



Parker-Chase Newsletter

September PCPO (Parker-Chase Parent Organization) News September, 2012

WELCOME BACK:

The kick-off meeting for PCPO (Parker-Chase Parent Organization), will be held Thursday, September 13 in the Kiva from 5:30–6:30 p.m.! Plan to attend and get involved in what looks to be an exciting year! PCPO is one of the many reasons Parker-Chase provides such an unique environment for your child. You will rarely find this level of organization and involvement from parents at such an early age. The PCPO is a great opportunity to get plugged into what's going on at Parker-Chase, building a strong network with the other parents and sharing your talents. The research shows that the more parents and teachers are a team, the



better children do in school.

That first meeting of the year is always a very informative meeting and a great way to get involved from the beginning of what promises to be an outstanding year! Please plan to join us on **Thursday, September 13.**

Sign-up sheets for PCPO Officer and Committee Chairperson positions are posted on each classroom's bulletin board. Please consider signing up for an officer position, committee position and/or Homeroom Parent. Being involved in PCPO is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in the activities that make Parker-Chase special. If you have questions about any of the board or commit-

(Continued on page 2)

Mark Your Calendars

- ☺ Sept 3—Closed for Labor Day
- ☺ Sept 4—14 Scholastic Book Fair
- ☺ Sept 8—Ms. Yvette's (Toddler I) 4-Year Anniversary
- ☺ Sept 13—Kick Off Meeting for PCPO's new school year 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Kiva **EVERYONE WELCOME!**
- ☺ Sept 18—Ms. Sue's (Infant I) Anniversary from 1995

- ☺ **Sept 18—Parker-Chase's 31st Year Anniversary**

Why Do Babies Like Boxes Best?

It is Ella's first birthday, and her mom is excited. She places a brightly wrapped present in front of Ella and tears just a small portion of the shiny paper. Ella takes over, pulling on the paper and scrunching it in her hands. Some tape gets stuck on her finger, and she pulls at it; then it gets stuck on another finger, and she pulls at that. With some help, the baby eventually tears all the



box and takes out a musical elephant. She shows Ella how, when she squeezes its foot, the elephant sings a song! Ella looks at the elephant, then returns to the box and paper. Mom continues to squeeze the elephant's feet, trying to interest Ella in the real toy!

Wow, what happened here? Why does 12-month-old Ella prefer the wrapping

(Continued on page 3)



PCPO (Parker-Chase Parent Organization) News:

(Continued from page 1)

tee positions, please see Ms. Sherry or Ms. Eilene.

SPIRIT DAY—FRIDAYS:

The children are encouraged to show their school spirit and wear Parker-Chase T-shirts every Friday. These shirts are the perfect clothing option to send your child to school in so that he/she can participate in our messy activities!

RENOVATION:

For over 21 years, we have made warm memories here at this

location of Parker-Chase Pre-school. We've played and danced and learned to cook and read books, and even met and made life-long friends.

But two decades of sand and water play, painting, doing the hockey-pokey, learning to walk and run have all taken a toll on our building. So now it is time to renovate and redecorate!

Our remodel includes repainting the ceilings, walls, doors and windows; new wallpaper; new floors; new carpet on the walls in the hallways and Kiva; new ceramic tile in

all of the bathrooms; and granite countertops in all of the classrooms, bathrooms, and on the Kiva entryway.

The plan is for most of the work to be performed nights and weekends. We are planning that if a classroom has to move out of their space—it will be only for a day or two at most. For the classroom who has had to move out, they will either go visit another similarly-aged classroom or their classroom equipment and supplies will be set up in our Afterschooler's room. ♥

Listen, Talk, Answer—Support Your Child's Learning

Most children come home every day with stories to share. Do you stop what you are doing and listen carefully? Your child probably asks a lot of questions. Do you try to answer them? If you can respond yes to these questions, then you already know the benefits of giving your child time and attention. Teachers call these daily communication opportunities powerful interactions. They help adults and children keep in touch and enjoy being together. These interactions also support children's learning. Here are some communication tips and examples of the types of things to say.

Acknowledge and accept all of your child's emotions.

This helps your child feel safe and secure and willing to share all kinds of feelings with you. "Are you feeling happy? I see a big smile on your face." "You look a little sad. Is there something you want to talk about?"

Describe what you see your child doing rather than saying, "Good job."

He will know that you see and appreciate his efforts. "Wow, you've added lots of squiggly lines and circles to your drawing."

Help your child make connections to familiar experiences, ideas, or information.

"Good morning. I know you like pineapple. Today we're having papaya for breakfast. I think you'll like it as much as pineapple. Let's see what you think about it."

Offer a small challenge to nudge your child to try something new or that is a bit harder.

"You ran so fast to the fence! This time, can you think of a really slow way to get there?"

Repeat and extend what your child says to you.

As your child looks through a book and says, "I like lizards," you might say, "I know you like lizards. What do you like about them?"

Use interesting words to build your child's vocabulary.

"I think this ice cream is delicious. I love the creamy texture and swirls of caramel." ♥



Why Do Babies Like Boxes Best?

(Continued from page 1)

paper and the box to the fancy toy inside? The answer lies in her development. While the toy is cute and interesting to adults, Ella cannot do much with it. And the elephant does not offer the endless opportunities that the box and the paper do for exploring with all the senses. Children at one year of age are in the stage of development Piaget (a psychologist who studied child development) called sensorimotor play when babies actively explore toys and other objects—first with their eyes, then with their hands and mouths.

Ella, the birthday girl, spent her first year of life practicing this kind of play. In the first two months, she mostly looked at toys, because her hands and fingers were still developing the skills needed to reach for and hold on to things. Then, from 4 to 6 months of age, at every opportunity Ella reached out to pick up and hold toys and bring them to her mouth. Most 4- to 6-month-olds can look at, grasp, and bring toys and other items to their mouths.

From 6 to 8 months, babies' skills grow and their play usually becomes more complex. They learn to transfer toys from hand to hand, turn them over, pass them to someone else, and finger, poke, and scratch at them. During this time, children develop the ability to drop one object for another. They like new things, so they might willingly drop what they have so they can grasp what is being offered. At the same time, they begin to develop object permanence—they understand that the ball that rolled behind the chair is still there, even though they cannot see it. As a result of this milestone, a child can remove a blanket covering a toy or crawl down the hall to retrieve a teddy bear. The paper and the box provide endless opportunities to experiment and explore. These are the reasons why, at 12 months, this birthday girl likes her wrapping paper and box best!

During the next six months, Ella will experiment with objects. She will scrunch the paper and listen to the noise it makes. When she pulls the scrunched paper apart, she will see that it has a new shape. She might tear the paper and put the pieces in the box. She is

likely to do this again and again. The box is a container she can fill, dump, and turn over and bang on.

At 18 to 24 months, Ella will move into a new stage—symbolic play. Now she will use objects as “stand ins” for something else. For example, she might put a block up to her ear and pretend it is a phone. She might move the block along the rug, pretending it is a car. Ella will still play by herself, but she will also play alongside, and sometimes even with, other children and grownups. She will begin to solve problems through play, as she explores how to put a cube into a hole or fit a set of nesting cups together. And then Ella will

turn the box into a house or a hat or anything else she wants it to be.

The opportunities are as endless as her imagination!



Think about it

Watch how your baby plays. What does her play tell you about her development? How does she use

her senses to explore objects? What interests her? Are there safe places on the floor where she can play and learn?

Try it

If your baby is younger than 12 months, offer one new object to explore every week. Just be sure that anything you give a baby is large enough not to be swallowed and safe enough to go in a mouth. Here are some suggestions:

- Fill a basket with items that appeal to touch, smell, and sound. Include a small cloth pillow with cinnamon sticks sewn inside, wooden spoons, and an elastic bracelet with bells securely sewn on.
- Provide plastic or stainless steel bowls or a plastic jug and a variety of materials for dumping and filling.
- Introduce new items at bath time such as plastic measuring cups with handles or a colander.
- Collect containers with lids that open and close, like plastic jars of different sizes and boxes with lids that can be taken off and put back on. ♥

Reminder: Bring updated copies of immunization records EVERY time your child gets new shots.

NAEYC Accreditation of programs for young children represents the mark of quality in early childhood education. NAEYC Accreditation began in 1985 with the goal of providing an accrediting system that would raise the level of early childhood programs.

NAEYC accredited programs invest in early childhood education because they believe in the benefits to children and families. Early childhood experiences—from birth to age 8—have an enormous impact on children's life-long learning and positively contribute to their health and development. Early childhood education programs with the mark of quality benefit children with greater readiness for and success in school.

It is for this reason that parents and families are seeking out NAEYC-accredited programs. Parents choosing an early childhood education program can be overwhelmed by trying to find the highest-quality program for their child. NAEYC Accreditation is the mark of quality that families are looking for. NAEYC Accreditation helps to build a stronger team of teachers, administrators, and families working together to improve quality for children. It improves the standards for the overall program.

In NAEYC-Accredited early childhood programs, you will see:

- **Frequent, positive, and warm interactions among teachers and children.** Happy, relaxed children who enjoy themselves as they play and learn are signs of a quality program.
- **Teachers and staff with professional qualifications and training.** Well-prepared teachers have a better understanding of how young children grow and learn.
- **Planned learning activities and materials appropriate to children's age and development.** With appropriate materials and expectations, quality programs help young children *learn how to learn* and nurture their social, emotional, physical and cognitive development.
- **Communication with families.** Families should be involved in the program, and the teachers and staff should welcome your interest.
- **Enough adults to respond to individual children.** The ratio of teachers to children helps determine how much individual attention your child will get.
- **A healthy and safe environment for children.** A clean, well-supervised program is essential.
- **Nutritious snacks and meals.** Good nutrition is a key part of a young child's development. ♥

13 Things Children Learn When We Read To Them

We all know that it's good to read to our children. But what exactly are they learning? Here are just some of the things your child can learn as you read together.

1. Books contain wonderful stories and songs that I can hear over and over again.
2. Reading time is a time when I am held and loved.
3. You tell me the names of my body parts, the sounds different animals make, and that animals go to sleep too.
4. Some books are especially enjoyable and I can hear them again and again.
5. Every time we read I hear how words are used, listen to rich language, and learn new words.
6. The letters, words, and pictures you point to, all have meaning.
7. I can explore how books are the same and how they are different by tasting and touching them.
8. There is always something hiding behind the flap; my favorite pictures are always in the same place in a book.
9. Listening is part of communication and language includes listening and understanding.
10. Things come in different colors, sizes, and shapes.
11. It's fun to play with language, and explore rhythm, rhyme and humor.
12. When I do something, another thing happens; if I point at a picture, my mom or dad will tell me its name.
13. If I drop the book, we might stop reading.
14. I love books and one day I will love to read on my own. ♥



Help Your Child Build Fine Motor Skills

Many of your child's daily activities—like getting dressed, eating, and writing—require control of small muscles in the hands. We call these skills fine motor skills. Your child can do more things for himself when he has opportunities to practice these skills. There are lots of activities that can increase muscle strength and coordination, preparing children for more advanced skills, from writing with a pencil, using a computer mouse, or playing a musical instrument. Help your child to build fine motor skills at home by providing opportunities to...



- Set the table
- Hold knives, forks, and spoons to eat
- Pour juice into a cup
- Wipe the table with a sponge
- Help with meals—stir, shake, chop, cut, and mix
- Get dressed—button, zip, snap, buckle, and fasten Velcro tabs
- Open and close containers with lids
- Cut with child-safe scissors
- Finger-paint
- Use a paintbrush
- Play with playdough and clay—roll, smooch, pat, pound, and use tools like popsicle sticks or stamps
- Draw, scribble, or write with crayons, pencils, and markers
- Put together puzzles
- Place pegs in a board
- Build with small blocks
- Play board games
- Play with puppets ♥

Check out the Parker-Chase Parent Board (PCPO) Officer and Committee positions still available. Get involved with PCPO—it is a GREAT way to meet other families and to support your child's teachers! Sign-up sheets are on each classroom's bulletin boards—volunteer today!

A Family Shadow Walk



- Family walks, no matter where (around the block, in a park, at the beach), provide wonderful opportunities to explore the mysteries of light and shadows. Your child can learn a lot—like how to make shadows bigger and smaller and how shadows move. Enjoy the walk and the fun of observing shadows and how they change as you move about outdoors.
- Notice the shadows of the things around you—cars, a dog or cat, a bird flying from tree to tree.
 - Observe the way your shadows "walk" along with you, and play with the shadows!
 - Make different types of shadows by moving your arms or legs or jumping about.
 - Use chalk to outline your shadow and your child's shadow. Come back later in the day to check on your shadows. In what ways are they the same or different?
 - Measure the lengths of your shadows using pieces of yarn or string or with a tape measure. Measure the shadows of other objects too, like a parked car, trees, the mailbox, or anything else that casts a shadow. Ask questions or make comments that help your child think:
 - * I wonder what will happen to your shadow if you step forward or back?
 - * What might happen if we stand close together?
 - * Where is the sun in the sky right now? (Ask this at several times of the day.)
 - * What happens to shadows on a cloudy day?
 - Explore, observe, and enjoy doing and learning about science together! ♥