Shopping & Storytelling

The holiday season involves many trips to the grocery store, which can be difficult with young children. To help make these trips more exciting for your child try incorporating one of the activities below.

1. Go on a letter hunt: Challenge your child to find different letters on the products as you walk through the aisles of the store. With younger children, you can point to the letters of their names as you see them. For older children, ask them to find the letters in their name and then add to this by having them find other letters of the alphabet. This not only reinforces the letters of the alphabet, but also shows your child that letters and words have a meaning.

2. Tell a story: As you shop, tell a story with your child. This story can be something that you make up or a story from your past. You can tell the same story on multiple trips and as your child becomes more familiar with the story, ask them to help you tell it. If your child feels ready, you can have them tell you a story. This is a great way to build our child’s story telling abilities.

3. Make a list: Before you go shopping, have your child make a list of the items that you are going to buy at the store. Bring this list with you and as items are added to the cart, encourage your child to mark them off the list. You can get your child actively involved by having them count out the fruits and veggies or finding the cereal that you buy. Creating lists is a great way for preschoolers to practice their handwriting and keeps them engaged during the shopping trip.

Schilling Presents at NAEYC

Meredith Schilling (Room 142 PreK teacher) was asked to present at NAEYC’s (National Association for the Education of Young Children) Annual Conference in Atlanta Nov. 15-18.

Schilling presented her poster on maintaining accountability to standards while valuing the importance of play throughout the curriculum. Schilling discussed how an authentic, rich, and creative curriculum will naturally align with developmentally appropriate early learning standards.

The annual conference is the largest gathering of classroom teachers and faculty, administrators, researchers, and other practitioners and contributors in early childhood education. It is a great opportunity to help advance our shared work on behalf of children during their most critical period of development and learning.
PARENT DISCUSSION SERIES

The school hosts monthly meetings for families with young children. Below is a schedule preview for our series, where families can discuss topics they selected via survey at Open House with experts in the field. For more information on any of the sessions, please contact our Family Services Team at 614-247-7007 or stop by room 133.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date and Location</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, Jan. 24, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Town Square</td>
<td>Kindergarten Transition</td>
<td>Join the Family Advocacy Team and a Columbus City Schools representative to learn about registration and preparing your child for kindergarten.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Feb. 22, from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m. Room 260</td>
<td>Home and School Literacy Connections</td>
<td>Receive tips on working with your child on reading skills at home from our librarian. Get books and materials to share at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, Mar. 29, from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Dining Room</td>
<td>Infant/Toddler Transition to PreK</td>
<td>Families with children moving from an Infant/Toddler classroom to PreK during the spring and summer will discuss what to expect during the transition, the similarities and differences between infant-toddler and preschool classrooms, and age-appropriate expectations for preschool children.</td>
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HOLIDAY RESOURCES

Various organizations around Columbus offer assistance during the winter holiday season, such as food baskets, toys, clothing, and adopt-a-family programs. Organizations such as “Toys for Tots,” “Firefighters For Kids,” and “HandsOn Central Ohio” are available to local families. While some local programs have restrictions, such as income or neighborhood of residence, other programs are open to all.

Many programs REQUIRE ADVANCE registration in the beginning of December, so be sure to sign up early! To learn more about available programs for your family, contact Alyssa Bennett at Bennett.1174@osu.edu.

EVENTS

**Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**
**P&G Giveaway**, Town Square

**Every Tuesday from 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.**
**Coffee Talk** - drop off your child and enjoy coffee and a snack with staff and other families in the library.

**Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:30 - 11:00 a.m.**
**Community Story Time** in the library for children birth to five years and their parents and caregivers.

SFC CLOSURE DATES

The school is closed for the holiday from Monday, Dec. 25, 2017 through Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. We will re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 2.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OUR MISSION

The Schoenbaum Family Center and Crane Center for Early Childhood Research and Policy

Partnering to improve children’s well-being through research, practice and policy.

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