

the discovery center



May 2021

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Is your child starting young 5's or kindergarten this fall? Although it may seem as if fall is still a long way off, it's not too early to begin planning for the transition. If you're like most parents you probably hope that your child will adjust easily to his/her new school situation, and that s/he will be relaxed and eager to learn. With a little thought and preparation, it is possible to help your child get ready to make the change. Here are some tips that might help your child have a smoother transition:

Saying Goodbye:

Because part of getting ready for new experiences is saying goodbye to old ones, you can begin by talking with your child about the fact that this school year is almost over. Children need time to think about that fact before it actually happens. If your child seems concerned about leaving familiar teachers and friends, reassure him/her that you will help them visit or stay in contact with them. Make a scrap book or photo album from his/her experience to share when s/he is feeling a little blue. At The Discovery Center you may also bring a special last day snack to share with the class as a way of saying goodbye to classmates and teachers. Check with one of your child's teachers about what are "okay" snacks to bring and remember our "NO NUT" policy.

Looking Ahead:

Staying in touch with old friends helps with this big transition. So does making new ones. Try to make plans for your child to play with other children from his/her new school during the summer. A familiar face on the first day of school can make a big difference. Making a few trips to the school's playground may help make the surroundings more familiar in the fall. Even peeking inside the building itself will help make the unknown comfortable and exciting.

Know What to Expect:

Everybody likes to have some idea of what to expect. Picture your first day on a new job, not knowing where everything is or just what the routine is. Anything that you can learn prior to beginning probably would make the first day easier. The same is true for your child. Toward the end of the summer, perhaps you can find out the general schedule that the class will follow and use it in a story to tell your son or daughter. If your child asks questions and you're not sure of the answer, say so. It also never hurts to add confidently that the teacher cares about children and will answer all his/her questions on the first day.

How Much to Say:

Although you want your child to look forward to attending a new school, be careful not to overdo enthusiasm. If too much is made out of entering kindergarten, for example, some children become overwhelmed or even frightened at the whole idea. Tell your child simple and truthful facts.

Transitions can be an adjustment. Focusing on the facts, maintaining an excitement about the new experience, and spending a little time in preparation will help along the way.

I wish for everyone a smooth and successful transition!

Warmly,
Debbie



Upcoming Events



Thursday, May 13th 10:15 am
Yellow and Green Classrooms

Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor
On the Nature Playground

Thursday, May 20th 10:15 am
Red and Orange Classrooms

Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor
On the Nature Playground

Thursday, May 27th 10:15 am
Blue and Purple Classrooms

Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor
On the Nature Playground

GROWING IN THE GARDEN!

A garden can work like a savings account for children. But instead of money, they deposit moments of digging, planting, and watering. What do they withdraw? Understanding. Exercise. Nutrition. And the sheer satisfaction of creating something beautiful and useful. Your child can garden in your backyard, a community plot, or on a window sill. Here are some ideas to start with:

Grow a PLEASE PICK Garden: In a container or a small patch of ground, grow flowers that your child is always free to pick. Try zinnias, daisies, or marigolds.

Water and Weed Me Flags: What needs watering today? What needs weeding? Tie streamers of yarn on the ends of sticks. Blue yarn means “Water Me”, and red yarn means “Weed Me”. Move the sticks as needed.

Thirsty Trees: When your child’s wading pool needs emptying, have them scoop up buckets of water and empty them under a tree.

Celebrate Arbor Day: This year, Arbor Day, a day set aside annually for tree planting, is on April 27th. The Arbor Day foundation suggests celebrating by starting a tree seed in a cup, or a seedling in a pot.

Digging is half the fun: Designate a place where your children can dig to their heart’s content.

Plants with Shoes? Your child can make a planter by filling his or her worn-out, outgrown shoes with dirt. Try planting dwarf sunflower seeds in them. The stems look like long legs!

Sandwich Bag Garden: Make a row of four staples across a zip-close plastic bag, about one inch up from the bottom. Have your child fold and dampen a paper towel to place in the bag. Slide a few dry lima beans between the paper towel and the side of the bag. Then tape the bag in a sunny window and watch the roots grow.

Grow a Salad: Leaf lettuce and radishes are easy to grow and can be planted in a small patch of ground or in pots and window boxes. Have your child water seeds with a plant mister every evening and weed from time to time. The whole family can enjoy the results.



12 WAYS TO THANK YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER CELEBRATE TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 3-7, 2021



Smile: Say hello and smile, even when you’re in a hurry.

Talk: You can brighten up a teacher’s morning simply by passing along your child’s enthusiastic comments. Sometimes children will tell their parents about something they like at school, but never mention it to their teachers.

Label: There are few sights more welcome to a teacher on a hectic day than coats and belongings with a child’s name clearly marked on them.

Write: After parent/teacher conferences are over, send a note of thanks for all the time the teacher has put into preparing for them.

Tell a Friend: Say something positive about your child’s teacher to another parent in the class. Positive comments have a way of spreading.

Tell an Administrator: Make time to say something complimentary about your child’s teacher to the director or staff. Sometimes people only go to them with complaints.

Tell the Teacher: Stop in and say something nice about your child’s teacher to—who else?—the teacher her/himself.

Copy It: Write a thank-you note to your child’s teacher for all she/he has done. Then make a copy and ask that it be put in his/her file.

Order: Order lunch for your child’s teacher. **Remember, though, to keep it NUT FREE!**

Fix It: If the zipper on your child’s jacket is broken, or sticks, fix it. It helps when getting 20+ kids ready for outside play.

Make a Card: Home-made ones are always best.

Check the Time: Make it a top priority to arrive on time at the end of the day. Your child’s teacher, like everyone else, has a family, appointments, or errands to get to.

