



THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

January 2024

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

Looking Ahead:

- 1/15 No School - M.L.K. Day**
- 1/17 In House Registration Due**
- 1/21 Open House, 2 - 3:30 PM**
- 1/24 In-House Registration, 7 - 8:30 PM
(Alumni/Current Families Yet to Register)**
- 1/26 Fun Friday - Ahoy Matey!**
- 2/3 Open Registration 9 - 11:00 AM (New Families)**
- 2/20 No School - President's Day/Staff In-Service**



COLD DAYS, WARM HEARTS, NEW YEAR

Many of us are in the process of putting our Christmas decorations away. Christmas is becoming a happy memory. Another year over and a new one just begun. We at Hope Ridge Preschool hope you had a wonderful holiday, and we look forward to having your family with us in the new year!

We would like to thank Lisa DePretis, our Fundraising Coordinator, and P.O.P.S. for coordinating our annual Christmas fundraiser, everyone who donated to the class raffle baskets and everyone that purchased tickets. With your generous support, we were able to raise over \$3,200. Your support encourages our continued commitment to provide an environment where children love to learn and learn with love!

Do you have friends that you think would love to have their children attend our preschool in the fall? We will be having an open house on Sunday, January 21st from 2 - 3:30 p.m. We invite them to come and visit our preschool. They can meet our teachers and staff, ask questions about our program, and pick up registration materials. Is your child in the 3's program currently? Are you still wondering what 4's class you would like to sign up for? This is the perfect chance to come meet the 4's teachers and see the types of activities they do in the next level.

It is hard to believe but registration for fall is right around the corner. This year, we are trying something new. Having surveyed current families about their class choice for next year, it was determined that there is no risk of any one class filling up. Therefore, we do not have to have everyone wait in line to register like we have in years past. We will now be accepting registrations in the office until January 17th. A completed enrollment form along with the non-refundable registration fee will be required at the time of registration. Enrollment forms can be found on our website under the "Parent Resources" page under the "Important Documents" section or outside the preschool office. Just complete a new enrollment form and stop by the office to pay the registration fee. We will continue to hold the In-House registration for alumni and those current families that may have missed the deadline on Wednesday, January 24th from 7 - 8:30 p.m.. Registration is a first come-first served basis and classes do tend to fill quickly. Open registration for new families will be Saturday, February 3rd from 9 - 11 a.m. Don't miss out on getting your first choice of class for next year.

This month's Parent Information board is focused on the importance of process art in the preschool setting. Process art is a type of artistic expression that prioritizes the creative journey rather than the final product. It is open-ended, free-spirited, and requires nothing but interest and exploration. Process art for preschoolers is developmentally appropriate because it meets them where they are as sensory explorers. To support preschool learning through process art activities, a diverse range of supplies should be provided, such as paint, colored pencils, chalk, play dough, markers, crayons, scissors, paper and glue. If you would like to know more, take a moment to check out the board which is located in the hallway right before you enter the preschool wing. **(Continued on the back)**

Every winter, as the temperatures drop, so does the amount of time we spend outside. This is especially true for children – playtime can become limited to the indoors. It may be tempting to hide inside until the weather warms up, but outdoor play is essential for your children's well-being all year long. Here at Hope Ridge, we do our best to make sure your children have plenty of outdoor time, weather permitting. We try to go outside as long as the "feels" like temperature is 30 degrees or above. Please make sure your child has the appropriate clothing to play outside even if it is snowing or there is snow on the ground. We recommend your child has long pants, snow boots, a hat, and mittens. Notice, I said mittens. Unless your child can get his/her gloves on all by himself...mittens are just easier. Imagine being the teacher who has to help 14-18 students get every finger in the right spot... now you get it! Your teacher will thank you and honestly the more time spent getting gloves on is less time for the children to enjoy the outside. Please make sure all items are labeled and placed in their basket/cubby for easy access. We are always on the lookout for extra winter clothing items to keep on hand for those children that are missing items. Do you have items that you no longer need? Feel free to drop off in the basket near our donation tree.

Best Wishes,
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

P.O.P.S. News

Wednesday, Jan. 4th PLAYDOUGH MAKING

Come join us as we prepare homemade playdough for each classroom. Meet in the church kitchen.

January's PLAYFUL learning Checklist

1. Read Ezra Jack Keat's classic, "*The Snowy Day*". Then take a walk outside together. Make footprints, drag a stick through the snow, make snowballs... Brainstorm other ways you could play like the main character, Peter. If it's warm outside, encourage your child to use her imagination and pretend that she's walking in snow.

2. Help your child develop gross motor skills. Roll up white socks to make "snowballs". Then have your child throw the snowballs into empty buckets or cooking pots.

3. Teach your child how to follow multi-step directions by playing Simon Says. When you say "Simon says____" and tell her to do something, she should do it. But if you just give her the direction without saying "Simon says" first, she should not do it. Once your child has mastered single directions, make the instructions more complicated. For instance, "Simon says hop on one foot AND stick out your tongue."

4. Help your child build fine motor skills that she'll use later when she's writing by giving her a pasta strainer and a pile of pipe cleaners. Invite her to stick the pipe cleaners through the strainer holes.

5. Read the book "*The Dot*" by Peter H. Reynolds. When you're finished, show your child how to make a dot picture using the pink eraser on a pencil and a stamp pad. Press the eraser in the ink and then stamp it on a blank piece of paper. By stamping the dots together side-by-side you can create lines, shapes or pictures.

6. Teach your child the math word "dozen". Explain that it means "12". Help her count out 12 objects like pennies, pebbles, pom poms, etc. Brainstorm things that come in groups of twelve including eggs and donuts.

7. Check out a set of children's books on CD from the library and listen to them while your family is riding in the car. A few of our family's favorites are "The Magic Tree House Series" and "Winnie the Pooh".

8. Give your child a handful of Q-tips and encourage her to build shapes with them. For instance, she could make a triangle from three cotton swabs or a square from four.

9. Make a DIY puzzle for your child. Take a spare family photo and cut 5 or 6 vertical lines across it to make strips. Give the pieces to your child and help her arrange them in the correct order to reassemble the picture.

10. Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Help her count the number of vowels in it. {Vowels are the letters A, E, I, O, U and sometimes Y.} Then, help her count the number of consonants in her name. {Consonants are all of the other letters in the alphabet.} Repeat the activity with the names of other family members.

©Playdough to Plato

In-House Registration

Wednesday, Jan. 24th
7:00 - 8:30 PM

- For families currently enrolled in Hope Ridge Preschool that have not already registered in the office or Alumni
- Classes do tend to fill up quickly. Do not miss the chance to sign up before the general public.
- Enrollment forms can be found on our website under the "Parent Resources" page under the "Important Documents" section or outside the preschool office.

Open House

Sunday, Jan. 21st
2:00 - 3:30 PM

- Teachers and staff will be available to answer questions.
- Tour our facility - children welcome!
- Registration and program information available.

Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.

"Where Children Love to Learn and Learn with Love."

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