



Preschool News

RBCPC Early Childhood Education Programs * Patti Hunter, Director - phunter@rbpc.org * website: www.rbpcpreschool.com

February 2009

Director's Message

Wow, here we are in February! This time of year we see incredible growth in the children. Children who came through our doors in September with some hesitation or uncertainty, are now comfortable and confident. The noise level in our classrooms has increased a few (or more) decibels as the children joyfully play and work together.

This month, as we celebrate Valentine's Day, we see an increase in the children's interest in writing. They enjoy making Valentines for one another and for their families. They experience the joy of writing, as they learn to write their names, and the names of their friends and family. Many will enjoy "telling" stories which the teachers will write down for them, some even "write" books of their own.

The children's social development has expanded. We see children working cooperatively with their friends, building complex structures with blocks, digging rivers and ponds in the sand or "selling flowers" from our playground flower shop. Parallel play becomes cooperative; cooperative play becomes collaborative. It is such fun to observe and enrich the wonders of their growth and development!

Happy Valentine's Day to you all and enjoy our President's Week Break!

Patti

Mark Your Calendar

February 9: Chapel—M/W/F, M-TH classes 11:00/12:30

February 10: Chapel—T/TH classes 11:00/12:30

February 16-20— NO SCHOOL—President's Week

Each year, we enjoy sharing the following story with families as a reminder of how important it is to respect and allow our children to experience fully their growth and development. It is through experiences that children gain the "skills" needed not only for success in school but in life as well.....

The Struggle Is Essential

A child discovered the cocoon of a Monarch Butterfly. Intrigued by the transformation that takes place when a caterpillar turns into a butterfly; the child brought the cocoon in and watched it for several days.

After a few days, the child watched eagerly as the emerging butterfly began to push and struggle to free itself from the cocoon. Out of good intentions, and a desire to rescue the caterpillar from its difficult struggle, the child took a pair of scissors and carefully cut the cocoon so as to free the merging butterfly.

What the child discovered, to his/her horror, was that what emerged was a bloated butterfly with stunted wings, completely unable to fly. You see, the struggle of emerging from the cocoon is part of the process in becoming a butterfly. The energy put into breaking free of the cocoon is part of a necessary step that forces the fluid into the wings, stretching them to their full size. By removing that obstacle for the butterfly the child doomed the butterfly to a life with stunted wings---never to fly.

Allowing our children to struggle with the difficult and sometimes painful parts of growing up, rather than rescuing them is often the best way they can grow and gain the strength needed to enjoy happy, productive, contributing lives.

Author Unknown

Please visit our website: www.rbpcpreschool.com for an informative article:

Kindergarten Readiness

This article can be found under: Communication/Education: Articles on Specific Topics.

Childlike Faith
December 2008 / January 2009

Proverbs 17:6 Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory (beauty, honor) of children is their parents.

Children look up to their parents. Unfortunately, they learn our bad habits as much as our good ones. Recently, my wife and I overheard our son and daughter in the midst of a disagreement. It was a pretty typical sibling disagreement: one had a toy the other one wanted. We were happy to hear that the older child, our son, was not screaming at his sister; nor was he overpowering her and "swiping" it from her. What we did hear, in an elevated tone on the verge of being too loud with frustration, was, "You better give me that now or I am going to get mad!"

Not that big a deal, right? Well, a short time later, it was my turn to be in some form of disagreement with my children. I had a simple request (a.k.a- an order I expected to be followed instantly) and they did not respond. In a slightly elevated tone on the verge of being too loud with frustration, I said, "You two better listen to Daddy's words or I will get mad." My wife burst into laughter.

So who taught who? I am not sure if my son learned that technique from me or if I actually learned it from him. More than likely it came out of my mouth first and he imitated it. When I heard him say it, I chuckled inside and thought it was a rather childish way to get what he wanted. When I said it, I thought it made perfect sense, until my wife laughed at me ... and deservedly so! I also sounded childish using the same technique.

I was reminded how much children learn from their parents. As that verse in Proverbs says, the glory of children is their parents. What that means is it's completely natural for children to look up and honor their parents. They want to be like us; they want to admire us; they want to follow us and respect us. The question is whether we live up to that standard. Do we?

No, of course not, at least not always. Not one of us is perfect. And we all know parenting has a marvelous and mysterious way of bringing out the worst in us. We are often fatigued (physically and emotionally), and we have to sacrifice so much (time, money, energy). Sometimes I feel like saying, "Parenting is not fair!" And I find myself tiptoeing on the line of being childish again.

Maybe we have it backwards. Maybe sometimes we expect our children to the glory of their parents. But in our faith journey, the glory of the parents ought to be Jesus, not our children. The challenge for us is to be the model for our children just as Jesus is the model for us. Will that be tiring? Yes. Will it require sacrifice? Absolutely! Will we get it right 100% of the time? No way.

In the end, I hope my children will learn more of my good qualities. For today, I hope to live in a way worth of their respect, admiration, and love.

-Pastor Joe

Mark your calendar...



Family Night Out at Pat & Oscar's

Thursday February 12th

**Join other preschool families & staff for a night without cooking.
20% of proceeds will be donated back to the preschool.**

You must present a flyer at time of purchase. Dine in or take out.

**Watch your child's bucket for flyer and be sure to invite family and friends to
join in the fun.**