



the discovery center

May 2018

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW SCHOOL

Is your child starting kindergarten or elementary school 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 10th	10:15 am	Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor
Monday, May 14th	10:00 am	Music with Laz and San (Gemini)
Throughout May and Early June		Parent/Teacher Conferences
Monday, May 28th	Memorial Day	The Discovery Center is closed. Have a great holiday!
Friday, June 15th		Last day for Orange and Yellow Room Programs . Their summer camp programs start on Monday, June 18th.

Brie's Memorial Garden

Some families may not be aware of our beautiful "Memorial Garden" located next to the Blue Room fence, adjacent to the back of the parking lot. This special garden was designed and created by many Discovery Center teachers and families in memory of Brie Kleinschmidt. Brie was a student in our program in 2003. She passed away very unexpectedly, and it was a time of great sadness for us all. We felt it was important to remember her in a special way, and received her family's blessing in creating a special memorial garden to honor and remember her. There are beautiful blooming plants and flowers that provide a reflective and relaxing place for adults and children to enjoy.



If you have an interest in gardening, we would love some help with keeping this area beautiful! Just talk with Debbie :)

Sun Screen and Sun Facts

Did you know?	*Sunlight is the strongest between 10 am and 3 pm? * Water, sand, and snow make the sun's rays stronger? * Clouds don't stop the sun's rays?
When in the sun:	*Use sunscreen with SPF 15 or more. * Wear sunglasses * Put on a hat * Wear clothing for protection and take breaks in the shade

Because sunscreen is most effective when it is applied at least one half hour before directly going out in the sun, we are asking that parents apply sunscreen to their children before they arrive at school. This way they'll be ready for outside play at the beginning of their day. Later in the day, sunscreen will be available in the classrooms and will be applied for those parents who request it for their child. If your child has any special instructions or requirements in regards to sunscreen, please talk with one of your child's teachers. Sunscreen request forms will be posted in the classrooms in the coming week.