

The Children's House Newsletter September 2019

“Education is not something that the teacher does. It is a natural process which develops spontaneously in the human being. It is not acquired by listening to words, but in virtue of experiences in which the child acts on his environment. The teacher’s task is not to talk, but to prepare and arrange a series of motions for cultural activity in a special environment made for the child.” ~Maria Montessori

The children are settling into the routine of the morning and they are very busy with work and socializing. It is interesting to observe old friendships being rekindled and new friendships being formed.

Beginning next week, we will introduce a new sound each week through April. Every week we will focus on a single sound calling it the “sound of the week”. This sound is introduced in the form of a specific sandpaper letter and a box of small objects that begin with the sound of the letter. The sound is a pure consonant sound and not a blend for example, “t” as in turtle, not “tr” as in truck. The sounds will be recorded on the monthly calendar as well as outlined each month in the newsletter.

Ways you can help:

- Objects beginning with the sound of the week may be brought in and shared in our “sound basket”. Please be sure these objects fit in the palm of your child’s hand (fist closed). We prefer these objects be representative of real things. All objects will be returned to the child at the end of the week.
- With your child, you could cut out pictures from magazines that begin with the sound.
- For your child’s snack day, consider the sound of the week when choosing the foods for snack.

Sounds for the month of September are as follows:

September 9.....	“a”	(astronaut)
September 16.....	“t”	(turtle)
September 23.....	“m”	(mouse)
September 30.....	“n”	(nutmeg)
October 7.....	“p”	(pumpkin)

In other areas of the classroom for the month of September we are studying:

Practical Life: Lessons of grace and courtesy, care of the environment, care of self.

Language: Sound of the week, labeling the classroom, matching, classifying, sequencing, and simple patterns.

Math: Individual math activities 1-5; 1-10; teens and tens.

Geography: Elements of the earth (land, air and water), introduction to the land and water globe.

Science: Introducing and classifying living and non-living / plant and animal, parts of the plant, exploration with magnets and metamorphosis of the butterfly.

Individual, small group and large group lessons are given in all areas of the classroom on a daily basis. Often an introduction to these lessons is presented to the children on the line at the morning meeting.

On the playground: The yard is open for the children to play just after drop off until 10:00 for the first few weeks of school. They can swing, slide, climb (small rock wall or tree), run, hop, skip, pedal and more! We have 4 garden boxes, one of which is still producing a few strawberries, another we will plant later this month, the herb box and a butterfly garden. Just outside the butterfly garden are passion vine plants that have many very hungry caterpillars that the children are observing. These caterpillars are the larva stage of our native "Gulf Fritillary" Butterfly. We have a screened "butterfly nursery" that we will soon place over the plants so that the children can see the chrysalis's form, and new butterflies emerge!

PLEASE be on time for morning arrival.

If you are late your child will miss time outside on the play yard, here they socialize, release energy and enjoy playing. If you are late, please walk or drive around to the playground and have your child enter the classroom through the playground door after signing them in. This is a Mississippi State Childcare Licensure Regulation. If you need to pick up a child early, come for a birthday celebration or drop something off, please enter the school from the playground.

Afternoon programs begin September 9:

Extended day for Afternoon Program: The extended day ends at 2:30. It is fine to pick up your child before 2:30. The first few weeks are spent going over lunch procedure, outside play and an afternoon work cycle.

Extended days for Kindergartners are Tuesdays and Thursdays until 2:30. Children in Kindergarten should be picked up at 2:30; we are often working until that time. The first few weeks are spent going over lunch procedure, kindergarten afternoon responsibilities and student assessments.

Once the afternoon programs have started, dismissal at 11:30 is shorter. Tuesday and Thursday pick up will be extremely short because it is both a Kindergarten and Afternoon Program extended day. **Being here by 11:30 on the days your child does not stay in the afternoon, will help us immensely!** If your child is a first year student, it is especially important that you are prompt at pick up (11:30 and 2:30). It is very hard for the young child to watch other children leaving to go home. They are just so ready to see you again!! :)

Snack is going well in the classroom! The children are enjoying sharing snack with a friend at the snack table in Practical Life. The food items have been great and well thought out. Thanks so much!

IMPORTANT

The school's email address is: childrenshouse@fpcosms.com Please make sure your computer recognizes this email address as most correspondence from school comes via email. Emails are sent out in group fashion unless it is something personal.

Monthly Newsletters and the Monthly Snack Calendar

Please go to the website www.fpcosms.com to view and print the monthly snack calendar and newsletter. The calendar can be posted on your refrigerator, in your child's room or in a place that can help you and your child refer to it for the sound of the week, birthday celebrations and holidays. The newsletter is a great tool for discussing with your child what is going on in the classroom, other than what we had for snack or who they played with on the playground. If you would like access to the school's google calendar please email us with that request so that we can send you the link.

In class we have gone over the classroom ground rules, practiced ground rules, shared snack, given many lessons and this Friday will celebrate the first birthday of the school year....we are off to a great start!