



Director's Corner JULY 2014

Dear Parents, Promoting Independence

While 3- and 4-year-olds still need plenty of parental help, our preschool experts agree that kids are typically able to do more than many of us think. Here's how you can encourage them:

- 1. Expect more.** Most people have a way of living up (or down) to expectations -- preschoolers included. "At school we expect the kids to pour their own water at snack, to throw away their plates, to hang up their jackets -- and they do," says Jennifer Zebooker, a teacher at the 92nd Street Y Nursery School, in New York City. "But then they'll walk out of the classroom and the thumb goes in the mouth and they climb into strollers." Raise the bar and your child will probably stretch to meet it.
- 2. Resist doing for her what she can do herself.** While it may be quicker and easier to do it yourself, it won't help to make your child more self-sufficient. Quick hint: Appeal to her sense of pride, suggests Donna Jones, a preschool teacher at Southern Oregon University's Schneider Children's Center in Ashland, Oregon. "Whenever I'm trying to get kids to dress, put jackets on, sit on chairs during meals and so on, I'll ask them: 'Do you want me to help you or can you do it yourself?' Those words are like magic," promises Jones. "The kids always want to do it for themselves."
- 3. Don't redo what they've done.** If your child makes her bed, resist the urge to smooth the blankets. If she dresses herself in stripes and polka dots, compliment her "eclectic" style. Unless absolutely necessary, don't fix what your child accomplishes, says Kathy Buss, director of the Weekday Nursery School, in Morrisville, Pennsylvania. She will notice and it may discourage her.
- 4. Let them solve simple problems.** If you see your child trying to assemble a toy or get a book from a shelf that she can reach if she stands on her stepstool, pause before racing over to help. "Provided that they are safe, those moments when you don't rush in, when you give children a moment to solve things for themselves, those are the character-building moments," says Zebooker. "It's natural to want to make everything perfect, but if we do, we cheat kids of the chance to experience success."
- 5. Assign a chore.** Putting your preschooler in charge of a regular, simple task will build her confidence and sense of competency, says Buss. A child who is entrusted to water the plants or empty the clothes dryer is likely to believe she can also get dressed herself or pour her own cereal. Just be sure the chore you assign is manageable and that it's real work, not busywork,



since even preschool-

Letters of the Month:
DENIJFLVOX

Color of the Month:
Red White Blue

Numbers of the Month Shape of the month
21-25 **Star**

Tumbleweeds

It's the beginning of July and wow have our babies gotten big! June was very busy for us! We had our first Father's Day! Our babies are learning so much! Carsen and Easton are crawling! Matthew and Chi are eating cereal! Have you seen Chi roll?! Matthew has discovered his tongue. Giovanni is eating more and jibberjabber's like no other! Our big walkers; Jace, Viv, and Scarlett are walking and spending more and more time with 1 year olds. Noah is now eating cereal! Sophia is growing more and is so alert. Our little Angie is crawling and has gotten 3 teeth. Miss Sandy, Miss Teri, Miss Amberly, Miss Vicky & Miss Lori

Blue Birds

It's July already? Time has just flown by! Many of our friends have just or will be turning 2 in the summer months. So many of our Tumbleweed friends are turning 1 and joining us more and more each week! With the summer comes heat and lots of sunshine. We will be applying a lot of sunscreen so if you have specific types you use please being it in labeled with your child's name on it. We will also be giving water at least every hour to keep our little friends hydrated. Happy summer days!
-Miss Ashley, Brittaney & Miss Nayeli & Miss Christine

Wolves

Greetings from the 2's room! Summer is flying by already! We have been busier than ever! From eating S'mores to having a blast during Rodeo week. This month we will be celebrating many birthdays, including the USA's! Remember to wear your patriotic colors on Thursday the 3rd of July. We will also be closed on Friday the 4th. Parents we do ask for you to bring in a water bottle labeled with your child's name on it. We want to keep them hydrated during the day! We look forward to another great summer month!
-Miss Mia & Miss Kayla & Miss Courtney

Rattlesnakes

Hooray for the summer and all of our new friends! There are many new faces in both Rattlesnake classes be sure to say hello! We look forward to the summer activities in store for us including having new turf to play on. We have grown so much and are soaking in all sorts of information. Ask us about camping and what we would see at the rodeo. We are so advanced that we are learning 2 letters a week. Any donations that you can give that have to do with dramatic play are as always appreciated. Please don't forget that each child must have a crib sheet and blanket along with an extra set of labeled clothes. Along those same lines please remember unless it is a share day we do not bring toys from home. And show and tell must coincide with the letter of week.
-Miss Amber, Miss Arden and Miss Kayla

Foxes

Hola Foxes! Summer is officially in full swing here at the Early Learning Center! We would like to remind our parents that we will apply sunscreen at recess. If you would prefer your child use a specific sunscreen, they can bring their own and keep it in their cubby. This month we will be exploring the themes of art, circus, Dinosaurs, and fantasy! We will also continue focusing on 2 letters a week as well as our sight words. We must keep getting ready for kindergarten! Here's to another great month!

Love, Miss Carolina & Miss Morgan & Miss Carinne

Big Horns

Summer Program

Greetings from the Bighorns! Summer has already been quite eventful! Although the weather has not always been cooperative, we have had a lot of fun exploring at the different museums and fun centers in town, swimming at Traner Pool, and getting the high score at the Peppermill Arcade! We have also had the pleasure of being guests at the new Pennington Boys & Girls Club, where we were able to play on their touch screen computers, shoot pool, climb a rock wall and paint on a magic water wall! Just a couple reminders: For morning field trips, please arrive by 9:30am, and if your child would like to eat in the morning, breakfast is served between 8:30-9:00am!

-Always remember to wear the red shirt every day there is a field trip!

-It is preferred that your child wear closed-toed shoes; flip-flops tend to fall off or leave their feet vulnerable to injury!

-We have plenty of toys, so we'd appreciate if your kids left their toys at home!

Let's continue to have an excellent summer! Stay cool, everyone!

Miss Catie & Miss Beth

4th of July Fireworks

What you need and how to make:

1. Red Paint
2. Blue Paint
3. White Paint
4. Colored glitter
5. glue
6. Any color
7. construction paper
8. Paint brush

Instructions:

Take your child's hand paint one red and one white. Stamp their hand a few times onto the paper. Clean one hand and do a red print. Put hands close together as if you are creating petals on a flower or in this case fireworks. She can either shake the glitter on the wet paint or you can let the paint dry and and paint a clear glue over the paint and shake glitter over the painted printed hands. You can also add stars throughout the paper with white or yellow or any other color paint.



July

<i>Hurray for the USA</i> D&E	1	2	3 <i>Wear Red White & Blue</i>	4 <i>Independence Day School Closed</i>	5	6
7 <i>ART Town</i> N & I	9	10	11	12 <i>Crazy Hair Day</i>	13	14
15 <i>Circus</i> J & F	16	17 <i>Dress Like A Clown</i>	18	19	20	21
22 <i>Dinosaurs</i> L & V	23	24	25 <i>Bring a dino book!</i>	26	27	28
29 <i>Fantasy</i> O & X	30 <i>PJ Day</i>	31	<p>EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM E. L. Wiegand Youth Center</p>			
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>Sunday</i>