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 Families,

I hope that you have a wonderful Winter break and a chance to relax, reconnect, and recharge with family and friends this holiday season!

Open Enrollment. Just a reminder that Open Enrollment for kindergarten closes on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. Please note that paper applications will no longer be accepted. The electronic application link will be available on the Thompson School District website.

School Closures and Late Starts. If you have registered an e-mail address and/or a cell phone text number in Infinite Campus, you will receive late-start or closure messages. The district will also announce on the district website, the district Facebook page ("Thompson School District") and Twitter (@ThompsonR2J).
The superintendent may announce a late-start schedule for the opening of schools if weather or other emergency conditions are severe but not serious enough to close schools. If a decision is made to start schools late, it will be announced no later than 5:30 a.m.

A late start means that all bus routes and school starting times will be delayed 90 minutes.

- All bus routes will run as usual only 90 minutes later.
- All school start times will be delayed 90 minutes.
- All morning kindergarten and preschool programs will begin 90 minutes later than usual.
- Afternoon kindergarten will have no delay in their normal start time.

When the district is on a late-start schedule, all schools will be dismissed at normal times and all after-school bus routes will run in the normal order and at the normal times.

If the district decides to cancel school because of inclement weather or other dangerous conditions, these stations will carry the announcement: Radio stations KCOL (600 AM) and KTRR TRI-102.5 (102.5 FM), Denver television stations and the district's television channel, Comcast Cable Channel 14. For route advisories, dial 970-613-5192.

Media sources will be contacted for both school closings and late starts. Information will also be available on the district's school closure line at 970-613-6788.

Our sincerest wishes for a wonderful 2019 to you and your family!

Sincerely,

Lamb Caro, EC Administrator

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Happy New Year! I hope the New Year finds you well and that you have been able to relax throughout the holidays!
With the long winter break, and the changes in schedules, children (and parents) will need some time to get back into the routine. At school, teachers will be reviewing our Safety Rules and the expectations of school behavior. This is a good time to review your house rules and practice your routines. If getting going in the morning is a challenge, here is a link to a great resource that will give you some strategies for making your morning routine go a little smoother.


I hope the new year brings you many blessings!

Mary Bowman, Mental Health Coordinator, 613-6179

Education Corner...

January often brings cold snowy weather that means lots of inside time for our little ones. In order to make the most of these long winter hours, here are some ideas for learning...

- Preschoolers love to help! Have your child help sort and fold the socks. Talk about same and different. You can then sort them by family member or color and count how many each family member has.

- Have your child help set the dinner table. Work on counting how many forks, knives and spoons you will need for the meal. Encourage him/her to decide what else you might need for the meal...salad dressing, ketchup, salt and pepper, etc.

- Encourage your preschooler to count the stairs in your home each time they climb up/down. Have them stop on stair number 3, 6 etc.

- When you ask your child to clean his/her room, divide up the task to make it more manageable. Start by picking up all the cars, now the stuffed animals, now the books etc.

- Snuggle up with a good book and a cup of hot cocoa with your little one. Ask them to “read” to you by looking at the pictures and retelling the story.

Each of these activities builds categorization skills, counting skills and self-esteem. By allowing your child to help, you are building their independence and sense of accomplishment. Encourage their efforts and praise their persistence. Most of all...have fun!

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078
Native language use

Support your child’s early literacy development by consistently reading, writing and interacting verbally together using your native language. “The first three years of a child’s life are critical to brain development, and increased exposure to a child’s native language lays an important foundation for strong literacy skills when the child is older” (Department of Education- referenced by Breiseth, 2017).

See below for ways to strategically utilize your native language with your pre-school student:

- Read books in the native language daily
- Sing songs together in the native language
- Keep print materials in the native language in your home (Examples: books, newspapers, magazines, greeting cards, etc.)
- Expose your child to games and music in the native language
- Encourage your child to tell stories in the native language
- Expand your child’s vocabulary in the native language by teaching new words, pointing and naming objects, and helping the child improve pronunciation
- Visit the public library regularly and check out books in the native language

Resource:
Nutrition tips for the Winter Holiday Season

In a month of holiday celebrations and decreased outdoor activity, it is key to watch food portion sizes. You and your child can enjoy all of your favorite foods in moderation. One idea for Holiday gatherings is to take larger portions of healthier options such as the turkey, fresh fruit and vegetables and smaller portions of the more calorie dense foods like mashed potatoes with gravy, sugary snacks, and white bread roll with butter. When it comes to dessert, take a half piece or just a few bites. It is recommended to always avoid the sugary, fatty holiday snacks and give the children healthier snacks that will instill the importance of making healthy food choices. Promote fun, healthier snacking by serving some crafty munchies with seasonal-themed names and colors. Below is one fun/healthy Winter recipe from Head Start to try with your Family:

Cook’s Corner: Holiday Crackers

Ingredients

- 10 round whole wheat crackers
- 2 slices low-sodium cooked lunch meat, such as beef, chicken, or ham
- 2 slices low-fat yellow or white cheddar cheese

Directions

1. Place crackers on a plate or platter.
2. Cut ham into circles using a round cookie cutter.
3. Place a ham circle on each cracker.
4. Cut cheese into shapes using holiday cookie cutters such as trees, snowflakes, snowmen, stars, and bells.
5. Place a cheese shape on the ham on each cracker.

Makes 5 servings

Safety tip: An adult should supervise the use of the cookie cutters.

Christiana Shorten
EC Health & Nutrition Coordinator
(970)613-5063
Family Engagement...

Family Engagement

The Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery is a great place to check out, especially during colder months when you are looking for indoor activities. Our preschool families are eligible for free one year memberships. If you have turned in your application, please visit the Museum to activate your membership. If you haven’t filled out a membership application, you may ask your teacher for one. The Ft. Collins Museum of Discovery is located at 408 Mason Court, north of Old Town Ft. Collins.

Preschool storytime, bilingual storytime, music and movement, Waggin’ Tales, playgroup, and various events are all offered at the Loveland Public Library. They also offer adult classes such as basic computer classes, ESL (English as a Second Language) class, and Love and Logic parenting class in Spanish. Grab a book bag and your library card and check out all that our Library has to offer! Look for information in the near future about our EC Family Game Night at the Library on Thursday, March 14th. The Loveland Public Library is located at 300 N. Adams.

Money Matters

Your credit score can affect your ability to buy a car, purchase a home, etc. A higher score makes it easier to qualify for a loan or to have a lower interest rate. Here are some tips to raise your credit score:

1. Pay your bills on time.
2. Keep your credit utilization ratio low.
3. Don’t open too many new accounts.
4. Check your credit report for accuracy.
5. Build your history of paying bills on time.

JANUARY 2019 EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
- Pay your bills on time, every time
- Don’t get too close to your credit limit
- Your credit score will improve the longer you have good credit
- Only apply for the credit you need
- Be careful closing accounts or transferring your balances

Check your credit score regularly to make sure there are no mistakes. You can obtain a free credit score every 12 months. Go to: annualcreditreport.com

Learn more at consumerfinance.gov

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