

What's Happening in Class

This year is off to a great start! The theme of September was "Setting Routines and Getting Acquainted". My goal for the month was to create a comfortable environment for students to become comfortable in and have a smooth transition into preschool life.

Classroom activities in September centered around becoming familiar with our classroom, daily routine, and new friends. During our story times we read books about starting school and sensory stations included activities that were familiar to students including playdough and coloring along with new activities such as the sensory and chalk table.

In October our theme transitioned to "All about Fall". We learned all about the changes happening outside and what they mean. We had fun with leaves, apples, and pumpkins while using them in art projects, learning about them during circle time, and playing with them in the sensory bin.

I believe that learning should be hands on, especially when teaching two year olds who need lots of extra sensory interaction. My goal is to bring elements from outside into class each day whether that be in art projects, sensory stations, or both.

Moving into November our theme will switch to learning about weather and focusing on what we are thankful for.

DAILY ROUTINE

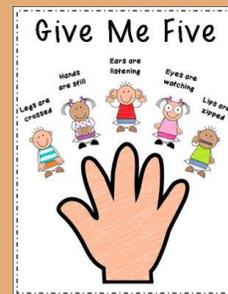
Here is our daily class schedule for you to have. While there will be some days that our schedule will be moved around to accommodate classroom visitors or celebrations, this will be our main schedule for the entire year.

- 8:00 am- Arrival and Free Exploration
- 8:20 am- Clean-up
- 8:25 am- Morning Carpet
- 8:40am- Sensory Learning Stations
- 9:00 am- Snack
- 9:20 am- Outdoor Patio Play
- 9:40 am- Clean-up, Return to Classroom
- 9:50 am: Class Wrap-up
- 10:00 am- Pick-up

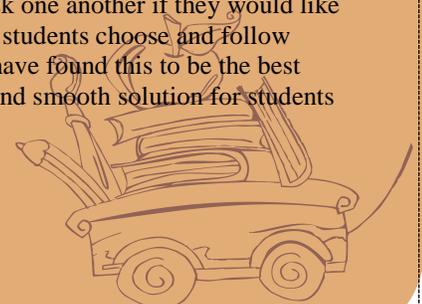
CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

I believe that it is important to be consistent in classroom management techniques and in the language used to redirect students and resolve conflicts. Here are the main methods that I use in class and welcome you to use at home.

Give Me Five: This is the model used during circle time. Helps students focus and is also a good visual reminder of that they need to be doing.



Conflict Resolution: The main tool I use to resolve conflict between students is the hug or high five technique. When two students are having an issue of any kind I do two things: I talk to both of them together and talk them through what happened, why, and what can be done differently next time. I then resolve the discussion by having the students ask one another if they would like a high five or a hug. The students choose and follow through on the action. I have found this to be the best way to come to a quick and smooth solution for students of any age.



CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT CONT.

Transitional Songs/ Routines: For all transitions between activities I give the class a five minute warning and setting a timer. I use an hourglass timer and put it at the students eye level so that they can visually watch the time as it disappears.

We do have a snack time song that we sing before eating our snack after washing our hands:

Open shut them, open shut them
Give a little clap, clap, clap
Open shut them, open shut them
Fold them in your lap, lap, lap
Creep them, creep them
Right up to your chin, chin, chin
Now open wide you little mouth
But do not put them in, in, in

Rolling the Dice: During our first transition to carpet time in the morning I roll a dice. The number rolled corresponds to an action written up on the board such as bear crawls, bunny hops, frog leaps, etc. We do that action for the rest of the day during every transition.

“3, 2, 1 EVERYBODY STOP HANDS ON TOP”: I use this as an attention getter before we transition between activities.

SENSORY BASED LEARNING

As previously mentioned I believe learning should be hands on. We have designated time in class each day that is for sensory discovery and learning. Every two-three weeks I change the materials in our sensory bin to match what we are learning about and the corresponding season. My aim is to fill the sensory bin with items that are new to the students but still have some elements of familiarity.

REMINDERS

Outside Play Time- We go outside everyday rain or shine and in Oregon that means we get a little wet most days. We have a classroom boot bin that lives next to our cubbies. Everyone is welcome to bring in boots for their child to wear on those extra wet days and it is up to you whether you chose to leave the boots in the bin all year or take them home at the end of each day. I do ask that you label both boots with your child name so that they are easy to find.

Oregon weather is also very unpredictable. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a rain jacket and layers so that they are prepared in case the weather changes between drop-off and when we go outside.

I hope everyone's school year is off to a great start. Please let me know if you ever have any questions or if there is anything I can help you with.

Teacher Erin



Dates to Add to your Calendar

October 27th: Class Halloween Celebration

November 1st: Fall Picture Day

November 10th: No School

November 12th: Harvest Walk Celebration 6:00-7:30pm in Gabriel Park

November 24th: No School, Happy Thanksgiving!

Need to Reach Me?

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Teacher Erin

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If you know your child will not be able to come to class due to illness or other conflict, please let us know!

Recycled Materials Wanted!!

If you have any of the following at home, we would be happy to take them off your hands!

Toilet & Paper Towel Rolls

Yogurt Containers

Egg Cartons

Oatmeal Containers

Pringle Cans (with lids)

