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MARCH 2017

Themes:	Dr. Seuss, St Patrick's Day, Spring, Farm Animals
Letters:	Cc, Gg, Ss
Numbers:	13, 14, 15
Colors:	Green, Orange
Shapes:	Shamrock, Clover
Science:	Rainbows
Social Studies:	Ireland



In celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday we will be having a Spirit week from 3/6-3/10.



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
DR. SEUSS!**

Mixed up Monday: *Wear your shirt backwards or mismatched clothes*

Hat Tuesday: *Wear a silly hat or silly headband*

Wacky Hair Wednesday: *Wear your hair crazy*

Crazy Sock Thursday: *Wear silly or mismatched socks*

Pajama Friday: *Wear your P.J.'s and bring your favorite Dr. Seuss Book*

Food From Home

Please keep in mind a few things if you choose to send food from home:

- We only eat while seated at the tables so please do not allow your child to walk into school with food in hand, especially sweets with sugary drinks.*
- Breakfast is served until 7:30AM after that time, we will be in our classrooms doing activities. Breakfast foods brought in after 7:30AM will be saved in the kitchen until morning snack, which begins at 8:30 AM.*
- Food may not be kept in cubbies, as we do not wish to have problems with bugs in classrooms. All food from home must be clearly **labeled** with your child's name and dropped off in our kitchen.*

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!





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Happy Anniversary to Ms. Joanne, Ms. Martha, Ms. Raquel, Ms. Cruz who have been with us for 3 years and Ms. Erendira who has been with Wee Care for 2 years. Your love and patience is appreciated!

Dates to remember:

- 3/03 Cap and Gown money due for Pre-K and TK
- 3/12 Daylight Savings Begins
- 3/17 St. Patrick's Day.
- 3/20 First day of Spring
- 3/31 Cesar Chavez Day



The Land of Make Believe: How and Why to Encourage Pretend Play

By Lauren Lowry

The Connection Between Pretend Play and Language

Pretend play and language both involve the same underlying ability to represent things symbolically.

Pretend play is also known as "symbolic play" because it involves the use of symbols. When we use symbols, we use something to stand for something else. In the case of pretend play, children may use one object to stand for another, such as pretending a spoon is a hairbrush, or a tablecloth is a cape. This type of symbolic thought is also needed for language, as our words are symbols. Our words stand for our thoughts and ideas. Therefore, pretend play and language both involve the same underlying ability to represent things symbolically (Weitzman and Greenberg, 2002). It's no wonder children start to engage in pretend play around the same time their first words emerge (between 12 to 18 months). Furthermore, children who have language difficulties sometimes also struggle with pretend play.

Why Encourage Pretend Play?

There are many reasons why parents and caregivers should consider encouraging their child's pretend play skills:

- Your child will gain practice with using symbols. This strengthens the foundation for your child's pretend skills and language skills.
- Pretend play is an excellent way to expose your child to new vocabulary that he may not be exposed to in everyday life, such as "pirate", "sword", "rescue", "castle", or "fairy".
- When you pretend with your child, you will help him learn to play with others. Eventually, your child will start to pretend with other children, where he will learn to take turns and collaborate.
- When children take on a pretend role, they imagine what it is like to be another person. This helps develop their ability to take others' perspectives and develop empathy.
- Pretend play is fun! When you play like a child and let your imagination lead, you and your child will never run out of things to play with or talk about!

