



Preschool News

RBCPC Early Childhood Ministries is committed to sharing God's love through developmentally appropriate programs that encourage active relationships and celebrate the uniqueness of the individual child while strengthening and supporting families in our community.

RBCPC Early Childhood Education Programs * Patti Hunter, Director *

September 2008

Welcome!

Our entire staff welcomes new families to our preschool, as well as all our returning families. Plans are underway for a wonderful year for everyone! As our returning families already know, you will all soon notice that ours is a community which truly enjoys being together. Beginning with this orientation week and informal class meetings, moving to Preschool Parent/Child Evening Participations, Craft Fair and Children's Carnival and closing the Fall with our Women's Dessert Nights and Family Christmas Fellowships. All gathering times are wonderful opportunities to get to know one another and our preschool staff.

Each month, the "Preschool News" will be a source of information, dates and developmental information. This first copy is printed for all, starting next month we will post the "Preschool News" on our web site (www.rbcpcpreschool.com) for you to read. We will send out an e-mail to let you know when we have posted the new month's Newsletter. We will also provide "hard copies" of the Newsletter each month at your sign-in/out cart. If you have not been receiving e-mails from the preschool this summer, it may mean that we do not have an accurate e-mail address for you. Please either stop by the office or e-mail us with your new e-mail information. Each classroom teacher will also be sending their Newsletter to the parents in their classes specifically sharing about their classroom activities.

Be sure to join others on the Church patio the first days of Preschool for simple refreshments and fellowship. For those who are concerned about their child, we will be coming back and forth from the classrooms to let you know how they are doing. Separation the first few days can be a process; we will support you and your child through this process. Don't hesitate to let us know of any special concerns or questions you may have.

-Patti

Preschool Parent/Child Participation Nights

These evenings are planned to provide you with an opportunity to share in a "preschool time" with your child. You will want to dress comfortably as you and your child will enjoy preschool activities together. Child care will be provided for siblings, please RSVP for child care in the preschool office. More information regarding these evenings will be sent home later this month.

Monday, September 29	6:00-7:00pm	M/W/F & M-Th AM Classes
Tuesday, September 30	6:00-7:00pm	T/Th AM Classes
Monday, October 6	6:00-7:00pm	M/W/F & M-Th PM Classes
Tuesday, October 7	6:00-7:00pm	T/Th PM Classes

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Early Years Are Learning Years - The RBCPC Approach

by: Director, Patti Hunter

As we welcome your family to our program, we want to share with you clearly how we approach early childhood education in our program. Many of you, as you were researching programs, discovered that there are different approaches in early childhood education. Parents often ask themselves, "Should an early childhood education program focus on an "academic" approach or should programs promote a "developmental" approach?

Many of you have heard me say that I am baffled by this discussion. It leads one to think that both must be mutually exclusive, that programs need to be either 'academic" or "developmental". We describe our program as developmental. Does that mean that we do not promote your child's intellectual or cognitive development? Does that mean we do not provide opportunities for your child in concepts that are considered academic? Absolutely not!

Basically, the focus and responsibility of both developmental and academic programs is for the provision of opportunities that enrich a child's intellectual or cognitive growth and development, as well as their social, emotional, spiritual and physical development. The difference may be the way the child is engaged in these activities. Do the learning tools consist of worksheets, deskwork and direct instruction or are they a variety of manipulatives and learning materials that the children can use to explore and experiment as they gain knowledge and experience with traditional academic concepts?

In our classrooms, the teachers strive to create an environment where the concepts are addressed in meaningful ways for the children. Our developmental approach is based on the concept of a 'purposeful environment". For instance, the concept of counting and one to one correspondence, the children count the number of children in their class in preparation of setting the snack table. They then set the appropriate number of places at the table by counting out napkins and cups. During clean up time teachers may ask the children to sort the toys, putting the like toys in the same bin.

Blocks are wonderful tools for learning. Three dimensional block shapes involve tactile

learning as children handle them to combine and change shapes while building. They learn about relationships between shapes such as putting a pyramid shaped block over a cube to make a house. Estimating can be explored by adults asking open-ended questions; "How many jellybeans do you think are in the jar?" Dice and domino games help children with numbers and counting. They provide occasions to learn which numbers are bigger or smaller than others.

In our classrooms we find opportunities for the children to participate in informal measuring, such as creating matching piles of sand, counting when we sing songs like "Five Little Monkeys", and comparing sizes and shapes with puzzles and manipulatives. We compare objects to learn the concepts of bigger/smaller, taller/ shorter, heavier/ lighter, more/less, sooner/later, near/far.

Writing and print is all round. Mailboxes for the children, writing tools and materials are easily accessible, dictation is taken both individually and with a group. Read, read, read! Reading quality books helps children to expand vocabulary, understand the concept of print communication, begin to recognize symbols as letters. Decoding the symbols to letters to sounds is a progression of understanding that comes with experience and growth. Songs, poems, rhymes help children tune into the sounds and begin to identify the sounds with letters.

In our classroom we strive to provide exposure and opportunities for your children. We respect each child's own abilities and pace of understanding and development.

So "academic vs developmental", it's truly all about learning and growing. Being intentional about the opportunities offered to children, so when they interact and "play" with these opportunities they are encouraged to explore, experiment and discover. Children learn about their world through play. Different types of play lend themselves to many different discoveries.

Look for the "Play" Opportunities section in later issues of Preschool News where we will highlight various types of "play" opportunities that you may find in our classrooms and what your children can learn from them.

What is Lunch Bunch?

Lunch Bunch is a program designed to give your child an opportunity to build on their social learning!

Children develop self-help skills that enhance their sense of capability and self-respect.

Children learn to develop relationships with children they have just met!

Lunch Bunch provides children extra outdoor playtime.

What to put in your child's lunch?

Containers that your child can learn to manipulate independently over time.

Small portions

Very limited sweets, please!

Items such as:

Sandwiches (turkey, cheese, jelly, cream cheese, etc.), cheese & crackers, cold cuts, cheese slices, yogurt, whole grain pita bread & dip, sliced fruits & vegetables, bagels w/ spread, apple sauce, milk, water, juice.

Please: NO PEANUTS OR PEANUT PRODUCTS

Signing Up

Beginning on:

- September 29th sign-up for Fall Session: October 20 - December 16
- December 1st sign-up for Winter Session: January 5 - April 3
- March 30th sign-up for Spring Session: April 13 - May 29

On the morning that we sign-up, we ask that you drop off your child to his/her class and then come to the office. At that time, you can sign up for 1 lunch bunch per week for the session. After the first week of sign-ups you may come in and add your child to more lunch bunch days if available.

Lunch Bunch Schedule

2008-2009

	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>
October:	20	21	21	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31
November:	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11*	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
December:	1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17*	18*	19*
January:	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16
	19*	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30
February:	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16*	17*	18*	19*	20*
	23	24	25	26	27
March:	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31			
April:			1	2	3
	6*	7*	8*	9*	10*
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	
May:					1
	4	5	6	7*	8*
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25*	26	27	28	29

* = Lunch Bunch closed!

RECOMMENDED SNACKS/SNACK INFORMATION AND POLICIES

The Preschool staff appreciates the snacks you periodically send for your child's class. Snack time is an important part of our program. It is a time when we share with the children about good nutritional habits. Below we have listed examples of snacks that we have observed children enjoy over the years.

Please do not send popcorn, hard pretzels, hot dogs and /or grapes to classes serving children 3 years old and under.

The Preschool provides purified drinking water, napkins, cups, and any utensils necessary for the snack you send.

ALLERGIES

OUR PRESCHOOL AVOIDS PEANUT BUTTER AND PEANUT PRODUCTS IN BOTH SNACKS AND LUNCHES. IF YOUR CHILD HAS ANY FOOD ALLERGIES, PLEASE LET YOUR TEACHER KNOW. A LIST OF THE CHILDREN'S ALLERGIES IN THE CLASS WILL BE POSTED INSIDE THE SNACK CABINET OF EACH CLASS.

BREADS & GRAINS

Graham Crackers, rice cakes, vanilla wafers, cereal mix, bread, noodles, bagels, tortilla chips, fish crackers, muffins, fruit breads, pita bread, english muffins, corn bread, saltines and other crackers.

FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Apples, oranges, bananas, peaches, cantaloupe, etc. or cooked applesauce. Celery, broccoli, jicama, carrot sticks, cauliflower, cucumbers.

MEAT & DAIRY

Yogurt, cheese (cubes or slices) cream cheese, string cheese, yogurt dip, pudding, milk, cold cuts, cheese spread.

STORAGE

We do have a refrigerator in the Preschool Office. If the snack you send requires refrigeration, please let your teaching team know and they will put in the refrigerator. Please send snacks in a labeled (with name and date) disposable container. If you cannot bring snack on a day you signed up for please do not be concerned. The Preschool maintains a supply of snack items.

BIRTHDAY SNACKS

BE SURE TO SCHEDULE WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER A SPECIAL DAY AT PRESCHOOL TO CELEBRATE YOUR CHILD'S BIRTHDAY. BIRTHDAY SNACKS CAN BE FUN SNACKS SELECTED BY YOUR CHILD.

SNACK TIME PROCEDURES

- Snack tables are washed prior to snack set up
 - Children and Teachers wash their hands prior to setting up snack
- Napkins, cups and snack items are passed out by the children with assistance from a teacher
- Children with allergies or food concerns which require a special snack have snack places at the table which are clearly identified
 - All children and teachers wash hands prior to snack
 - A group blessing is said each day before snack
 - Children are encouraged to try the snack which is provided
 - Children learn to pour their own water/or snack beverage
- Children are responsible to clean up their snack space by putting their trash in the trash can
- Teaching staff are encouraged to sit with the children during snack time

September 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day	2	3 Parent Orientation 6:30 to 8:30	4 Parent Child Visitation 9:30 am & 12:30pm	5 Parent Child Visitation 9:30 am & 12:30pm	6
7	8 Preschool Begins for MWF & M-Th Funtastic Begins	9 Preschool Begins for T/Th	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Learning Together Begins	17	18	19 Growing Together Begins	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Lunch Bunch Oct., Nov. & Dec. sessions Parent Participation Nights	30 Registration for sessions				

October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Parent Participation Nights	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Preschool Craft Fair 9 am to 4 pm	18 Preschool Craft Fair & Carnival 9 am to 1
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	