



# THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

February 2024

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

## Looking Ahead:

**2/3: Open Registration 9-11 AM (Please invite your friends.)**

**2/6: Fun Friday Registration Begins - Once Upon a Time**

**2/13 & 2/14: Valentine's Day Parties**

**2/19: No School/Staff Work Day (President's Day)**

**2/23: Fun Friday - Once Upon A Time**

**2/26: Fun Friday Registration starts - Ridge Olympics**

**3/25 - 4/1: Spring Break**

## ALL THINGS GROW WITH LOVE

What a fun January! The children seemed happy to be back from winter break and I know I was really happy to see them! It is amazing to me how much they have grown since the start of the school year. Their confidence and independence seem to have increased tenfold. I love seeing them show you where things need to go, putting on their coats on their own and proudly carrying their backpacks. It also makes my heart so happy to hear stories from their teachers about all the progress they are seeing in their classrooms. Be confident to know that your child is growing as an individual and learning many lifelong skills such as honesty, respect, focus, problem solving, teamwork and kindness at school. We are excited to continue to partner with you on your child's journey towards higher cognitive, social, emotional and language development!

This month's Parent Information board is focused on how preschool is helping to set the foundation for math. In the class, we work on the following types of skills: Counting orally, naming numerals, spatial location, sorting, seriation, matching numerals to quantities, identifying shapes, counting 1 to 1, subitizing and creating and finishing patterns. Are seriation and subitize new terms to you? Seriation is ordering objects by size, location or position. The ability to subitize is just being able to instantly recognize an amount of objects (up to 5), without counting them. A great example would be recognizing the numbers on a dice without counting the dots. If you would like to know more, take a moment to check out the information board which is located right before you enter the preschool wing. Are you a parent that doesn't drop off and pick up? Join us on Facebook and keep an eye out for a post coming soon about "Setting the Math Foundation".

Did you know that at Hope Ridge Preschool your child is also engaging in Heggerty Phonological Awareness lessons? Phonological awareness allows children to recognize and work with sounds of language. These activities are sometimes called ear exercises because the focus is on hearing the parts or sounds in words. In the beginning weeks of instruction, your child was engaged in lessons for "Setting the Stage" to help them learn about listening for sounds. During this time, they started to develop an understanding of the language play activities they will be participating in. Your child will then continue on to work with words, syllables, and sounds they hear in words.

Why is Phonological Awareness Important? Phonological awareness is a strong predictor of reading success. It is especially important at the earliest stages of reading development and is the foundation for reading. Phonological awareness is simple to support at home - all you need is language! Help your child understand that the words they hear in speech are made up of parts and sounds. During the remainder of the school year, we will share in upcoming newsletters or flyers, ideas of games or "ear exercises" that you can play with your child.

Best Wishes,  
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

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# Hope Ridge United Methodist Church Happenings

**Chili and Beats on the Ridge, Sat Feb 10, 6-8PM in the Big Room** Come enjoy a bowl of chili and dessert while being entertained by "Beats Working," featuring Hope Ridge members, playing a blend of folk, country and classic rock. Free will offering accepted. Open to all. No reservations needed.

**Pancake Dinner for Shrove Tuesday, Feb 13, 5:30-7PM** Come for this Mardi-Gras themed family event with music, yummy pancakes and sausage. Free will offering accepted. Open to all. No reservations needed.

**Imposition of Ashes-- Wednesday, Feb 14, 8-9AM and NOON-12:30PM** Pastor Jim will be available at the Preschool entrance (Lobby) for those wishing to acknowledge the beginning of Lent by receiving ashes on their forehead or hand. **Ash Wednesday Service, Feb 14, 7PM in the Chapel** Beginning the 40 days leading to Easter, Ash Wednesday is a time of repentance and reflection on our mortality and our relationship with God through Christ Jesus. Ashes will be given at this service.

**Red Cross Blood Drive, Friday, Feb 23, 11AM-5PM in the Big Room** Schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org), sponsor code is "hoperidge". Special this month: Food will be provided to blood donors by Ridgewood Kitchen and Spirits! Give in Feb for a \$10 Amazon Gift Card by email!



## February's Playful Learning Checklist

1. Teach your child the word-*prediction*. When you are driving through town, ask him to make predictions about things you will see. For instance, "Make a prediction - Will the stoplight be red or green?" When you see the answer, comment on whether your predictions were correct.

2. Place a few drops of vanilla extract on a cotton ball and invite your child to smell it. Ask, "What is that smell?" Repeat the activity with peppermint extract, perfume, or other recognizable smells.

3. Lay five Hershey's kisses (or pom poms or coins...) in front of your child. Count the kisses out loud with him. Then ask your child to close his eyes while you take away several of the kisses. When he opens his eyes, ask how many kisses are missing. Play several rounds to help him work on number decomposition he'll use for subtraction later.

4. Send your child on a shape hunt. Draw a shape on a piece of paper. Then invite your child to run around the house gathering objects that match that shape. For instance, if you drew a rectangle, your child could grab a Lego, a book and a piece of paper. Draw a new shape and send him off again.

5. Read the book "*If You Give a Mouse a Valentine*" by Laura Numeroff. Then help your child make a valentine for a special family member or friend.

6. Since Valentine's Day is about friendship, help your child learn how to write a friend's name. Write the name in yellow marker on a piece of paper. Then have your child trace over the letters with different colors of crayons.

7. Fold the end of an empty paper towel roll into the shape of a heart. Give the roll to your child along with a dish of paint and several pieces of paper. Invite him to dip the heart into the paint and stamp it on the paper.

8. Write the word *friend* on a piece of paper. Work together to count the number of letters it has, name the first sound in the word, list other words that start with the letter *f*, and brainstorm rhyming words like *bend*, *lend*, *send*, *pretend*.

9. Help your child name the names of body parts and work on fine motor skills. Give him a box of Band-Aids. Call out a body part where he has a pretend boo-boo. Have him unwrap the Band-Aid and place it on that body part. Continue naming and bandaging body parts until he loses interest.

10. Help your child strengthen fine motor skills he'll use for writing later. Draw a heart on a piece of paper. Give it to your child along with a sheet of stickers. Invite him to stick the stickers along the line so that he's tracing the heart.

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## P.O.P.S. NEWS

We are looking to add a few items to the preschool's indoor gross motor play collection.

Do you have any gently used Radio Flyer Scooters (wide base), a Little Tikes basketball hoop, and/or rubber wheeled tricycles that you might be willing to donate. We will also be collecting any amount of monetary donations to go toward purchasing these items.

Donations can be placed in a sealed envelope with your name and a note that it is going towards gross motor toys can be dropped off to Mrs. Hartman or Mrs. Wolowiecki in the office, at the front door, or placed in the tuition box.

## **UPCOMING PLAY DOUGH MAKING DATES:**

February 1, February 29,  
April 14

We will meet in the Hope Ridge Kitchen at 9 am. It's a great way to meet other parents and help the preschool. Little siblings are always welcome!

Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.  
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