



# THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

April 2024

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

## Looking Ahead:

- 4/2 Classes Resume**
- 4/3 Fun Friday Registration Starts-Mad Scientists**
- 4/8 NO SCHOOL - Eclipse**
- 4/10 & 4/11 Donuts with Grownups - see back**
- 4/19 Fun Friday - Mad Scientists**



## ALL THINGS GROW WITH LOVE

Can you believe that it is April already? "Welcome to spring and all the newness this season brings, it's rain, daffodils, sunshine, and thunder. It's warmth, color, and breath of fresh air. It's little buds and birds chirping. All life crawls out of hibernation and our hearts open." I don't know who the author is but I couldn't say it much better. There is also no doubt that after a long winter, your kids are probably as ready to shake off the cabin fever as you are. Why not take them outside and help them learn to identify these early signs of spring. Listen for woodpeckers to begin drumming. Watch for flowers to begin to bloom. Listen for the spring peeper frogs. Keep an eye out as the forsythia start to show off with their brilliant yellow flowers. Watch and listen for the bees and butterflies to return. Last but not least, listen for the birds to start singing! All these signs of spring you will see outside, no doubt will start to make appearances inside the school too.

As much as we all are enjoying the glimpses of spring, we are constantly reminded that Northeast Ohio weather can be extremely temperamental. Often times the weather can be one thing in the morning and extremely different in the afternoon. We try our best to have the children go outside to play as long as the "feels like" temperature is above 30 degrees and not raining or too wet from a recent rain. Please remember to have your child bring a jacket. It's also not a bad idea to have a sweatshirt in their backpack just in case. Having your child's jacket marked with their name is helpful to avoid confusion, especially when children have the exact or similar looking jackets.

I bet you are seeing your child's independence growing as the year has gone by. Children have a drive to be independent and do things on their own. This is a healthy part of normal child development. As children grow, they learn to do more and more tasks.

Families can help young children become independent by allowing and encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves whenever possible. It can be faster and less messy to do things for children, but they learn so much from doing things for themselves. When children practice self-help skills such as feeding and dressing themselves, they practice their large and small motor skills, gain confidence in their ability to try new things and build their self-esteem and pride in their independence. What skills can preschoolers practice? They can work on: putting on shoes; cleaning up after themselves; open some food containers; putting on their coat; hanging up and carrying a backpack; dressing; hand washing; and zipping, snapping and buttoning.

If you would like to know more, take a moment to check out the information board which is located before you enter the preschool wing.

**(Continued on the back)**

This month we continue with Heggerty Phonological Awareness lessons. Your child has been engaging in activities like recognizing if two words rhyme, producing words with the same first sounds, and listening for syllables in words. Your child has or will begin to blend and segment syllables, and these two skills will help students as they learn to read and write words. Below are some activities you can do with your child to continue practicing phonological awareness skills!

**Jump or Slump:** Say to your child, *when two words rhyme, they have the same middle and final sounds. I'm going to say two words - if they rhyme, jump up high! If they don't rhyme, you can show me by slumping your shoulders down toward the ground.* Say the following word pairs and have them jump or slump:

my, pie (jump!) she, say (slump) be, see (jump!) play, day (jump!)

**ISpy:** Say to your child, *I spy something around the room...see if you can guess it!* Give them a word broken into different parts. Have them blend them together to find what you spy! Use the following words as examples and then feel free to add your own!

ta - ble = table pil - low = pillow bot - tle = bottle

Best Wishes,  
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director



### **Donuts With Grownups**

Please join us for a fun and memorable time to celebrate the awesome grownups in our lives!!! Kids are invited to bring parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or any other special adult for this event.

Donuts, refreshments, a game and photo opportunity will be available in the Hope Ridge Lobby during drop off or pick up. Please see below for the assigned date for your child's class. No need to rush to class...enjoy as much time together as you would like. To avoid too much congestion, please follow the class schedule below.

#### **Wednesday, April 10**

M/W/F 3's (Turner)  
M/W/F 4's (Blakeslee)  
T/W/Th AM & PM 4's  
(Hildebrecht)  
M-Th PM 5's (Golias)

#### **Thursday, April 11**

T/Th 3's (Shaver)  
T/Th 3's (Turner)  
M-Th AM 4's (Golias)  
T/W/Th 3's (Shaver)

## *April's PLAYFUL learning Checklist*

1. Write your child's name with sidewalk chalk. Invite her to trace the letters with different colors of chalk to make a name rainbow.
2. Fill left over Easter eggs with small items like 6 pom poms, 4 pennies, 7 jelly beans, etc. Hide the eggs, have your child find them, and then help her count the goodies inside.
3. Fill a bubble bath with sponge alphabet letters. Ask your child to pull out the letters and stick them to your shower wall. Say the name and sound of each letter as she sticks it. For instance, "That's an A. It says /a/."
4. Help your child make a number trail mix. If you're learning the number 5, for example, have your child fill a bowl with 5 raisins, 5 pretzels, 5 M & Ms, 5 peanuts, 5 Chex, 5 marshmallows, etc.
5. In the morning, stamp your child's hand with a letter. Refer to things that start with that letter throughout the day. For instance, if you stamped {m}, you could say, "You're drinking milk! Milk starts with {m}."
6. Take your child on a number walk through the neighborhood. First, look for a zero. Once you've found it, begin hunting for a one. License plates and house numbers are great places to start.
7. Read *It Looked Like Spilt Milk* by Charles G. Shaw. Then go outside, sit on a blanket look at all the clouds. Ask your child what shapes, or animals they see.
8. Teach your child how to dial your telephone number in case of an emergency. Then make sure your child can call your country's emergency service number.
9. Plant a few seeds or seedlings. Have your child care for them and watch them grow. Tight on space? Plant them in a flower pot or small planter placed by a window. Watch it grow and talk about how sunshine and rain helps the plants grow.
10. Help your child use a calendar to count the number of days in April.

© Playdough to Plato