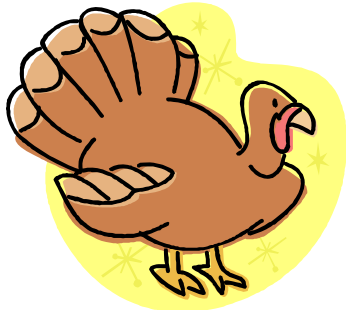




November 2011



St. James' Nursery School News

Calendar of Events

11/1: Joe Corbi orders and payments due in this week. Late orders and payments can be turned in until November 9th

11/3 or 4: Pre-K 4's fieldtrips to Sharp's Farm

11/3-12/6: The Great Bedtime Story PJ Drive

11/7: Last Parent Volunteer Training at 9:15

11/7: Mt. Airy Volunteer Fire Company visits the Pre-K classes

11/8: Joe Corbi orders due in no later than this day

11/8: Bookmobile visit

11/9, 10, & 11: Individual Picture Days

11/14 and 15: Joe Corbi Delivery and Pickup Days

11/14-18: American Education Week! Please know that you are always welcome to visit!!

11/16-17: Chapel Times for 3's and Pre-K 4's

11/18 - 22: Thanksgiving Celebrations

11/20: Westminster Bell Ringers Concert at St. James

11/23-25: Nursery Closed for Thanksgiving



From the Director's Desk

Our staff in-service training on using American Sign Language in the classroom was fantastic! We really enjoyed learning the signs to use with several songs in the classroom and to help with classroom management. The teachers started incorporating the use of signs into the program right away. The possibilities are endless and I think we are all enthused to use sign language while teaching letters, numbers, colors, and while enjoying songs and movement. Check out our trainer, Kathy MacMillan, in a youtube.com video as she signs the finger play "Five Little Monkeys"!!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5tM5vd7hts>

I would like to thank, in advance, the Mount Airy Volunteer Fire Company for their upcoming visit to our school on November 7th to speak with the Pre-K 4's. Also, my appreciation is extended to the Mt. Airy Ace Hardware Store for making a donation of 50 paint stirrers to our school teacher resource library! We are blessed to live and work in such a supportive community.

I wanted to share the attached article on sensory play in early childhood classrooms. Each classroom has a 'sensory table' where children take part in hands-on discovery and learning.

I hope you all have a lovely Thanksgiving and November!

Pat

Fall brings cooler weather and that means that children need to wear warmer clothes and have jackets with them in order to play comfortably outside.

The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive

Dear Parents,

Last year caring classrooms and schools, including St. James, across the country have donated almost 93,000 pairs of pajamas and Scholastic Book Clubs matched every single pair with a new book.

Again this year, Scholastic Book Clubs and the nonprofit Pajama Program have joined forces again to bring us The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. The mission of this drive is to provide children in need brand-new pajamas and books—these are children who live in group homes, shelters, foster care, and orphanages.

Our school wants to help these children in need. Together we can help The Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive reach its new goal of 125,000 pajamas.

If you and your child are able to participate, please have your child bring in a new pair of pajamas to school by sometime between **November 3 and December 6, 2011.**

Here are some simple guidelines for the pajamas:

Pajamas must be brand-new.

Pajamas in all sizes are needed—from newborn to adult.

Pajamas must be in complete sets or nightgowns.

Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—

this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe.

Thank you for helping us share the gift of a good night's sleep and a sweet bedtime story.

St. James' Nursery School Staff



Pizza and Dessert Pick-up Reminder

Joe Corbi orders **must** be picked up on your assigned date, either **Monday, November 14th** or **Tuesday, November 15th** between 11:00 and 1:00. Watch for a reminder note to come home.

All orders must be picked up on this day. We do not have the facilities to refrigerate pizza kits.

Thank you so much for your cooperation in the fund raiser. Call the office, 301-829-0014 if you have any questions.

eScrip

If you have not already done so, please register for eScrip on-line at escrip.com and choose St. James' Nursery School (group id# 155428931) to benefit from your purchases. Thank you!



November Chapel Schedule

Chapel Time with Rev. Portia
November 16

Chapel Time with Ms. Pat
November 17

This month's chapel is about being thankful. Please feel free to join us.

Westminster Ringers

Sunday, November 20th
at 4 p.m.

Handbell Holiday--Celebrate the Journey concert on your calendar now and invite friends! Children love this concert and the ringers are happy to show children the bells afterward. A nice grandparent/grandchild outing! Adults \$15, Seniors (65+) \$12, and Children (up to 12 years) \$10. There is a \$2 per ticket discount for advanced purchase.

Mt. Olive United Methodist Church Annual Holiday Bazaar!

The home of our Annex location is the Mt. Olive United Methodist Church on 2927 Gillis Fall Road. They will be having their annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 5th. Breakfast will be served between 7:00 and 10:00 and lunch will be served between 11:00 and 2:00.

November Programs at the Mount Airy Library!!

Dino Science

Ages 3 – 7

Tuesday, 11/8/2011, 2:00 PM

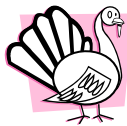
Rawr! Join us as we share a dinosaur themed book then take part in some hands-on science experiments and other fun prehistoric activities.

Let's Pretend – Vet's Office!

Ages 3 – 7

Tuesday, 11/22/2011, 2:00 PM

Who are the people in your neighborhood? Get ready to use your imagination as we visit places in our community without ever leaving the library. First we'll read a book then transform the room and start using our imaginations. Pretend play helps teach literacy skills and is lots of fun! Children age 3 must be accompanied by an adult caregiver. This program is sponsored in part by a Community Arts Development Grant from the Carroll County Arts Council and the Maryland State Arts Council.



Fat Turkey's Song

(tune: "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Oh, gobble, gobble, gobble,
Fat turkeys, fat turkeys.
Oh, gobble, gobble, gobble,
Fat turkeys are we.
We walk very proudly and gobble so
loudly,
Gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble, gobble.
Oh, gobble, gobble, gobble.
Fat turkeys are we.

Preschoolers in the Kitchen

Special American Mini Pies

- 2 cans refrigerated biscuits
 - 3 apples
 - ½ cup raisins
 - ¼ cup sugar
 - 1 teaspoon cinnamon
 - toaster oven
 - paring knife
1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
 2. Cut the apples into bite-size pieces.
 3. Invite your child to mix the apples with the sugar, raisins, and cinnamon.
 4. Help your child use the palm of his or her hand to flatten each biscuit and place a spoonful of the apple filling in the middle.
 5. Help your child fold the biscuit in half (turnover style). Seal the edges with your fingers.
 6. Invite your child to arrange the mini pies on the greased cookie sheet.
 7. Place the cookie sheet in the oven and bake until pies are golden brown.



**Warm, loving, predictable,
positive relationships help
children's brains grow.**

Parents and caregivers can best meet a child's needs by providing a healthy, loving, safe, and emotionally balanced home/child care environment.

A beneficial brain friendly approach involves:

- Clear expectations and limits set with consistency
- Redirecting the activity or behavior
- Saying no, while accepting the child's feelings
- Giving reasons for rules
- Assist children in developing vocabulary to express feelings
- Acknowledging positive behavior

Debbie Burren-Walker
Brain Development
and Activities to
Foster It Training

**Please "like" St. James'
Nursery School on
Facebook.
Thank you!!**

**Free Little Hands Signing
Programs in Eldersburg, MD**

Little Hands Signing brings the magic of sign language to you and your child through age-appropriate stories, songs, activities, and games, along with tips and tricks for caregivers on using signs in everyday activities. Each theme-based class will introduce and reinforce signs from a young child's world. Because our classes use American Sign Language, you and your child can learn another language together, with benefits to last a lifetime. Best of all, it's so much fun, you won't even realize you're learning!

Carroll County, MD: Eldersburg
Carroll County Public Library
Eldersburg Branch
6400 West Hemlock Drive
Eldersburg, MD 21784
(410) 795-3520

Baby Class (for ages birth-24 months w/adult): Fridays at 9:45 AM
Toddler Class (for ages 2-4 w/adult): Fridays at 10:45 AM
November 4: Bedtime Signs
November 25: People Signs
Drop-in classes (no registration required)

For more information, see
library.carr.org

St. James' Episcopal Church **QUARTER MANIA FUNDRAISER**

DATE: Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011

Time: Doors open @ 6pm and game starts @ 7pm

Held at: St. James' Episcopal Church

1307 N. Main St., Mt. Airy, MD 21771

Cost: \$5.00 Reserved Advance tickets – will receive 2 game paddles

Door Admissions (if available): \$8.00 – will receive 1 game paddle

Extra paddles cost \$2.00 each

NO REFUNDS – EVERYONE PAYS AT THE DOOR, BUT CALL FOR YOUR ADVANCE SEATS!



Food & Refreshments Available

To reserve your tickets or for more information call: Judy 240-674-1961 or e-mail

jcque116@hotmail.com OR quarter2011@yahoo.com

(put in subject area "quarter mania" or it will not be opened)

Vendors to include, but not limited to, and subject to change without notice:

****lia sophia jewelry***

****Candy Bouquet***

****Tastefully Simple***

****Longaberger***

****Tupperware***

****Pampered Chef***

****Handyman Tools***

****Avon***

****Catherine Crafts***

****Judy's Creations***

****Tealightful Treasures***

70-80 Prizes to be given away with

40 paid admissions

Less than 40, number of prizes given away will be adjusted



Sensory Experiences Can Be Messy Fun

By Angie Dorrell

Sticky, slippery, gooey, heavy, bumpy...that's what sensory experiences are made of. Learning and retention improve depending upon how many of our senses are engaged. Many of our favorite memories involve multiple senses. When thinking about my grandma, for example, I remember the smell of the flowers in her garden; I can see her wearing her favorite outfit; I remember how her gooseberry pie tasted; and even how the sofa felt.

Sensory activities provide children with another meaningful avenue for learning. Sensory tables or several tubs rotated regularly with wondrous sensory materials are worthwhile investments for hours of learning, exploring, and fun. Because children learn best by having "hands on" experiences with materials, sensory experiences are vital to young children's learning. Imagine trying to teach a group of four-year-olds about melting by having them watch an ice cube melt in your hand or as a grown up, learning how to use a new computer program without actually working on it!

While sensory materials are very rewarding for young children, they also present unique challenges for teachers. The rest of this article provides insight into the different types of learning that occurs during sensory experiences, activity and materials ideas, and practical tips for using sensory materials.

Cognitive Development

As children experiment with different sized containers in cornmeal or sand, they develop math skills such as size, conservation, counting, timing (how long it takes the sand to sift versus the dirt), matching (finding the same size or shape beans or buttons), and classifying and sorting (what are buttons, beans, macaroni). As children manipulate the materials, they learn to understand concepts such as more/less, full/empty and sink/float.

Science concepts such as cause and effect (what happens when water is added to dirt), gravity (water comes down the funnel not up), and solid to liquid (cornmeal and water mixture) are also explored.

Children have the opportunity to work on their problem-solving and decision-making skills as they determine how they are going to use the materials. For example, children decide how to build a boat that will float, how to turn the whipped cream green, or how to make the sand stick together.

Language Development

For children to appreciate and fully utilize their language skills, they must have experiences interesting enough to talk about. Sensory experiences are exciting because each child can use the materials differently. Children also develop pre-writing skills as they pour, spoon, grasp, and work on eye-hand coordination tasks as they use the materials.

Social and Emotional Development

Sensory experiences provide children with the opportunity to feel good about their decision-making skills - they control their actions and the experience. Self-discovery occurs as children become eager scientists. They take pride in their predictions, make observations, and respond to their findings. In addition, children learn to cooperate and work together around the sensory table. As the children work together or side-by-side, they learn to understand someone else's viewpoint. The children also have the opportunity to express themselves and become confident in sharing their ideas with others. Children need an opportunity to try out their emerging concepts about their world in a safe environment as well as have appropriate outlets for relieving tension. Pounding, squishing, feeling water through their hands are all ways of staying in contact with feelings while learning to control what he does about them.

Physical Development

Children reinforce and practice their small motor skills while pouring, measuring, stirring, whisking, and manipulating the materials. They learn to control their bodies and give their bodies directions to accomplish tasks as they explore. Gross motor skills are refined as children explore, usually outside, with running through

a sprinkler, examining surfaces with hands and feet, or foot painting.

Creative Development

Sensory experiences provide open-ended opportunities where the process is more important than the product - how children use the materials is much more important than what he makes with them. Using creative thinking skills and expressing one's creativity are important self-esteem builders.

Mediums and Materials

Supplies for sensory exploration are usually easy to gather and inexpensive. The following lists provide suggestions for mediums to fill your sensory table or tubs with and materials to add to the experience. Select items that complement your curriculum, are of interest to the children, and are safe for the age of the children involved.

Mediums

Water
Sand (dry and/or wet)
Dirt (dry and/or wet)
Cornmeal
Rice
Macaroni
Soybeans
Sawdust
Cornstalks
Dried beans
Fingerpaint with additives (sand, glycerin, sawdust)
Homemade sieves (poke holes in foam trays)
Fingerpaint in sealed plastic bags
Scents (almond or mint extract)
Shaving creme (not mentholated)
Playdough
Clay
Confetti
Putty
Whipped Cream
Foam pieces

Materials

Basters
Whisks
Waterwheels
Ice cubes (add food coloring)
Tongs
Plastic tubing with stoppers
Aquarium rocks
Shaped sponges
Jelly worms (the kind used for fishing)
Seashells
Whipped soap flakes
Food coloring
Wooden blocks
Cooking utensils (measuring cups, spoons, funnels, etc)
Plumbers' joints and pipes
Gelatin molds
Combs
Vehicles
Funnels and sifters
Different kinds of bowls and containers
Cardboard tubes
Plastic eggs
Buttons
Spools
Dollhouse furniture

Dishwashing detergent
Rocks and pebbles
Ping-pong balls
Straws
Pump and squeeze bottles
Corks
Wind-up bath toys
Buckets and pails

Recipes for Sensory Materials

Magic Goop

1. Mix 1 part cold water and 3 parts cornstarch with hands in the sensory table or bus tub.
2. If the mixture doesn't dissolve in your hands, then add more water. If the mixture is too runny, add more cornstarch.
3. Store in an open container and leave to dry; the mixture will solidify. To use again, add water and mix to the desired consistency. It will last indefinitely when stored properly.

Perfect Putty

1. Mix 1 part liquid starch and 2 parts white glue. Experiment with the amounts until it reaches the consistency of putty.
2. The more glue that is added, the more flexible the material; the more liquid starch added, the more brittle the putty will become.
3. Refrigerate in an airtight container to store; it usually doesn't last more than a few days.

Helpful Hints

- Use a vinegar and water solution to quickly clean up shaving creme or try a large Styrofoam drinking cup - the shaving cream will adhere to the outside of the cup as you move it across the table surface in a circular motion.
- To avoid slippery and messy floors under the table, add an indoor/outdoor carpet or doormat a little bigger than the table. It can be rolled up and shaken outside for easy clean up and also dries easily.
- Plan to control the amount of mess (using a floor covering or smocks), leave enough time for clean-up and talk with the children ahead of time about the number allowed at the table at one time.
- Providing enough time, space and materials will help prevent a lot of problems and also encourage the children to be as independent as possible.
- Be certain that all materials are safe. Never use any breakable materials or items that present a choking hazard for children under the age of four.
- To optimize the learning experience, don't answer questions too readily. Encourage the children to experiment and find out the answer themselves or to get assistance from their neighbor.
- Carefully consider the use of foodstuffs (cornmeal, beans, macaroni, dried corn, etc.) as it pertains to your community. In some regions and cultures the use of food items as play materials may be offensive.

Angie Dorrell, M.A., serves as a NAEYC accreditation validator and former commissioner. She is the proud mother of two young daughters.



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