



April/May 2017

Lollipop Reporter

**** Calendar Notes ****

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Apr. 3 (Mon.) - Monthly tuition due
Apr. 10 thru 14 (Mon. to Fri.) - NO SCHOOL - Spring break
May 1 (Mon.) - Last monthly tuition due
May 12 (Fri.) - Last day of school

Spring is in the air

Looking ahead to the early spring months, we've got lots of fun in store. April always brings the celebration of life and new growth. Classes will be helping us plant flowers on the playground once the threat of snow moves out. As the weather warms up, we will be spending more time outside...dress children accordingly. Watch that light jackets do not have drawstrings. Also, remember that we have different surfaces on the playground, so if children wear sandals or Crocs they will be susceptible to mulch and small rocks getting into their shoes. Closed toe and/or tennis shoes are preferable for this reason.



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Summer Camps - Fun in the sun

We have three wonderful camps scheduled for this summer that your children will not want to miss! The first camp is the week of June 12 - 16th and will see the playground transformed into an Art extravaganza. There will be lots of art opportunities that will blow their mind. The second camp is the week of July 10 - 14th and is Mad Science camp. There are lots of fun, messy science stuff that we can do outdoors. Your children will experience science in a hands-on way that will encourage them to think through processes as well as laugh with others. The third camp begins on July 31st and goes to August 4...backyard fun! Lots of water and fun involved this week; we may even be able to persuade the Fire Department to visit with the truck to show us its stuff!

Sign-up sheets are available on the website www.firstpresby.com OR you can pick one up in the preschool office. Sign up soon...we have limited space available.



Keep Your Youngsters On The Go

Clearly, movement is very important for helping children grow healthy and strong. However, as children explore and interact with the world through movement, they are also developing thinking and communications skills, as well as self-confidence. Through movement, children can develop a closer bond with their parents. There are many fun ways you can encourage your youngsters to get moving:

- Follow their movements. Babies and toddlers love when you imitate them. It makes them feel important.

- Put on different types of music and move to the beat with your young child in your arms.

- Describe your child's actions as she dances to the music. *"Look how you bounce to the beat."* This not only helps her learn new words, but also instills a sense of pride that her actions are noticed.

- Songs like *Itsy Bitsy Spider* can help develop the use of fingers and hands.

- Play with balls of all sizes. Figure out together which ones are best to kick, throw, play catch with and roll on.

What is STEM in the preschool classroom?



"A lot of knowledge and experience is represented in the classrooms here..."

A lot of talk has been going on recently about STEM - Science Technology Engineering Math. (Most recently, they've added Art, so you may see the acronym STEAM). But how can we appropriately introduce those concepts to our young students in preschool?

STEAM is an integrated approach to learning which fits into our Creative Curriculum approach nicely. Teaching concepts of science, math, art, technology and engineering with the STEAM approach involves intentional teaching which poses questions and ideas to young children to help them think through processes and problems.

Many tools are available to help teachers begin to incorporate these teaching techniques in their classrooms. Recently, we were able to purchase STEM approved activity toys with the Scholastic dollars from our recent Book Fair. Activity sets that offer children ways to learn force and motion, and one that allows them to build simple machines are already in our rooms. But it's the interaction that adults provide while children are exploring these sets that make the STEAM/STEM experience enriching for the students. Groundwork is being laid for interest in these areas by showing young children that learning science, math, engineering, technology and art principles are fun and rewarding.

Check us out on Facebook

Facebook page [First Presbyterian Preschool, Charleston WV](#)

Check it out to see some of the fabulous stuff that is happening in the school. Continue to get updates...press "like"



Let's Move: Warm Weather Fun

When the weather is warm, play outside together! You don't need to spend money to fit active fun into your family life:

*Create sidewalk art with color chalk or "paint" with water brushes.

*Chase shadows in the summer sun or the light of a full moon.

*Visit a farmer's market and talk about foods. Buy something to prepare at home.

*Run through the garden sprinkler!

*Splash in a pool, lake, or slow clear stream.

*Fly a kite

*Blow bubbles and safely follow wherever they go.

*Enjoy a playground.

*Plan a wash day and include wagons, bicycles, and other outside toys.



Growing Things in the Spring

Children enjoy growing things in the spring. The quickest and easiest seeds to grow are grass or alfalfa. They tend to grow almost anywhere as long as they're watered regularly and have sunlight. Here are some easy projects for children using seeds:

-Potato head. Cut a section off the bottom of a potato so it will stand up on a plate. Cut a section off the top of the remaining potato. Place two cotton balls in the top, water them and sprinkle with seeds. Carve out a face on the potato and place in a sunny spot. Viola! Watch Mr. Potato's hair grow.

-Caterpillar. Cut a small green sponge or terry cloth into a long skinny shape to resemble a caterpillar. Sprinkle on some seed, water and set it in the sunlight. Keep the base damp. Watch the caterpillar grow.

-Cup face. Fill a Styrofoam cup full of dirt. Decorate the cup so it resembles a face. Sprinkle grass seeds on top and watch it grow.



*I tried to teach my child with books, he gave me only puzzled looks,
I tried to teach my child with words, they passed him by, often unheard.
Despairing I turned aside, "How shall I teach this child?" I cried.
Into my hands he put the key, "Come," he said, "play with me!"*

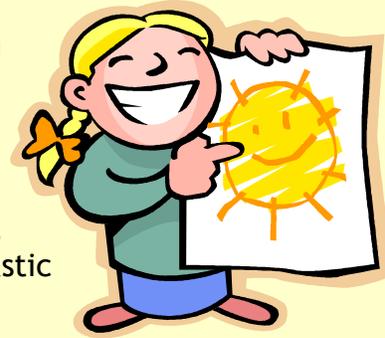


Learning together: Making Fruit Shape Kebabs

Young children learn mathematical concepts best through hands-on activities. Help your child learn about shapes by making a sweet, healthy snack together.

What You Need:

-any type of fresh or canned fruit, such as grapes, apples, orange sections, bananas, pears or pineapple chunks - plastic knives - small bowls - paper plates - bamboo skewers



What You Do Together:

First, cut the fruit into a variety of shapes. Your child can help by peeling and slicing a banana, cutting an apple into cubes, pulling the grapes off their stems, or pouring out the canned fruits. Next, together sort the fruits into separate bowls and have a taste test. Talk about the different flavors and textures. Which fruits does your child like most? Least? Which are your favorites? Then sort the contents of the bowls into shape categories. Which are circles? Squares? Other shapes? Compare the shapes of the cut fruit with their original shapes. Then, slide the fruit shapes onto bamboo skewers to create different patterns. As you do so, talk about the kinds and number of shapes you're each using and the patterns you're creating. Cut new shapes from the fruits, such as half circles from banana slices or grapes, as you go. Enjoy your snack together. Another time, try making vegetable kebabs with carrots, celery, green peppers or other favorite vegetables. With any luck, your child will love these too.

Clothing Caution:



Drawstrings on clothing pose a risk of strangulation from playground equipment and other apparatus that might snare the drawstring. If a child arrives at school with a drawstring on their outer clothing, we are required to remove the string or the entire article of clothing. Please watch for these types of risks when getting your children ready for school.

Also remember that running shoes are appropriate on the days that the children have gym. Slick bottom shoes and sandals can pose risks to children when running on a polished floor is required. Check with your teachers if you are unsure which days your child goes to gym.