



THE SUNNY SPROUT UPDATE

March 2024

For the little learners and their caregivers at Hope Ridge Preschool

Looking Ahead:

3/1 Stoller Bakery Fundraiser Orders Due

3/15 Fun Friday - Ridge Olympics

3/19 Election - Main Entrance will be monitored

3/20 Fundraiser Orders Pickup (11:15 - 12:15)

3/21 & 3/22 Easter Parties

3/25 - 4/1 Spring Break

4/2 Classes Resume



LUCKY TO HAVE YOU WITH US

The kids have enjoyed another busy month! We had lots of fun celebrating Valentine's Day and those we love. As we move into the month of March, we will be shifting our focus to St. Patrick's Day, those sneaky leprechauns and rainbows just to name a few things. We don't need to be Irish to feel lucky. We feel so lucky to have families like you who allow us to do what we love to do.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, at school your child is engaging in Heggerty Phonological Awareness lessons. Your child has been engaging in listening games, repeating rhymes, isolating the first sounds in words, and will even begin hearing compound words. Below are some activities you can do with your child to continue practicing phonological awareness skills!

Rhyme Repetition: Say to your child, when two words rhyme, they have the same middle and final sounds. Repeat after me! Say the following word pairs and have your child repeat them back. Add more word pairs if you wish! *red, bed hot, not did, kid bike, like*

Word Blending: Say two small words, blend them to make a new big word, and then have your child repeat the same back to you. You can use these words as examples!

my - self = myself sun - shine = sunshine rain - bow = rainbow

Be a Ninja: Say a word, chop it into smaller words, then have your child repeat the same back to you. You can use these words as examples!

popcorn = pop - corn baseball = Base - ball bookmark = book - mark

This month's Parent Information board is focused on how preschool is helping to set the foundation for math. In 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.

Best Wishes,
Stacey Hartman, Preschool Director

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Holy Week Services: Palm Sunday/ March 24, 10:30AM, Maundy Thursday/ March 28 @ 7PM, Good Friday/ March 29 @ 7PM, Easter Celebration March 31, 10:30AM (all held in the WFLC (Worship & Family Life Center) or "Big Room")

TUESDAY CAFE CONVERSATIONS with soup and bread is in the Cafe on Tuesdays through Mar 19, from 5:30PM-6:45PM in the Cafe. Drop-in and bring a friend any week. All ages and families are welcome!

INFOTALK: Wednesday, Mar 13, 7PM in the Hope Ridge Chapel-- Mentor Public Schools Superintendent, Craig Heath will give an update on the state of the school district and answer questions. INFOTALKS are free and open to the public.

THE HUGE ANNUAL HOPE RIDGE RUMMAGE SALE: May 31 and June 1. Mark your calendar now to bring donations May 26-May 29, and if you are able, plan to help with the fun sorting and pricing during that week. All welcome!

Join Our Team as Preschool Director!

Hope Ridge Preschool, a cherished cornerstone of our community for over five decades, is seeking a dynamic and dedicated individual to lead our preschool program. As the Preschool Director, you'll have the opportunity to shape the minds of young learners aged 3 through 5 in a nurturing and supportive environment. If you're passionate about early childhood education and possess strong leadership skills, we invite you to apply. Come be a part of our team where every day is an adventure in learning and love. To apply or learn more about this exciting opportunity, please visit <https://www.hoperidge.com/preschool-employment-opportunities> or contact us at Kelly.J@hoperidge.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to our family at Hope Ridge Preschool!

THANK YOU!

We would like to thank the Wenz and Gutowski families and Lori Toth for their donation of new to us rubber wheeled tricycles!

We would also like to extend our gratitude to the Sonderman, Topriani and Considine families for the donation of child sized hangers:

Your generosity is always appreciated!

March's Playful Learning Checklist

1. Place a squirt of yellow, red and blue washable paint on a plate. Ask your child to dip her pointer finger in one of the colors and her thumb in a different color. Have her rub her two fingers together to make a new color. What combination makes shamrock green?
2. Help your child learn about spring. Talk about how the weather is turning warmer, the sun is shining more and plants are beginning to grow again. Then take a walk together looking for signs of spring like buds on trees, sprouting plants, birds flying, etc.
3. Make reading a special event. Find out when your library offers its weekly story time for kids and take your child to go and see it.
4. Build your child's creativity by challenging him to use a pile of clean recyclables to create an egg protector. When he's ready, place a raw egg inside the protector, stand on a stepladder, and drop the protector on the ground. Did the egg crack? Help your child troubleshoot ways to improve his design and protect the egg even more.
5. Read the book "Planting a Rainbow" by Lois Ehlert. Then help your child brainstorm seeds and sprouts to plant in your garden this year.
6. Help your child set the table for dinner by placing a plate, fork, knife and spoon at each person's spot.
7. Help your child begin learning subtraction. Place five coins or pom poms in a line. Count the coins with your child. Then say, "How many would you have left if we took one away?" Encourage her to remove a coin and figure out the number that remains. Continue the activity by having your child take away different numbers of coins.
8. Invite your child to help you cook. Read one step of the recipe at a time and then invite her to measure, mix and pour the ingredients you need. Close adult supervision is required around hot surfaces and sharp objects.
9. Help your child practice deducing. Think of a word in your head. Invite her to ask yes or no questions and figure out what you're thinking. She could ask, "Is it a food?", "Is it an animal?", etc.
10. Give your child practice following directions by playing Simon Says. If you say, "Simon says ___", she should do what you ask. But if you do not say, "Simon says" first, she should ignore you.

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