



The Giving Nest Preschool April Newsletter

Monthly Sing Lesson - "Still Learning"

This month we will discuss accepting and caring for all people, regardless of how they look, act or perform at school. As parents and teachers, we realize that children develop skills at different times; we are also aware that people may excel in one area yet need assistance in another area. These differences are very apparent at the preschool level. Some preschoolers have a difficult time taking turns and sharing while others have difficulty going up and down the slide on the playground and still others have difficulty rhyming or recognizing the letter names. Eventually all the children will catch up and find their strengths and weaknesses. However, at school some differences are noticeable and can be distracting at times, such as the child who has difficulty sitting in his/her chair at circle time or just can't complete a task at this stage of his/her development without constant reminders.

During Sing we will explain this to the children with a small skit involving our staff. One teacher will be a Duckling teacher and five staff members pretended to be Duckling students seated at circle time. Mrs. Hannon will be one of the five Ducklings; she will have a very hard time sitting in her chair and listening to the teacher. She will often leave her chair or fidget and rock back and forth or try to talk to the other pretend students sitting next to her. The teacher continually asks her to sit down but eventually ignores her to finish the lesson. The pretend students then talk loudly among themselves so our students at Sing can hear their comments. One says, "Mrs. Hannon is bad girl, she never listens to the teacher. I don't like her." Another says, "I know and it just isn't fair!"

Mrs. Hannon becomes the director again and asks the children at Sing, "Were the teachers pretend students' words kind?" No. She explains that Mrs. Hannon, the student, didn't want to be called bad and that probably Mrs. Hannon would be happier if she did sit in the chair and listen to the story but right now, she is having a very hard time doing just that. The other students already know how to sit still and listen, but Mrs. Hannon is **just learning** to sit still and listen.

Be
Kind.

The staff will perform the skit again but with a different ending. One teacher acting as a student says, "Oh that Mrs. Hannon, she doesn't listen, and she is bad and it isn't fair!" Another actor answers, "Mrs. Hannon isn't bad she is just learning to sit and listen, someday she will know how to sit and enjoy the story just like we are doing now."

In the past these skits made an impression on our former students. After the skit a group passed the office on the way to the bathroom. One student who habitually strayed from the line, walked away from the group. Before the teacher said anything his classmate with kindness and a smile said, "It is okay he is just learning to walk in a line."

Spring is Here!

The teachers and the children are looking forward to enjoying lots of outdoor time including playing on the playground and taking short walks. During the Spring season we encourage parents to apply sunscreen and bug repellent on the children before they come to school. Please do not send in sunscreen or repellent for the teachers to apply. Most products last up to five hours so applying these in the morning before school should work just fine.

Also remember the children love to climb and jump and run on the playground. Please do not send children to school in sandals or clothes that restrain them from play.

With warmer weather in mind, this might be a good time to switch the change of you have stored in your child's backpack for spills and accidents. These may need to be replaced with more seasonal appropriate clothing, or larger size.



IMPORTANT DATES

School Plays

May 7 th @ 5:15pm	Mrs. Joback (J) Mrs. Donna (D)
May 8 th @ 5:15pm	Mrs. Bruno (K) Mrs. Kenwell (C) Mrs. Kim (I)
May 9 th @ 5:15pm	Mrs. Rosa (L) Mrs. Debbie (F)

Graduations

June 10 th	Mrs. Bruno (K)
June 11 th	Mrs. Kim (I)
June 12 th	Mrs. Joback (J)
June 13 th	Mrs. Rosa (L)