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.

Happy November!

It’s incredible to believe that we’ve already been in school since August and are heading into November. I hope that your parent-teacher conference was an opportunity to connect with your teacher and learn about your child’s progress. I wanted to share this interesting article from Scholastic about the importance of reading with your child:

Literacy doesn’t start only when your child starts school. From birth, babies and children are gathering skills they’ll use in reading. The years between ages 3 and 5 are critical to reading growth.

The best way to instill a love for and interest in reading is to simply read to your child. Reading gives you the opportunity for close bonding with your child, and it also provides a window into a world
of literacy that your child is about to enter.

As your child goes from saying her first sentences to speaking in paragraphs, you will start to see exciting milestones develop with reading. Your child will begin to recognize print on the street, stop signs, familiar store signs, and the address posted on your home.

- **Most Preschoolers Will**: Know the names of their favorite books; hold a book correctly and turn pages; recall familiar words and phrases in favorite books, pretend to read books; know the difference between a random squiggle and a letter or number.

- **Some Preschoolers Will**: Recognize and write some letters and numbers; name letters that begin certain words, make up rhymes or silly phrases.

- **Some Preschoolers Might Even**: Predict what might happen next in a story, read and write their names and some familiar words, retell stories that they know.

If you were to read one book a day with your child before the first day of preschool, your child would have read 1095 book before he even starts preschool!

**Kindergarten Open Enrollment.** For the parents of our 4-year-old students, it’s time to begin thinking about kindergarten. If you are attending a preschool that is not your neighborhood school, you will need to Open Enroll at the school for the 2019-2020 school year, if you would like to continue. For those interested in looking at schools other than your neighborhood school, you will also need to Open Enroll at the school of your choice. The Open Enrollment window begins on November 26, 2018 and closes January 11th, 2019. Applications are available on the Thompson School District website. If you choose to attend your neighborhood school for kindergarten, you do not need to fill out an Open Enrollment application.

**Kindergarten Open House.** The Thompson School District will once again host a Kindergarten Open House on December 6, 2018, at Thompson Valley High School from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with staff members from each elementary school to learn what each elementary school has to offer and ask questions.

I wish you all a wonderful November!

Lamb Caro  
Early Childhood Administrator

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**Social Emotional Resources...**

Stop it." “No.” “Don’t do that!” As a parent, you might find yourself using these words and phrases more often when your child begins to make his own choices. Now, stop for a moment and consider how the conversation might feel if you couldn’t use these words? What if, rather than telling your child what he can’t do, you instead chose words to tell him what he can do? While this shift in language might seem small, it actually provides a powerful positive change to the tone of the conversation. When you focus on using positive language with your child, you will likely find...
that he has fewer tantrums, whines less and overall experiences fewer challenging behaviors.
(Taken from the “Backpack Connection Series” at www.challengingbehavior.org)

To find out more go to:


Mary Bowman
970-613-6179

**Education Corner...**

**Developing Writing and Spelling at Home (Pre-K)**

By: Reading Rockets

Writing is a terrific way for children to express their thoughts, creativity, and uniqueness. It is also a fundamental way in which children learn to organize ideas. And learning to write well helps children to be better readers.

When engaging in writing, young children often mirror what they see around them: adults and older children writing lists, notes, text messaging. They are observing the way writing is used in our everyday lives.

Here are some simple things families can do to support young children's writing:

- Keep markers, pencils, and crayons available at home. Children develop skills that prepare them for writing through their normal play — like drawing, painting, and tracing objects. This kind of play helps prepare the brain and the muscles for holding a pencil and forming written words.
- Help them learn to write their name. This is an empowering experience, and allows them to begin to identify themselves as writers.
- Involve them in your writing activities. Make a shopping list together and point out the words that start with the same letter as the child's name.

**And most of all...**

- Read books with kids. Early and frequent exposure to letters, sounds, words, and stories helps kids learn to read and write.

Once children start learning letters, you can practice writing them on paper, in the air, or in sand or snow. These tactile experiences help them feel the shape and motion of the letter.

As your child begins to write letters, caption what they've written. Ask your child, "What does this say?" Write their words under their writing. This helps them learn more about letters and words.
As you read to your children, point out things the book author did to make the book so fun to read. "Wow! Listen to how the author describes the ocean. Don’t those words make you feel like you’re back jumping over waves?"

Show your children that you write too. Let your children see you writing thank you notes, composing an e-mail, or communicating with your child’s school.

Amy Gerhard
Education Coordinator
970-613-5078

**English Language Development...**

Provide your child opportunities to engage in multicultural learning. Northern Colorado has a variety of available cultural events, art exhibits, performances, and diverse food options for you to explore with your child. You can help your child develop their awareness, respect for, and appreciation of cultural differences, by engaging in multicultural learning with them. See a list of ideas below.

- **Loveland Public Library** (300 N. Adams Ave., Loveland, CO 80537):
  2018 4th Annual *Día de los Muertos: A Cultural Celebration*

- **Longmont Museum and Cultural Center** (400 Quail Road, Longmont, CO 80501):
  *Día de Los Muertos* exhibit

- **Global Village Museum of Arts and Cultures** (200 W. Mountain Ave., Ft. Collins, CO 80521):
  Variety of exhibits

- **The Lincoln Center** (417 W. Magnolia, Ft. Collins, CO 80521)
  Variety of cultural arts performances and galleries

- Various ethnic food around Northern Colorado
  See the article "5 *authentic ethnic restaurants to try in Fort Collins*" from the Fort Collins Coloradoan
  Click the link for the article [https://www.coloradoan.com/story/life/food/2017/11/02/authentic-foreign-restaurants-fort-collins/794367001/](https://www.coloradoan.com/story/life/food/2017/11/02/authentic-foreign-restaurants-fort-collins/794367001/)

Links:


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NOVEMBER 2018    EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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Every November at the end of Daylight Savings time is the perfect time to remember to change the batteries in your smoke detector. Smoke Detectors with working batteries are essential for child and family safety. During the cold-weather months of November through March, home fires and home fire-related fatalities are more likely to occur. As the weather becomes colder and families are indoors, there is increased usage of space heaters, fireplaces, Holiday candles etc. Teaching children about the sounds of the smoke detector and knowing what to do if they smell smoke or hear the alarm go off is a great thing to know at a young age. Planning and practicing a fire escape route with your family and talking to your children about what to expect in a fire are simple steps anyone can take. A prepared child is more likely to escape unharmed.

Mandarin Orange “Pumpkins

For a fun healthy treat this month that your preschooler can make, why not try these “pumpkins”

Simply have your preschooler peel mandarin oranges while you cut strips of celery for “stems”

Once completed have your preschooler insert the “stem” and enjoy!
Here are a couple of safety teaching points to review with your child:

- Teach children what to do when they hear the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Crawl low under smoke.
- Touch doors before opening them; if the door is hot, use another exit.
- Never go back into a burning building; children should be reminded not to stop or return for anything, such as a toy or to call 9-1-1.
- Upon leaving the burning building, children whose clothes have caught fire should immediately stop, drop to the ground and roll back and forth quickly to extinguish the flames.
- Practice an escape plan with your child.
- Teach young children not to play with matches or lighters. Lock up matches and lighters out of their sight and reach.
- Keep all portable heaters out of children’s reach and at least 3 feet away from flammable objects.

**Family Engagement...**

**Family Engagement**

November is all about pumpkin pie, football games and giving thanks for our family and friends. Take this time to ask your child what he or she is thankful for. Sometimes their answers are surprising!

For those who may need some resources during the holidays, please remember to sign up early for Santa Cops. Applications are taken in person at the Loveland Police and Courts Building in early November. Check out the website for more information and dates to apply for gifts for your children: [http://santacopslarimercounty.org](http://santacopslarimercounty.org)

The House of Neighborly Service is offering Christmas food baskets to families who qualify. You can request an application from your teacher or CFSP and apply in person at HNS, 1511 E. 11th Street no later than November 21st.

**Money Matters – Budgeting 101**

Creating and sticking to a budget is an important first step toward financial security. Define your monthly income, which is the money you earn, plus child support, alimony or other income. To create a budget, start by separating your needs from wants. Needs are things like housing, food, medicine and childcare. Wants are things like cable t.v. and eating in restaurants. Prioritize your bills by fixed expenses such as housing, car payments and insurance. What is left after paying for fixed expenses can go toward food, gas and credit cards. Whenever possible, try to put money aside for an emergency fund, as well as retirement. Track your expenses in a notebook or on your computer to see how well you are sticking to your budget.

[www.greenpath.com](http://www.greenpath.com)  Julie Lindsay Family & Community Partnership Coordinator 970-613-5053