



Preschool News

RBCPC Early Childhood Ministries is committed to sharing God's love through developmentally appropriate programs that encourage active relationships

RBCPC Early Childhood Education Programs * Patti Hunter, Director * www.rbcpcpreschool.com

October 2008

Director's Message

October is upon us! We hope you all are enjoying your preschool year so far. It is fun to see children and families develop new friendships and also deepen established ones. The children are learning their preschool routines and building relationships with their teachers. The classrooms are busy places of exploration, discovery, joy and experimentation. Children are actively learning and growing together through their relationships with one another, their teachers, and the activities which so engage them.

Our Craft Fair and Children's Carnival is October 17 & 18. Many volunteers are already working to coordinate this fun event for the whole family. We will be asking families to volunteer for a shift either Friday or Saturday. Volunteering is a great way to meet new families! Included in the Newsletter is an introduction of the Craft Fair and all its elements. Past years' proceeds have gone towards playground and classroom equipment as well as shade for our playground. This year, we hope to provide for technology in our classrooms. Our committee is working on many options which will enhance our classrooms and the activities available for the children.

Our entire staff appreciates this event and the work each of you do to make it happen.

Also included in the Newsletter is an introduction to our Women's Dessert Night. The Craft Fair/Children's Carnival and Dessert Nights are our Preschool's two major events of the year. Each supports our program with funds raised; Craft Fair provides for equipment and Dessert Night provides for Tuition Assistance and our Inclusive classrooms.

We are all so happy to be sharing the "preschool years" with you and your children! If you have a question at any time about your child's day, our learning philosophy, volunteer opportunities, or anything else, please feel free to talk with us. I can be reached through e-mail at phunter@rbpc.org or in the Preschool Office and/or by phone at 487-0824. Partnerships in education between parents/teachers and administrators are a crucial component of a quality preschool experience.

Patti

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EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS

by: Patti Hunter

"Children who enter school with language skills and pre-reading skills (e.g. understanding that print reads from left to right and top to bottom) are more likely to learn to read well in the early grades and succeed in later years."

*U.S. Department of Education, (2003)
(No Child Left Behind)*

A strong literacy component is essential to a child's preschool experience. **Preschools and Parents**, working together can provide quality literacy experiences that involve the five senses, active participation and relevancy to a child's daily life. Reading is so much a part of our daily lives, and we have been reading for so long, we often forget how complex a process the "act" of reading is. Becoming a reader is a process! Our spoken language is based on phonemes (sounds) which involves awareness of syllables and phonemic units of speech. Our written language is based on symbols (letters) which represent sounds and together make words. What does this all mean? For a child to succeed in reading, a strong foundation of experiences needs to be provided that help the child make these connections.

How is this accomplished at Preschool? How can this be done at home? Nursery Rhymes, finger plays, and songs are great tools for engaging children in experimentation with sounds of our language. Rhyming games involving beginning and ending sounds, eventually tying the sounds with specific letters are very helpful. Name recognition, labels, signs and traffic signs are all part of beginning reading. Children begin to tune in to phonics at different ages; their own rate of development should always be respected. Providing experiences that are not primarily "performance based" help children feel successful and not pressured.

Parents and teachers are encouraged to find opportunities in a child's daily routine to enrich their literacy awareness; shopping lists, to do lists, cereal boxes, road signs, etc. Remember to READ, READ, READ, to your children! Introduce them to a love of reading and the printed word. Reading to your child and modeling reading is essential. If your children see you value reading, they will begin to share that value.

"Amazing as it may seem, trying to write is one of the fastest ways for children to teach themselves to read." Mem Fox . Parents and teachers should provide children with varied opportunities to experiment with words in print and writing. Having writing tools available for children and providing children with opportunities to dictate words, cards and stories so children can see their words in print. Grocery lists, to do lists, post cards, letters are great ways to expose children to print in a meaningful context.

The key is to provide opportunities and experiences for your child. Build on their interests and abilities during their normal daily routines and their environment.

Looking for more information regarding early literacy development?

Reading Magic, by Mem Fox

Ready For Reading, by Ashley Bishops, Ruth Helen Yopp & Hallie Kay Yopp

Learning To Read and Write, by Susan B. Neuman, Carol Copple, and Sue Bredekamp

KIDS INCLUDED TOGETHER

Kids Included Together is a non-profit agency which works to support recreational, child development and youth development programs to include children with and without disabilities. Our preschool receives a grant from KIT to help with our commitment to inclusion by providing training and additional staff support. We appreciate KIT's support of our efforts! If you would like further information regarding KIT you can go to their web page at

www.kitonline.org

EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS Play "Opportunities"

by: Patti Hunter

In last month's issue, in the article: "The RBCPC Approach" it was promised that future issues would highlight a variety of "Play opportunities" that you may find in your child's classrooms and what your child can learn from those "play opportunities."

The Writing Center

In each classroom, you will see an area inviting children to come and explore the area of writing and drawing. Here's what is learned:

- **Oral Language:** dictating stories, experimenting with words.
- **Creativity:** dictating a story from one's own thoughts.
- **Self- Respect:** feeling good about what has been written.
- **Extension of Literature:** writing or re-writing a story from a story that's been heard.
- **Social/ Emotional:** dictating about one's own experience, writing "notes", etc.
- **Small Motor:** using pencils, pens, markers, gaining strength and experience.
- **Organization:** dictating thoughts, organizing thoughts.
- **Part To Whole:** letters to words to sentences to stories.
- **Speech to Print:** children's ideas represented by written words.
- **Left to Right Progression:** writing from left to right.
- **Fostering Autonomy:** the child can create his/her own ideas, stories, from their own thoughts and ideas, not imposed by an adult..

Childlike Faith

September 2008

"Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." – said by Jesus, recorded in the Gospel of Mark.

This statement by Jesus could be interpreted in at least two ways. One way would suggest that only children can receive the kingdom of God. Once you become an adult, or something other than a child, you could not receive the kingdom. The other way would suggest that regardless of one's age, to fully receive the kingdom of God requires the approach to life as that of a little child. I favor the second interpretation.

I intellectually know the complexities of the kingdom of God are far beyond what my pre-schoolers could grasp. Unfortunately for my ego, my intellectual understandings don't matter all that much.

I admire my children for their ability to transfer between concrete reality and imaginative fantasy, all in the span of a few seconds while playing together. If I want to play in their world, I also need to engage my imagination and live beyond my known reality. Otherwise, that cardboard box would never become a space ship; Batman would never be able to save me from the alligators in the river; and I would never dance on the stage with a real princess.

If I pay attention, my children teach me more about entering the kingdom of God than I could ever learn by thinking deep thoughts. - Pastor Joe



"Experimentation is essential for writing. Yet if no risks are taken, little can be learned."

-Judith Newman

The Parent Connection

Many of our parents have been asking how they can be more involved or help out in some small way. In response, we are starting an email list for anyone wishing to be available to offer a helping hand. When a specific need arises that perhaps only requires one or two people for a short time, our email list will allow us to contact many people in just a short moment's notice. If you can help, or know someone who can, GREAT! Just email or call back, and our problems are solved. If not, well, that's what they make delete buttons for, right?

Please send your email address to kmoehlig@rbcp.org, and Kathie Moehlig will put you on our list.

Science is all around us. Children explore and learn about science each and every day through nature!



LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS

Written by: Richard Louv

Come check-out this book which will discuss the value and importance of nature and keeping children connected with the natural world.

Parent Resource Library

Our Parent Resource Library has moved into the preschool office. We have been expanding the library and hope that you will take a moment to look over our selection of books and resources available for check out. The library includes books to read with children when dealing with difficult life situations such as emotions, death, conflict, adoption, divorce, illness, new baby and more.

Books for adults are available for check out about subjects such as parenting, discipline, child development, toilet training, special needs, boys, girls, learning and so much more! Each newsletter this year we will try to highlight books in the library that might be helpful to you and your family!



Parent Resource Library

Book Corner

I Love You Rituals

By Becky A. Bailey, PhD.

Fun activities for parents and children that boost brain potential, encourage cooperation and caring, promote learning and literacy, increase attention and decrease power struggles, and build bonds of unconditional love!

When Sophie Gets Angry – Really, Really Angry...

By Molly Bang

Everybody gets angry sometimes. For children, anger can be very upsetting and frightening. In this book children will see what Sophie does when she gets angry. Parents, teachers and children can talk about it. People do lots of different things when they get angry. What do you do?

These books are available for check out from the Parent Resource Library, in the preschool office.

Halloween Tips from the Academy of Pediatrics



ALL DRESSED UP:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or too long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he stumbles or trips.
- Obtain flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost.

CARVING A NICHE:

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers. Then parents can do the cutting.
- Votive candles are safest for candle-lit pumpkins.
- Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and should never be left unattended.

ON THE TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or-Treaters:
 - *Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
 - *Carry a mobile phone for quick communication.
 - *Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
 - *If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
 - *Never cut across yards or use alleys.
 - *Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks.
 - *Never cross between parked cars or out driveways.
 - *Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops doesn't mean others will!

HEALTHY HALLOWEEN:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.
- Try to ration treats for the days following Halloween.

Parenting Boot Camp!

You're invited to learn how to nurture children, their faith, and your relationship with them through play! Play isn't just something kids do on the playground- it's the primary language of childhood and one of the best ways to help them grow. Although it's usually the first to get cut due to academic pressures and busy schedules, studies are showing how important play is to a child's overall wellbeing.

Thinking Outside the Toy Box

Mon., Oct. 20, 7-8:30pm

Learn how to enter the dynamic world of children in a remarkably simple but sophisticated way! You will learn how to use play to:

Help your child open up to you

Build your child's self-worth

Help your child develop self-control, responsibility, and good boundaries

Have a better relationship with your child

Role model Jesus to your children

Recognize your child's feelings and emotional needs

Reduce or eliminate problem behaviors

How to Behave So Your Children Will Too!

Mon., Oct. 20, 7-8:30pm

If you ever feel frustrated, tired, hopeless, or guilty when saying "no" or setting limits with children, this is just for you! Learn fun ways to give children the structure they need in ways that improve your relationship with them and leave both of you feeling good.

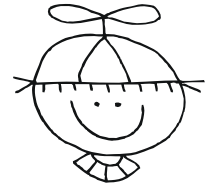
Presenter: Amy Wickstrom, MFT, Registered Play Therapist Supervisor, & Director of San Diego Center for Play Therapy (www.sdplay.org).

Where: Rancho Bernardo Community Presbyterian Church

RSVP: Dee Crimmel at (858) 487-0811 ext. 260



CRAFT FAIR



Read all about it!

October 17th (9am-4pm) & 18th (9am-1pm)

Do You Have Questions About Craft Fair? Let us Answer them!

WHAT HAPPENS AT THE CRAFT FAIR?

On those two days, sixty crafters stock their booths in Fellowship Hall and the Gallery with unique home décor, holiday décor, children's items, jewelry and much more. This is no hokey basement craft fair! This is one of the county's largest, high quality fairs, consistently drawing the area's top crafters. You will not find a selection this unique, or at such reasonable prices, at the mall! The central check-out accepts cash, check and credit cards, for your shopping convenience. Lunch will be available for purchase in the courtyard both days. *Get started on your holiday shopping – and save some money too!*

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT THE BAKE SALE?

Because we ask each family to submit one or more items for the bake sale, the selection is huge! Sweet breads, cakes, cookies and other treats will fill the bake sale tables. Grab a tasty snack to enjoy right away or buy a baked item to take home for later. Craft Fair veterans know that this is a prime opportunity to buy cakes and other goods to freeze for the holidays. *Be sure to come by the bake sale early and often before the teachers buy it all!*

WHY SHOULD WE BUY OPPORTUNITY DRAWING TICKETS?

Because every ticket sold raises one more dollar for preschool! While some families sell their tickets to family and friends, many families buy some or all of the tickets themselves, so that they will have as many chances as possible to be a winner! *Check out the great gift baskets on display at the Craft Fair!*

WHY SHOULD WE COME TO THE CARNIVAL?

The carnival on Saturday is a blast for your kids! There are lots of games, crafts, a bounce house, ice cream and a costume parade at noon. Send one parent to the Carnival with the kids while the other parent shops or volunteers. *The whole family will have a great time!*

WHY DOES THE PRESCHOOL NEED TO RAISE ALL THIS MONEY?

The Craft Fair and Dessert Night are HUGE fundraisers for our preschool, and the funds raised at these events help support the programs and equipment that make our preschool the amazing place that it is. *Check out the pirate ship and the pirate ship's shade cover which were both purchased with previous years' proceeds!*

WHY DOES THE PRESCHOOL NEED MY HELP WITH CRAFT FAIR?

Because it cannot be held without your help! This event is run reliant on over two hundred volunteer shifts and the bake sale is filled with parent-donated treats. Quite simply, this event cannot exist without you! We therefore ask you to make the following three contributions to help with Craft Fair:

Volunteer: Sign up for a volunteer shift when the staffing boards are posted starting on October 1st. Watch your child's bucket for a description of the types of jobs available. *There are many jobs at many times – something is sure to fit your preferences and your schedule.*

Bake: Each family is also asked to contribute one item for the bake sale during the week of Craft Fair. (You can contribute more items if you want!) Details on your drop-off date and further instructions on what to bring will be delivered to your child's bucket. *Thanks for contributing!*

Sell Tickets: Please sell (or purchase yourself) the Opportunity Drawing tickets that are coming home in your child's bucket. There will be some amazing gift baskets raffled this year. *Don't miss your chance to win!*

HOW DOES THE CRAFT FAIR HELP BUILD COMMUNITY AT OUR PRESCHOOL?

When your child encourages a friend to try their best at a Carnival game, when you work a volunteer shift next to fellow preschool parents, and when your children proudly march through the courtyard in their costumes, you will realize that your entire family is part of the RBCPC preschool community. *Enjoy these benefits that extend far beyond the contents of your shopping bags!*



Dessert Night and Silent Auction



December 9th, 10th, 11th

As autumn arrives and the holiday season approaches, the Preschool enters an exciting time of the year. One of our favorite fundraising events, the highly anticipated Women's Dessert Night and Silent Auction, will be held this year on December 9, 10, & 11. If you are new on campus, this event offers opportunities galore to not only attend but to participate in many different ways. For campus veterans, mark the calendars now because here is the event you've been waiting for!

This year we are celebrating the 16th year of Dessert Night. From humble beginnings, this event has grown into a dazzling three night event. The evening starts with the sound of Christmas carols wafting down from above. Patrons may then choose to browse the wide variety of festive tables, as each table hostess has prepared a table with her own unique style. Or, perhaps take in an appetizer, a glass of punch and peruse through the many unique baskets of silent auction items in anticipation of winning a few Christmas gifts by evenings end.

As the program begins, live music and amusing entertainment are woven around a feature presentation that is sure to bring a warm smile to your heart and perhaps a tear of joy to your eye. And of course, there is a selection of desserts to make your mouth water. Yes, this is "women's" dessert night, but we leave it to the men to do all the serving. Husbands, ministers and local community volunteers (some even in tuxedos) are there to cater to your every whim and fancy...well, at least to serve you coffee, tea, desserts and do the cleaning up.

The evening then starts to draw to a close, and the announcement is made that you have 10 more minutes to bid on your favorite items in the Silent Auction. Review the items again, and place your final bid on one of the wonderfully themed gift baskets. Did you find the one put together from your child's class? Maybe a hotel weekend retreat, a one of a kind piece of jewelry, or a round of golf for that wonderful husband or father is the bidding sheet you find yourself guarding when the bell rings to end the auction.

As you make your way home from this delightful evening, the thought might cross your mind..."How do they put all of this together so well?" Magic? No. It is because of all the incredible volunteers that make it work. Do you have to commit to doing a big job or having a leadership role? No, even the smallest amount of time can be committed.

Here are the areas where you can help right now:

Items are needed for the silent auction. Do you have a friend or family member who owns a business that could donate items or gift certificates? Businesses are happy to donate when they know it's for a worthy cause. Remember, we need items for all three nights.

Ask for corporate sponsorships. Some businesses have products, others don't. Corporate sponsorships can come in all sizes, so don't be afraid to ask. Advertising space is available in the event program.

Take a look around the house. Do you have gift cards for restaurants or stores lying around your house that you are not using? Donating the gift card is a simple and easy step to take.

Think outside the store. Many businesses don't have a retail building. Services from a housekeeper, a landscaper, a plumber or electrician, a massage therapist, a handyman – all would make great auction items. Do you have a service you use that would donate their time in the form of a gift certificate?

This is truly an exciting time for us. The Dessert Night and Silent Auction is the largest fundraiser for the Preschool. We welcome you to be a part of making this event the most successful in Preschool history!

Tickets will go on sale Monday, November 3. Watch your child's bucket for further ticket information. To volunteer or for further information, contact Kathie Moehlig by email at kmoehlig@rbpc.org. See you there!

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Parent Participation Night MWF/M-TH PM classes	7 Parent Participation Night T-TH PM classes	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Preschool Craft Fair— 9 am to 4 pm	18 Preschool Craft Fair & Carnival 9 am to 1 pm
19	20 Lunch Bunch begins!!	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Dessert Night Tickets go on sale	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Veteran's Day—NO School	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>						
30						