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Curriculum April 2017

Numbers: 17, 18, 19, 20 *Letters:* Ee, Ii, Yy, Bb
Social Development: Earth Day, Recycling, Going Green
Colors: Yellow, Green & Pink *Shapes:* Square & Triangle
Themes/Topics: Flowers, Plants, Ponds, Earth

Upcoming Events!!

April 2017

04/12/17 Graduation Photos

04/13/17 Spring Fling

May 2017

05/12/17 Muffins with Mom

05/14/17 Mother's Day

05/29/17 Memorial Day School Closed

June 2017

06/09/17 Pre-K Graduation @ 6pm



06/16/17 Donuts with Dad

06/18/17 Father's Day

July & August 2017

Summer Fun Activities!



Graduation Pictures

will be taken of all Pre-K students on Wednesday April 12th between 7-10:00 am. If your child does not attend on Wednesdays we encourage you to bring him or her in for pictures. Pricing and package information will be sent home with proofs after photos are taken.

April Birthdays



* Nicholas P * Sloane S *
Henry M * Jade B * Michaila C
Jordyn H * Ezra R * Liam F
* Theo L * Charlie M *



Please make sure the gate closes behind you when you enter and exit our school.



Think of Wee Care when you are "Spring Cleaning" this year. We will gladly accept donations of children's books, toys, bath towels, craft supplies, etc. that you no longer have a need for.
Thank you!

SUNBLOCK



Spring will bring to us stronger rays of sunshine. Please consider applying sunblock to your child each morning before arriving at school. If you are interested in having sunblock reapplied to your child in the afternoons please complete and return a Sunblock 2017 form. Forms are available at the front desk and in the big side kitchen.



Dear Families,

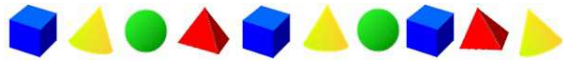
Good news! This month's Scholastic Reading Club flyers are ready for you to explore with your child. Children read more when they choose their own books, so I encourage you to look at the flyers together. Each flyer is filled with grade-specific, affordable titles and

Storia® eBooks. Place your order online at scholastic.com/readingclub or return the order form and payment to me. Flyers are available on our front desk so pick one up today! If you do not pick up a flier you can still place an order online.

Shop Online:

scholastic.com/readingclub

One-Time Class Activation Code:
GRVFZ



DEAR PARENTS:

If you keep your child home from school for any reason, please tell your child's teacher in advance or call or email our school office. We have an answering service 24/7 so you can call day or night and even on weekends.

We plan for your child to arrive each day that he or she is scheduled to attend and this includes preparing lunch. It is very helpful (and cuts down on wasted food!) if we know how many children to plan for.

This is good practice for elementary school when it will be required that you call when your child is out 😊

Thank you!

Diane Martine
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TOP 3 BENEFITS OF LEARNING THROUGH PLAY



I am a strong supporter of children learning through play, therefore I want to share with you what I feel are the Top 3 Benefits of Pretend Play. Who doesn't want to play "grocery store" or "rocket to the moon"? These were some of the pretend play scenarios I loved playing as a child and now I get to watch my kids do the same. There are many stages that a child goes through with regards to pretend play.

For example, an 18 month old will pretend to feed a doll or cover a teddy bear with a blanket so the bear can go to sleep. However, a 5 year old might come up with an elaborate scenario involving setting up chairs and pretending it is an airplane.

My kids love turning the dining room into an airport and the kitchen into the plane. They even make tickets which each passenger has to hand in at the gate (aka, the kitchen counter).

Each stage of play children go through will aid in their

development.

Top 3 benefits of learning through play

1. Play Encourages Communication

Play allows children the opportunity to develop speech and language skills as well listening skills. Children talk and listen while they play. Whether this be during solitary play which typically involves self talk and narration (e.g. "now my car is driving up the hill and then it goes down, wee, wee, wee") or play with a companion, children communicate to add purpose to their play. The more vocabulary a child is exposed to on a day-to-day basis, the greater the variety of words a child will incorporate into play.

I love seeing and hearing some of the scenarios my children come up with. For example, they love playing restaurant. They have to decide who will be the cook and who will be the server. My daughter is the older one so she gets to write out the menu, but they both decide what will be included on the menu (usually milk, juice, coffee, hot dogs, sushi, spaghetti and ice cream – quite the combination). And they always make sure that we pay for our food. Sometimes there are disagreements about who gets to play which role or what will be included on the menu, but I try to teach them how to work through these issues and we also talk about compromising.

2. **Play Improves Cognitive Development**

Children who engage in pretend play tend to have more sophisticated levels of interaction with others. Bergen, D (2002) found that more and more evidence supports the connections between cognitive ability and high quality pretend play.

Moreover, if children are deprived of play, their long-term capabilities related to problem solving, social skills and academic areas (e.g. literacy, math and science) could be lessened. The complexity of these skills demonstrate that many areas of the brain are most likely involved. For more information please see the complete [study by Bergen](#).

Additional research about the benefits of learning through play shows that:

- Children whose fathers played with them had greater levels of imagination and cognitive ability than those whose dads did not play with them.
- Children who played with their parents also participated in other activities, had positive mental health, stronger friendships and experienced a stronger family bond when compared to those whose parents did not play with their children as much.
- Children whose mothers played with them showed a greater level of attachment to their moms

and enjoyed more positive development compared to children whose mothers did not play with them regularly.

3. **Play Encourages Relationship Building**

Play helps to promote the development of social skills. Children who play with their parents and peers learn how relationships work through their play experiences. As play becomes more important in a child's life, an increase in the number and quality of friendships has been seen. Many people don't realize that social skills are a vital part of language development. Language is so much more than simply spoken words!

These are my top 3 benefits of learning through play. There are definitely many more than these and I am sure I could go on and on about this topic.

If you are interested in reading about the role of play in normal emotional development, please read the article "[Free Play Is Essential for Normal Emotional Development](#)" found in Psychology Today.



By Tanya Thibodeau

seemeandliz.com, a site dedicated to teaching parents how to best interact with their babies and young children in order to enhance language development and learning
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