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.

Hello TSD EC Families,

We hope that you’re enjoying the great and relatively warm weather we’ve enjoyed lately! I have been enjoying this time by getting outside with my family and exploring what our community has to offer.
**Early Childhood Applications.** We are currently accepting applications for our Early Childhood Programs for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old by October 1, 2019, they may be eligible for FREE preschool. If you know someone who has a child that is 3 or 4, send them our way! For further information visit our [Thompson Integrated Early Childhood](#) web page or call 613-5052.

**Family PIE Meeting.** Our next Family PIE meeting will be held on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Monroe Early Childhood Center. Please call if you have any questions.

**Parent Teacher Conferences.** Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up! Look for information from your child’s teacher to schedule your conference in late February. We look forward to seeing you and sharing with you your child’s progress.

**Curriculum Open House February 13.** We will be hosting a curriculum Open House on February 13, 2019, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. This drop in event is an opportunity to explore the materials we use in our classroom, learn about our program, and ask questions. The final location is still to be determined so look for more information in the near future.

"Preschool children are virtuosos of imagination."

- Benjamin Spock

Lamb Caro
Thompson School District Early Childhood Administrator
February is the month of LOVE! You show your child you love them with your hugs, kisses and smiles. Another way to show your child how much you love them is to acknowledge all of the great things they do every day. You can do this not only by saying “Good job!”, but also by noticing their hard work, their persistence, and their creativity. Research shows that when children receive positive attention more often than negative attention (5 positive to every 1 negative), they will show us more of the behavior we wish to see. This works for adults too! Have a very HAPPY February!

Here are some phrases you can use:

- “You must feel proud of yourself for…”
- “You have worked so hard on…”
- “I like how you shared your toys with…”
- “Thank you so much for _______. It was very helpful.”
- “You put away your toys! Thank you.”
- “You _____ when I asked you to. Way to go!”

Education Corner…

February brings with it cold weather and lots of time inside. Days when little ones cannot go outside can be disappointing and frustrating for our little ones. Why not take advantage of the inside time to work on skills by making Valentines for friends and loved ones. Have your child practice cutting out hearts, writing their name and creating a cherished memory with you. Take the opportunity to visit the post office
and talk to them about how our mail system works. Loveland has a special mailbox for Valentines that will receive a unique stamp from the city of Love.

You might also practice drawing and cutting hearts of different shapes and sizes to decorate your home. Talk about how they are the same and different. Sort them by color and size. Practice counting them making sure to say one number for each item counted. Reinforce the concept of quantifying…the last number said is the number of items.

Take advantage of these cold winter days to make some memories with your little ones!

“Celebrate the small things that happen, like seeing someone help another person or noticing a flower blooming or an interesting stone….When we take the time to celebrate the little moments of everyday life, we are nourishing our children…and ourselves.”

Mr. Fred Rogers

*Don’t forget we will be having our Curriculum Night on February 13th from 6-7:30pm. Further details will follow on where the open house will be held. If you are interested in taking a look at our curriculum come join us!*

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078

**English Language Development…**

**The Benefits of Bilingualism**

Research indicates that bilingualism and multilingualism increase one’s ability to focus attention, to solve complex problems, to be creative, and to plan. As we encourage our children to build language skills in their native language and in English, we can model language learning as adults by improving our bilingual or multilingual language skills

**Adult English as a Second Language (ESL)**
The Front Range Community College Center for Adult Learning offers Adult ESL courses in Loveland and Fort Collins [Click Link](https://www.duolingo.com) or call (970) 613-5960 for more information.

**Learn a second language**

There are many language learning programs and apps available (see below for a brief list). The learner can select the amount of time they wish to work in the program and how often.

- Duolingo- [https://www.duolingo.com](https://www.duolingo.com)
- Memrise- [https://www.memrise.com](https://www.memrise.com)
- Busuu- [https://www.busuu.com](https://www.busuu.com)
- Rosetta Stone- [https://www.rosettastone.com](https://www.rosettastone.com)


Erin Ridge
English Language Development
970-613-6084

**Make Family Time Active Time**

Make getting more physical activity a family project. Encourage everyone to think of fun things to do to get up and moving, get off the sofas, and away from the screens—especially doing things as a family.

**Ingredients**

1 serving

- ½ cup reduced-fat plain yogurt
- 1 teaspoon pure maple syrup or honey
- 1 strawberry, halved, plus 1 strawberry slice
- 4 blueberries
- 2 tablespoons plain granola

Combine yogurt and syrup (or honey) in a wide shallow bowl. Top the yogurt to resemble a pig face, using strawberry halves for ears and the slice for a nose and blueberries for eyes and nostrils. Sprinkle granola around the edges.

**Health/Wellness...**
Reduce sedentary time.

In addition to encouraging physical activity, help children avoid too much sedentary time. Although quiet time for reading or resting is fine, limit the time your children watch television, play video games, or play on the computer to no more than 2 hours per day. Additionally, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) does not recommend television viewing for children age 2 or younger. Instead, encourage your children to find fun activities to do with family members or on their own that simply involve more activity.

There are hundreds of ways to enjoy physical activity together as a family – here are a few ideas:

- Bike to the library together.
- Enjoy a hike, a volleyball game, a Frisbee™ match, or playing in a park.
- Fly a kite together.
- Train together for a charity walk or run.
- Even a quick walk around the block can provide together time and exercise at the same time!

Christiana Shorten
Health Coordinator
(970)613-5063

Family Engagement…

Family Engagement

Family Fun and Preschool Fair

Birth – 8 years old
Join us for free food, book giveaways, community vehicles, preschool information and community resources. Our staff will be on hand in the children’s area with fun learning activities for preschoolers. Visit: BeReadyLarimerCounty.org for more information.

Money Matters:

Free Income Tax Preparation is available to low or middle income families and senior citizens through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance.) Walk-in assistance is available Mondays through Thursdays, Feb. 4 – April 15 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, located at 533 N. Grant Avenue in Loveland. Bring ID and tax documentation with you.

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