



# THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

November 2021

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

## Looking Ahead:

**11/2 Election Day - No School**

**11/24 - 11/26 Thanksgiving Break**



## PUMPKIN KISSES AND HARVEST WISHES

Thanksgiving is upon us, a time to reflect within us to be thankful for the people and graces in our lives. This month provides us with a wonderful opportunity to teach and model gratitude and appreciation to our young children in so many ways. Young children typically begin to show appreciation for tangible items such as their toys, their blanket, or their favorite snack. As they grow older, they begin to express appreciation for abstract qualities such as friendship and kindness. During most times of the year, we tend to get swept up by the hustle and bustle of our everyday happenings. This month, we will take time to reflect on what is profoundly important in our lives, and return to thoughts of generosity, warmth, and hope. We would like all of you to know how thankful we are to have you as part of our Hope Ridge family. It is a joy to work with your children and to be in partnership with you as they learn and grow.

It was so much fun seeing all of our preschoolers with their Halloween costumes. They had a great time showing off their costumes, as well as participating in all of the fun activities the teachers had planned for them with the help of parents.

With the colder weather quickly approaching, your child should be sure to bring a jacket or sweater to school. Please mark the inside tag with your child's name or initials. Can your child put on his own jacket? Many of our staff are teaching the children to place their jackets on the floor, lining side up, with the collar closest to your child's feet, and then slip their arms into the sleeves, raise their hands up, and presto, the jacket magically slides down the arms and over bent shoulders into place. Your help with training in the "set up," or jacket position, is the key to success. Before too long, your child will be able to "set it up" by themselves. The smile of independence and pride on the child's face is enough to melt your heart.

Have you ever wondered exactly what fine motor skills are all about? It is the use of small muscles that control the hand, fingers, thumb and wrists. Fine motor skills involve a coordination of the brain and small muscles. Are you looking for ways that you can support your child at home with the acquisition of these skills? Check out this month's Parent Information board outside the Preschool office. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your child's teacher. They are more than happy to share what they do in class and discuss any concerns that you may have concerning your child.

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Just a friendly reminder, tuition is always due by the first of the month. Online payment is available and encouraged! The link can be found on our website (hoperidge.com) under the preschool payment tab.

Checks can be dropped off in the tuition box outside the preschool office. If you would like to pay cash, please make sure to come to the office so we can provide you with a receipt.

Best Wishes,  
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

### P.O.P.S. NEWS

**Nov. 3 - PLAYDOUGH MAKING** Come join us as we prepare individual, homemade playdough for each child to use in their classroom. Meet in the church kitchen.

It is not too late to sign up to be a member of P.O.P.S. Look for the red form on the P.O.P.S. bulletin board found between Room #6 & Room #8. Just turn it in to the preschool office or your teacher.

## November's PLAYFUL Learning Checklist

1. In preparation for Thanksgiving, help your child brainstorm 5 things he's thankful for. Write down his list as he dictates it to you.
2. Help your child learn the name and shape of circles by giving him a blank paper, some paint, and recyclable objects that have circular shapes. The end of paper towel rolls, empty tape rolls and the bottom of egg cartons work well. Invite your child to dip the circles in paint and stamp them on his paper.
3. Take your child on a walk around the neighborhood. Ask him to hunt for a certain fall color (red, orange, yellow). Each time he finds an object with that color, let him snap a picture of it with your phone camera. When you return home, look through the pictures and point out all of the different shades your child found.
4. Help your child fill an ice tray with different liquids (milk, water, dish soap, salsa, etc.) Make predictions about the liquids that will freeze first. Then place the ice tray in the freezer and wait to see what happens.
5. Since turkey starts with the letter {T}, brainstorm words that start with the /t/ sound.
6. Lay six alphabet magnets on the table. Invite your child to name the letters he sees. Then ask him to close his eyes as you take away one of the letters. When he opens his eyes again, ask what letter is missing.
7. Explain that good readers read the pictures AND the words in books. Pull out a book your child has not read before. Looking only at the pictures, talk about what you think is happening in the story. Invite your child to take a turn reading several of the pictures too. Then go back and read the words of the story out loud. Point out that the pictures gave you great clues about the words you read later.
8. Give your child a pile of shoes. Ask him how many shoes he thinks it will take to reach from his head to his toes. Then, have him lay down as you place the shoes heel to toe along his side. How many shoes tall is he? Was his guess too big, too small or just right?
9. Hand your child a pile of counters (coins, pom poms, etc.) and explain that you're going to divide them into two groups: one for you and one for him. Hand one counter to him, then take one. Give another to him, one more to you... until all of the counters have been divided. How many counters did each of you receive?
10. Read the story "I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Pie" by Alison Jackson. Then ask your child what his favorite part of the story was.

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### Donation Tree Requests

Are you not at school to see our donation tree? Here are some of the items we are looking for:

Sticker gems, aprons, smocks, craft pom-poms, do-a-dot markers, kid size and adult disposable masks, shammy towels, laminating sheets, tongue depressors, heavy duty tin foil, rainbow pony beads, stickers, sticky tack (not blue kind), 5 oz. cups, thin dry erase markers, liquid watercolors, 3 inch circle hole punch, golf pencils, precut tissue paper squares.

We are also looking for monetary donations to be used towards: an ear thermometer, additional music instruments, easy to use hole punches, lacing letters, and construction paper organizers for the classrooms.



Hope Ridge Preschool, Inc.

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

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