A Note From Our Administrator……..

Vision: Children and Families Empowered for a Lifetime of Learning

Mission: The mission of the Thompson Integrated Early Childhood Program is to provide high quality, developmentally appropriate education, and family-centered services that value and respect the diversity of individual children, and families. Through collaboration with community and educational resources, we will strive to identify and alleviate barriers that interfere with the ability of families and children to reach their full potential.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It’s hard to believe the end of the year is almost upon us! Your child has been engaged in a lot of learning this year, but it doesn’t have to end! You have the opportunity this summer to keep your students ready to learn. Here are some tips from the National Summer Learning Association:

Upcoming Events

May 10
Early Childhood Field Day
Centennial Park
10:00-12:00

May 13
Family PIE Meeting
5:00- 6:30 pm
Monroe Early Childhood Center- 814 E 16th

Important Dates

May 1&2
No School- Home Visit and Transition Days

May 23
Last Day of School
1. Read, read, read. Sit and read with your child. Pick books that interest him or her and make it a part of your daily schedule.

2. Have fun with numbers. Find creative ways to enjoy math.

3. Turn off the TV and/or the screen. Some screen time is okay, but too much is not healthy. Limiting screen time and engaging your child in outside pursuits starts building healthy habits. Get outside, take a hike, ride a bike, and help your child stay physically active all summer long.

4. Mark art! Draw, paint, and create. Picasso said, “Every child is an artist.” Let the summer months be the time when your child discovers that she has the ability to create through art.

5. Sleep is important! It’s okay to stay up a bit later in the summer, but it’s still important to maintain a regular bed time and routine.

If you’re looking for other resources and things to do with your child, Be Ready is a great one! Here’s the link to the site: https://bereadylarimercounty.org/

Literacy Night. Thank you for joining us on April 11th for the Early Childhood Literacy Night at Conrad Ball Middle School. We hope that you and your family found the activities fun and that you enjoy the book(s) that you received. A special thank you goes out to our community partners, including Philo, Read Aloud Loveland, Conrad Ball Middle National Junior Honor Society, the Early Childhood Council of Larimer County, and the Loveland Public Library!!

Hope your summer is full of fun, play, and that you create great memories!

Lamb Caro

EDUCATION CORNER

April Showers Bring May Flowers…

Spring is a time of planting, growing and changing. Many of our preschool classrooms will be exploring the changes of seasons and may be planting seeds. You might consider doing some planting at your home too! Planting helps children to learn many lessons including how to take care of something and how to “WAIT”. This process is not immediate…and it can be difficult to
wait! You might ask your child what they would like to plant and help them choose and make a plan. Help them to predict how long they think it will take to grow the flower/tomato/etc. Then you can use a number line or a calendar to mark off the days and draw pictures of the changes that they see. You can also talk about other times that we have to wait and how they might handle these situations...if waiting at the doctor’s office we can look at magazines or books, if waiting for a turn on the swing we can go down the slide, etc. Enjoy the magical process of watching a plant grow and helping your child grow too!

Thank you so much for sharing your little ones with us this year! We have loved being a part of your lives and hope you have a wonderful summer!!!

Amy Gerhard, Education Coordinator
970-613-5078

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2019-2020 PRESCHOOL

We are now accepting applications for the 2019-2020 school year. If your child will be turning 3 or 4 years of age on or before October 1st of 2019, they may be eligible for FREE preschool, could participate in the tuition-pay program or may receive special education services if they qualify.

Information about our preschool program and applications can be found on the Thompson School District Website at www.thompsonschools.org.

Please share this information with friends, family or neighbors who have children who might be interested in applying for our program. For further information you can contact us at (970) 613-5052.

RETURNING PRESCHOOL STUDENTS: If you have not returned your re-enrollment packet for next year, please do so as soon as possible. Please note that we cannot guarantee transportation for this coming year. Even if your child received transportation services this year it is NOT a guarantee that we can accommodate your request this coming year. The availability on the bus is extremely limited and we are asking that you consider other options for getting your preschooler to and from school. Also, know that we make every attempt to honor your requests for placement of your child regarding the center and teacher for next year however sometimes it is not possible due to movement of teachers to other centers, etc.
PLEASE READ: CHANGES IN PROGRAMMING FOR THE 2019-2020- CHANGE IN DAYS OF ATTENDANCE FOR PRESCHOOL

- Next year, we will be making a change in the days students attend preschool. Currently, students attend Monday through Thursday with Wednesday being a late start day. For the 2019-2020 school year, students will attend Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be a non-school day for our program. We are making this change for a number of reasons to improve our delivery of services to our children and families. These reasons include:
  - Consistency of Schedule- The start and end times will remain the same instead of having a modified schedule
  - This change will provide more in-school time so students can reap the most benefit from the preschool experience
  - This will give our staff the opportunity to collaborate with other district staff, giving us the opportunity to improve the communication between preschool and elementary schools.

Emotional Resources....

Our children have learned so much over the school year. They have learned skills like identifying feelings, friendship skills, ways to calm down and strategies for problem solving. Take some time to reflect on how much your child has learned since September.

This is also a time of transition. Saying good-bye to teachers and friends can be hard to do. You may find that your child also has some anxiety about a change of routine for the summer or going on to Kindergarten next year. Take time to talk with your child about the feelings they are having about these changes and to reassure them.

Most of all enjoy your summer!

Mary Bowman, Mental Health Coordinator 613-6179

English Language Development....

English Language Development

Developing language at ages 3 and 4
In preschool, children begin to notice the power of the written word. Help your child develop as a reader and writer by playing with letters and words, reading together, playing “make believe,” and having conversations about topics that interest him or her. Everyday experiences give preschoolers opportunities to learn more about the ways in which the world works. Use simple, daily tasks as opportunities to expose your child to new information and experiences. All of this can be done in whatever language is most commonly used in the home.

Here are a few ways to get your child ready to read and write:

- Draw and write alongside your child
- Join your child in pretend play
- Point to words as you read aloud
- Repeat your child’s words using complete sentences and proper structures of grammar
- Make up rhymes as you go about your day together

Source:

Erin Ridge
English Language Development
(970) 613-6084

Health/Wellness....

Safety Reminder from the Health Office

Spring is here! As our children begin spending more time playing outdoors and riding tricycles/bicycles/scooters, the single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury from bicycle crashes is a helmet. It is also important to make sure that the helmet fits properly. Below are some tips for making sure your child’s helmet fits and is being used properly.

Bicycling and Helmet Tips
- Make sure the helmet fits and your child knows how to put it on correctly. A helmet should sit on top of the head in a level position, and should not rock forward, backward or side to side. The helmet straps must always be buckled but not too tightly.

Try the Eyes, Ears and Mouth Test:
- **EYES check**: Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom rim of the helmet. The rim should be one to two finger-widths above the eyebrows.
- **EARS check**: Make sure the straps of the helmet form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.
- **MOUTH check**: Open your mouth as wide as you can. Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps and make sure the buckle is flat against your skin.

**Proper equipment fit and maintenance are also important for safety.**
- Ensure proper bike fit by bringing the child along when shopping for a bike. Buy a bicycle that is the right size for the child, not one he/she will grow into. When sitting on the seat, the child’s feet should be able to touch the ground.

~ Christiana Shorten – EC Health Coordinator  
(970)613-5063

**Family Engagement….**

Families, we would like to take this time to thank you for attending our family engagement events this past year including Health and Safety Night with Hugs, Family Game Night and Literacy Night. Just a reminder that Preschool Field Day is coming up on May 10th at Centennial Park from 10 am - noon. A special shout out to our Family PIE parents who helped plan Game Night and Field Day.

The school year is almost over and it is time to celebrate all that has happened this year. Take some time to reflect and set goals for the summer:

- In what ways did I see my child grow this year?
- What are my child’s strengths?
- What do I want to ask my child’s teacher?
- What were some things I learned to do at home to help my child learn?
- What activities do we like to do as a family?
- How can I keep learning fun for my child?
- How do I make time for activities in our summer schedule/routines?
- What “jobs” can I give my child over the summer to be a family helper?
- What are some important things to tell my child’s teacher in the fall?
- How can I stay engaged in my child’s learning next year?

**Healthy Recipe from KidsHealth.org**

**TINY PIZZAS**

Prep Time: about 15 minutes

**What you need:**
- 1 standard-sized bagel, cut in half
- Tomato sauce
- Shredded mozzarella cheese
- Toppings like diced green pepper, chopped onion, or chopped tomato
- Seasonings like oregano, basil, and pepper

**What to do:**
1. Preheat oven to 325
2. Spread tomato sauce on each bagel half.
3. Sprinkle the shredded cheese all over the tomato sauce on each half.
4. Add your favorite toppings
5. Put a light sprinkling of seasonings on each half.
6. Put your bagel halves on the baking sheet.
7. Bake in the oven on low heat for about 5-8 minutes or until the cheese is bubbly
8. Let cool for a minute, then enjoy your tiny pizzas!

http://www.kidshealth.org
Make the most of the summer months together! Keep your child healthy, active and learning so he/she is ready for the next school year! We are busy putting together a list of “Summer Fun” activities to share with you. We should have the list available to go home the last week of school.

Money Matters

Depositing all or part of your income tax refund in a savings account could help you start an emergency savings fund. Your tax preparer can have your tax refund automatically deposited into your savings account. You will then have money for unexpected expenses such as car repairs or medical expenses, rather than going into debt. Learn more at consumerfinance.gov.

Julie Lindsay
Family & Community Partnership Coordinator – (970) 613-5053