



DIRECTOR'S CORNER LOOKING AHEAD TO A NEW SCHOOL

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



Tuesday, May 7th	National Teacher Appreciation Day!
Tuesday, May 21st	Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor Yellow/Green Room
Thursday, May 23rd	Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor Blue/Purple Rooms
Thursday, May 30th	Storytelling with Laura Pershin Raynor Red/Orange Rooms
Monday, May 27th Memorial Day	The Discovery Center is closed. Have a great holiday!
Friday, June 14th	Last day for Orange and Yellow Room Programs . Their summer camp programs start on Monday, June 17th.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

A letter to the teacher!

THANK YOU

for *all* that you did in our classroom today...

For making a million little split second **DECISIONS**

For putting your own needs on hold and keeping us the **FOCUS** of your day.

For **PLANNING** our day long before it ever got started. ★

For **CHANGING** those plans because they didn't fit someone's needs.

For smiling, **LAUGHING WITH US**, and reassuring our efforts, trials, and mistakes.

For placing your hand on our shoulder because you knew it was **EXACTLY** what we needed. ★

For getting down on our level, because **IT MATTERS** to us. ★

For thinking of new ways to **REACH** us when we just don't get it.

For being the **AMAZING** teacher that you are. ★

★ ★ **YOU ARE LOVED.**



We are so incredibly thankful for the amazing and dedicated teachers and staff in our program! They have continued to meet every challenge with patience, creativity, hard work and perseverance. In the coming weeks, we will be getting ready to celebrate "Teacher Appreciation Day" (Tuesday, May 7th) and further information will be shared with opportunities for families who wish to get involved in the celebration. Additionally, if families have any input for this celebration, we would be delighted to have your ideas! Thank you for your unending support! Warm Regards Debbie

"Anyone who does anything to help a child in his life is a hero to me."

- Fred Rogers

