

Upcoming Events and Dates

Children's Museum Field Trip	Friday, Nov. 6 9-11:30am
Board Meeting	Thursday, Nov. 12 6pm
Kindergarten Seminar	Thursday, Nov. 19 5pm
Closed Days	Thursday & Friday, Nov. 25-26
Micawbers Bookstore Fundraiser	Friday, Dec. 4 5:30-8pm
All Center Potluck	Wed, Dec. 9 6pm
Online All Center Evaluations	Due November 30th

Emerging Literacy in Young Children

At CCCC, literacy development is one of the main focuses of our curriculum. Each classroom designs activities to encourage literacy skills and has many features encouraging the goal as well. Each classroom has as many books in the room as there are students, and often more than that. Everyday objects in the rooms are labeled in several different languages. In addition each child's name is written out in several locations for name recognition; their cubby, bathroom area, name card, as well as on art posted on the walls.

Teachers are reading books to children often during the day. Each classroom though has limitations to when books are read during free choice. We need to have enough staff in the room to supervise the children and accomplish the daily tasks and routines (diapers, notes and bathroom shifts). When daily tasks and routines are accomplished, one teacher can supervise while the other reads. When a teacher is available to read, very often this person will read as many books as the children listening want to pick out. In the preschool classrooms most group times involve a teacher reading or telling a story to the children. Each classroom uses tape stories daily as well.

Things which encourage young children to enjoy literacy include making it a choice whether or not to participate in reading, accepting children's interests both during and after the reading, sharing books with small groups, and the adult expressing enthusiasm and excitement about reading.

Younger toddlers may begin literacy development by sharing pictures in a book with an adult. When sitting down to read a story, they may just want to look at the pictures instead of listening to the words. Young children may use books to share their thinking process with the teacher; for example, they may point to a picture of a tricycle and then point at the window where our tricycles are kept to demonstrate the connection. As toddlers grow into preschoolers, they will begin to memorize the words of a favorite story, and often role play as the teacher by holding the book up for others to see while they recite its story.

Continued on back page.....

Emerging Literacy in Young Children continued

As preschoolers mature, they develop phonological awareness. This skill allows them to begin to rhyme words and sounds and to understand the concept of words having syllables. Ways to encourage your child's phonological skills include making rhymes (Saying "I see a bicycle" and encouraging your child to guess bicycle, or singing a familiar song but starting every word with the same letter "Me My Me My Moh.")

As your preschooler matures, you can also play the broken word game. Take a multi syllable word and break it into its parts. Recite them slowly with pauses and see if your child can put them back together and know what you mean (i.e. mo--tor--cy--cle). As your child gets the hang of this they will eventually be able to break down long words on their own but this skill is trickier for children to master.

These are some things parents/caregivers can do at home or in the car to get their child thinking about language in a way that will help them develop the skills they need to become a reader. Just remember that the most important thing you can share is your own appreciation and enthusiasm about reading.

Written by Amy Randall

Activities that Promote a Love of Books

Sharing picture books is a wonderful way to begin a child's lifelong love of books and reading. There are many things that can be done at home and school to help children develop this!

- ~ Snuggle while reading a story.
- ~ Use books as skill builders.
- ~ Make your own books.
- ~ Be dramatic! Vocal expressions are exciting!
- ~ Choose interactive books.
- ~ Introduce your child to a variety of different types of books.
- ~ Take trips to the library.
- ~ Convey your love of books.

Educational Seminars at CCCC

At CCCC we like to offer as many opportunities as possible for parents/caregivers to connect while also providing Center and specific topic information. These seminars are an informal way to meet new faces around CCCC and gain further information about CCCC's policies and activities as well as other educational topics. I have listed below the date and time for the next upcoming seminar. Please let Tracie know if you would like to see other topics presented. We love new ideas!!

Kindergarten Seminar: Thursday, November 19

Topics covered:
 How to apply for kindergarten
 How to choose a school
 How to prepare for the transition.

Phone: 651-645-8958



