre writing skills,

others are learning to write their name, while others want to practice their friends' names. Teachers encourage and support children at individual interest levels. They create with a variety of art materials and especially enjoy creating pictures with colored masking tape and of course any painting or gluing project is definitely better with lots of glitter.

The curriculum for September going to focus on "All About Me". The children will share information about who they are and their families. Additionally the children will talk about friendship, helping others and exploring/experimenting with new materials.

Encourage your Middle preschool child to wait for your time when you are completing a task/job. Request a turn with a child's toy to encourage sharing and turn taking within a play activity.

Older Preschool Classroom:

The older preschool classroom has been busy with a flurry of activity as they continue to say goodbye to friends heading to kindergarten and children new to the room explore and find their way around.

This classroom encourages children to work cooperatively with peers to problem solve social issues, utilize flexible thinking to enhance their creativity, take risk with new activities and think differently about familiar ones. Teachers support children by facilitating and guiding dialogue focused on hard four year old topics such as following the lead of others, incorporating/balancing everyone's idea/plan, gaining an understanding of cause and effect of words and actions on others and encouraging children to recognize and celebrate the strengths of others.

The curriculum will focus on the children and their new room. They will engage in activities that offer them opportunities to share who they are. They will talk about families, likes/dislikes as well as putting work into a portfolio that will show growth over the year. They will practice making more independent choices, attempting new tasks and navigating a new room.

Encouraging your Older preschool child to help you with simple family tasks such as setting the table together and picking up his/her toys allows them to practice their cooperation skills. Board games are a great way to spend family time and it supports turn taking, patience and good sportsmanship.

Scholastic Books: Reading books with children is a great way to spend quiet time together before bed, increase literacy development and foster a love of reading. If you like books and want to build your home library you might

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consider visiting the Scholastic Book website for access to affordable books.

Fall swim paperwork is due to Robin by September 2, 2016. Children in preschool who are toilet trained and 2.9 years old may participate. The children swim a combination of 2 days from Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Those days are set for your child based on swim ability and staffing. Young/Middle Pre swim time: 10-10:40, Older Pre swim time:11:20-12.

Museum of Fine Arts visit will be on September 5, 2016 from 10-11 in the individual classrooms. The children will explore the topic of colors and shapes in art. The program encourages a discussion through a story reading, looking at pictures of original works of art and hands on exploration with art materials.

Parent Topic: Safety boundaries

Every family has their own set of tolerances regarding various 'challenging times' during their mornings and evenings. These topics vary from family to family and parents are often advised to 'choose their battles'. Often parents find that once they establish predictable routines and boundaries challenging times become less so. Here at LMACCC there are boundaries in place to support children and families for safety. Encouraging your child to follow the same expectations with you as with their teachers reminds children that safety is important. The following are a few areas of safety that are encouraged for preschool child to follow while at school.

- Walk up and down the stairs holding the railing and alternating feet. (Please do not jump off the stairs upon descent.)
- Require children to wait for a parent at the "mommy, daddy, teacher, doors" as these doors are closed for safety and to keep little fingers safe from squishing.
- Remind your child that they must be by your side as they accompany you through the center. Some of the older children really know their way around the center and often run ahead to a sibling's classroom and although the center is a safe place it is also a busy place at pickup and navigating around young babies and small children as well as parents can be tricky.
- As you are leaving the foyer and heading out the front door please take notice of children who may have been separated from their parents in the rush as well as unfamiliar adults entering.

If you have questions regarding school routines, or you are seeking support with establishing individual home/school routines please feel free to contact me.

Robin Gossels, September 2016