



PCHC Spotlight

May 2010

MAY NEWS

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May is for Mothers

Mothers work hard and we think you are special all year, but we want to celebrate you on Monday, May 10th. Please plan to enjoy muffins, coffee and juice when you drop off your child. Hopefully this will give you a good start to your day. Happy Mother's Day!

Fundraising Supper – May 19th (5:00-7:00)

Please sign up in your child's classroom and choose one of the meal options. Family and friends are also welcome. Remember, the proceeds from this event will allow us to improve both playgrounds. We need dessert donations and if you could bring items for the raffle, it would be much appreciated. We will be selling raffles tickets at \$1 each. Each family will be given one booklet of 10 tickets to sell. The family that sells the most tickets will be given 10% off one week tuition for one child only. If there are more than two families, a drawing will take place to determine the two families that will have the 10% discount. We already have some great items. I am anticipating that this will be fun for everyone!

Summer Activities

The deposit of \$75.00 is due for your child's summer activity fee. The balance is due by the end of May. We have some great activities planned and we look forward to providing your children with many opportunities to learn while having fun. **We will be closing at 2:00 pm instead of 12 noon on June 11th to prepare for the summer. Please be sure to make arrangements for early pick up.**

As always, if you have any questions, concerns or compliments, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Ms. Pat (Director)
 pseiple@homeworkcenters.com

Referral Program

PCHC now offers a \$50 credit to current families who refer new families to the Center. Contact Ms. Pat for detailed information about the program

PCHC accepts credit card payments for tuition. You may pay by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Credit card payments are processed on Mondays each week.

May Birthdays

Congratulations to:

9 – Connor	20 – Bradley
22- Katie McD	22- Jimmy
22 – Mikaela	26 – Kaylee
26 – Haylee	30 – Emma H.
30 – Eric	



Classroom Updates

Incredible Infants

This month our theme is " I am Special ". We want to celebrate each individual child and what they can do. A big congratulations to Gregory, Amaiya and Jayden for their walking achievements. Michael is also doing a fabulous job and will be rolling over soon. We also want to welcome our new friend Rowen who has a sweet personality and his smile brightens the room. We also want to welcome our new classroom teacher, Ms. Lauren, who starts on May 3rd.

Thank you, Ms. Dar

Tiny Toddlers

Our theme this month is "I am Special ". Our concept focus is independence. Toddlers are very proud of their achievements, big and small. We will practice feeding ourselves and using table manners. We will also learn about our feelings, five senses, and body parts. Our class will play games such as: "Monkey See, Monkey Do and I can Clap, How About You?"

Be sure to bring a jacket each day because we will be going outside on a regular basis.

Thank you, Ms. Kristy

Terrific Twos

As we move into the warmer climate, our May focus will be on **Fun in the Sun**. The purpose of this theme is to have our twos become more familiar with the beach environment. Our children will discover and explore beach items as well as small and large ocean animals. We will include art and sensory activities such as beach balls, dolphins, sea horses, sponge painting and more.

Also, please welcome our new teacher, Ms. Kia. She will be working 8:00-5:00 each day.

Ms Sarah and Ms. Kia

Talented Threes

Our monthly theme for May is going to be bugs. We will be learning about spiders, caterpillars, butterflies, ants, bees, and many more. If you have any books about bugs, please feel free to bring them in to share with our class. We always enjoy new books. We will be finishing up our alphabet this month with the letters V, W, X, Y, and Z. We are also learning the numbers 8, 9, and 10. We will be working on something special for moms and grandmas to show them how much we love them.

As always if you have any questions feel free to ask or contact me at awalker@homeworkcenters.com

Please don't forget to update your child's clothing since we are starting to have warm weather.

Thank you
Ms. Mandi and Ms. Jackie

Fabulous Fours

We have planned to be busy little bee's this month. We will finish out the Alphabet by reviewing A-Z. Other weekly themes will include a variety of math skills such as Greater Than/ Less Than, Addition and Subtraction. Also, we will continue to add words to our word wall. Starting this month, our weekly Show and Tell will be based on a letter. Our goal is to expand our knowledge of beginning phonics, by bringing in things that start with a particular letter. We have already begun working on a song to perform for graduation. We have picked a really fun song, and will continue practicing daily.

Just a reminder we prefer tennis shoes or other closed toe shoes that strap around the heel for the playground. If your child will be wearing flip flops we ask that you send a pair of shoes to change into for outdoor play. We have noticed in years past that flip flops prohibit children from running safely on the mulch and blacktop. The mulch also tends to get stuck in their shoes causing injuries to the feet. Last year many parents choose to leave an old pair of tennis shoes in their child's cubby. This helped eliminate the need to remember a change of shoes. As always we are here to listen. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to share with us. On top of our cubbies we have a communication log if you would like to jot down a message to make sure it's passed along to us in a timely fashion. This may be a wonderful resource to utilize.

Thank you - Ms. Alicia and Ms. Robyn

Sensational School- agers

We are coming to the end of a very successful school year. The children have mastered all the resources in the room. Even the younger children are working independently. We will continue to assist the children to be the best they can be. The homework load has gotten easier so now we have more time for crafts and outside play. Please remember no open toe shoes on the playground. This is for the safety of your children. As we prepare for an awesome summer program, if you have not already, let me know if you will **not** be attending! Our spots are filling up fast!

Thank- you, Ms. Mac, Ms. Jenna & Ms. Amber

LITERACY – CREATIVE CURRICULUM – PART II

In last month's article, we explored the importance of literacy in early childhood experiences, what research tells us, new mandates and expectations of early literacy programs, and *The Creative Curriculum* approach to early literacy. This month, we will explore some of the components of literacy.

An understanding of the components is necessary in order for teachers to observe children effectively and to analyze and evaluate their development. The teacher can decide which strategies and activities will best support the literacy development of an individual child or group of children. Parents too can support their children at home based on their child's needs, strengths, and weaknesses.

The seven components of literacy are:

- Literacy as a source of enjoyment
- vocabulary and language
- Phonological awareness
- Knowledge of print
- Letters and words
- Comprehension
- Books and other texts

Literacy as a source of enjoyment:

- When children enjoy having books read to them and when they are excited about what they are hearing and learning, they are motivated to learn to read, and later, to read to learn.
- As most preschoolers are not yet readers, the goal for these emergent readers is to introduce them to the power and pleasure of literacy.
- A love of reading can begin long before a child starts formal school when parents hold their child and reads aloud, the child begins to experience reading as a pleasurable activity.
- A child who enjoys literacy activities will more than likely participate during interactive read aloud times, notice print in the environment, ask questions about the meaning of print, and spend time reading once he or she is able.

Vocabulary and Language

- Oral language is the foundation of literacy. Through speech, children learn to organize their thoughts and ideas. To acquire literacy skills, children transition from oral language to written language.
- Written language both reading and writing requires a well-developed vocabulary and a good understanding of the rules and structure of oral language.

- Language is a system of words with rules for their use in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

There are four kinds of vocabulary:

Listening vocabulary – the words to use to help us understand the language we hear

Speaking vocabulary – the words to use to express ourselves orally

Reading vocabulary – the words to use to help us understand what we read

Writing vocabulary – the words to use to express ourselves in writing

When children are learning to read, they use their listening and speaking vocabularies to make sense of printed words.

Phonological Awareness:

- Phonological awareness is hearing and understanding the different sounds and patterns of spoken language.
- Phonological awareness begins with *listening to sounds* in the environment. The next skills are *rhyming* and *alliteration*. For preschool children, rhyming requires recognizing the sounds in the endings of words. Alliteration involves hearing similar initial sounds, such as in *big beautiful buttons*.
- After becoming aware of the beginning and ending of sounds in words, children can be helped to hear the separate **syllables** in words.
- Another way to explore how words are put together is by examining **onset** and **rime**. Onset refers to the sounds before the first vowel in a syllable and rime is the rest of the syllable, from the first vowel to the end.

Knowledge of Print:

- To make sense of written language, children need to understand how sound, words, and sentences are represented in writing.
- Children's development of print knowledge varies according to their interests and experience with language.
- Children begin to understand that print carries meaning but that written language is different from oral language.
- Print serves a number of purposes (functions), has distinct features (forms) and forms and is organized in a particular way (conventions).
- It is important to introduce preschool children to a variety of texts.

In part III, we will explore the three remaining components of literacy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com

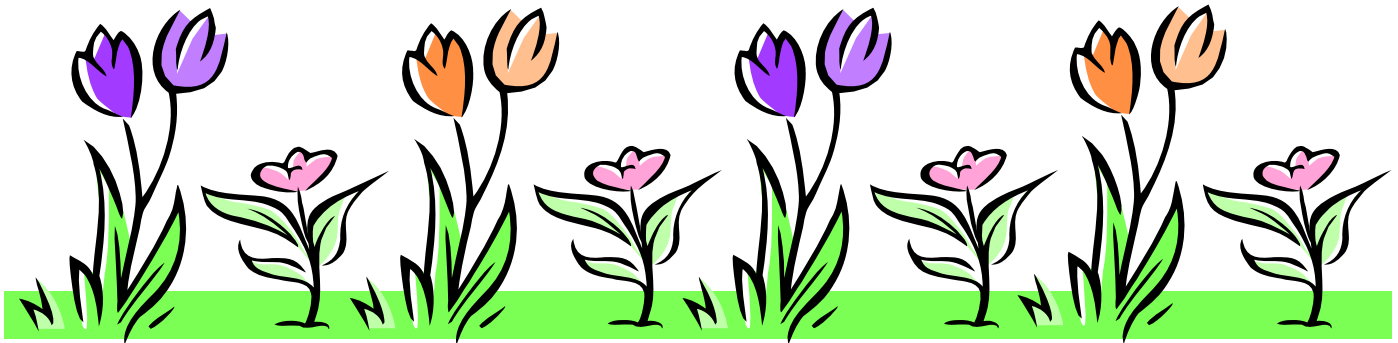
Reference:

Literacy, *The Creative Curriculum Approach* (2007); Teaching Strategies, Washington DC.

Upcoming Events

May 2010

May 5	Cin'co de May'o
May 10	Mother's Day Celebration at PCHC – Muffins for Moms
May 19	Family Fun Night and fundraising supper – 5:00-7:00
May 27-28	AACPS Schools Closed for Kindergarten only – Children may attend PCHC
May 31	PCHC Closed for Memorial Day
June 15	Last day of school for AACPS
June 21	Summer Program begins



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