

'ROUND ABOUT SCHOOL CIRCLE CENTER NEWS



Circle Center for Child
Development

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October 2015

This Month's Highlights

Oct. 12

Columbus Day No School

Oct. 14 & 15

Library Days

Oct. 15 & 16

Picture Day

Oct. 20

Fieldtrip to Kroll's Farm – please bring your child, even if it is not your scheduled day.

Dear Parents,

Where did September go? We have had a very full start to this new school year. The children seem to be very comfortable and "at home" in their new classrooms.

This is our second issue of the Circle Center monthly newsletter, 'ROUND ABOUT SCHOOL. Our newsletter is designed to keep you up-to-date on current and upcoming events at Circle Center. Also, from time to time, we will share articles or information that may be of interest to parents of preschool children. This month we have included some good information on preschoolers and writing.

Please be sure to carefully read the newsletter each month since this is our primary form of communication to all of our families.

We still have openings in all of our classes, if you have any friends or family thinking about preschool for their young child. They can contact us at 847-746-8607 or circlecenter@ccczion.org for more information.

Parents, we appreciate you and the contributions you make to our school. Thank you for sharing your child with us.

Until next month...

Your Director, Mary King

Halloween

Circle Center does not celebrate Halloween. Please do not send witches, etc. for treats. Thanks for your cooperation.

Fieldtrip

Our fieldtrip is Tuesday October 20th. **All children will attend** as we go to Kroll's Family farm in Waukegan. Please have your child to school by 8:45, we will return approximately 11:30.

Share Bag/Bear

Each classroom will be starting a take home sharing activity. Please watch your child's folder or bag to see if they have received the show & share bag in room 1 or Share Bear folder in room 2. Directions accompany the activity. Please be sure to return these the next class day, so others may enjoy.

Homework

Homework is being sent home at the beginning of the week in all classes. We ask that you sit with your child as **they** work on their homework. The lesson they are getting from this activity is that homework is a positive experience. We realize that some children will struggle with some of the activities; we only ask that they do their best. There is no grade or deadline to the assignment. Bring them in, get a sticker, and earn a treasure – as simple as that!

Letter of the week Room 2

The first week of October all classes will begin working on the alphabet. We will work on one letter a week, beginning with A, ending with Z. Each week your child may bring in something **small** that starts with that letter. S/he will have an opportunity to share something about it at carpet time. These items will be left in a particular area of the room until they are discussed and may be brought home the same day or at the end of the week.

Alphabet Books

With each corresponding letter of the week, we ask that **you send pages from a magazine or paper that have a picture that is cut out, or can be cut out at school.** Each child will be creating their own alphabet book to take home at the end of the school year. If you miss a week, you may send it later, but please do not send pictures for future letters.

Clothing at School

Please remember to dress your children in play clothes for school so they can participate in all of the activities. This includes wearing rubber-soled shoes for the gym and playground. Also, as the weather turns cooler, we just want to remind you to **mark all outer clothing** with your child's name. Sometimes they do not recognize their own coat when there are so many coats to choose from, and some are identical. Thank you.

Picture day

Beth Pickering will be coming on these days to take school pictures of the children. We will be sending home order forms soon. Even if you do not wish to purchase individual pictures, we ask that you bring your child to school, as a group class picture will be taken. Room 2 picture day is Friday the 16th.

Welcome!

We are looking for grownups who would like to be an extra set of hands in room 1 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are interested please talk with Mrs. Fitz.

Classroom Supplies:

Thank you for bringing in tissues and wipes last month. If you forgot to bring them in, please do so. We appreciate your support.

Attached sheet:

- Writing and Preschoolers
- Learning to Read Through Play

Writing and Preschoolers

Learning how to write involves more than learning the letters of the alphabet:

1. Learning to write letters
2. Learning how writing and speech relate.
3. Learn how form and style vary
Depending on the situation (i.e., lists, letters).
4. Learn to predict how a reader will react to what you have written.

Learning to write letters

Making letters

- Scribbles are first attempt.
- Drawing and writing are distinguishable.
- Actual letters though mostly scribble.
- Letters from the children's name mixed in with scribble writing.
- They see lines are combined to form letters so less scribble writing and more mock writing.
- Actual letters are not without error: orientation, number of lines in letters, accuracy in making lines of letters touch are still not all under control.
- Aside from practice, some children need to stretch letter writing to the extreme.

Organizing print in 2-dimensional space

- Spatial concepts (i.e., next to, in front of, up, down).
- Problem with leaving space between words.

Learning how writing and speech relate

Discovering the basic unit of representation

- Learn each letter represents a sound (phoneme).
- Different letters make different sounds.

Learning to write words

- When children first create words in terms of sounds it does not resemble conventional print.
- Certain letters have similar sounds according to how the sound is formed in our mouth (i.e., ch=t: chre for tree).

Learning to write for the situation

- Learn through their experiences different forms of print.

Learning to think about an audience

- Writing differs from talking because the sender and receiver of the message are usually separated from each other.

From: Much More than ABC's: The Early Stages of Reading and Writing. Judith A Schickedanz 2000

Learning to Read through Play
BEING TAUGHT TO READ

*When a child creates with blocks,
When he communicates with paints,
When he uses his body freely as a means
of expression,
He is being taught to read.*

*When a child uses his whole body-
Two eyes, two hands, two arms, two legs
and knees
and feet- to pull himself up a scary slanted
board,
He is being taught to read.*

*When a child hears good adult language,
And when he has the fullest, freest chance
To use his own language,
He is being taught to read.*

By James Hymes