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.

I wanted to share with you our Vision and Mission statement for our program because this is what drives our work. The vision and mission are developed with our staff, parents, Families Partnering in Education, and the Thompson School District’s Board of Education. These words are at the heart of our work. We revisit this every year to renew our promise in what we believe in. We take seriously that we are preparing our students for a lifetime of learning and as the parents, we recognize the importance of building a partnership with you. Our hope is that you aspire to be an active participant in your child’s learning throughout her/his educational career.

We’ve completed our first month of the 2017-2018 school year and there’s a lot of good things going on in the classroom. By this time, your child is starting to settle into a “routine” for her classroom. Right now, our staff are focused on building the social skills necessary to engage in playing with others while building the skills necessary to learn.

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. We hope you take this time to explore the different opportunities around the community to learn more and participate in activities at home and around northern Colorado. We live in a wonderful community with access to many great activities and events for you and your families to participate in together.

There is a lot of great things happening in Early Childhood!

Lamb Caro
Early Childhood Administrator
Families,

We would love your help in the classroom – just let your teacher know. You can help with breakfast or snack, read to the preschoolers, help with parties and many other duties. First, you need to register as a volunteer online at www.thompsonschools.org and click on the VITAL button to start your application. Once your name badge is sent to your school office, you are ready to volunteer. Be sure to click onto the Early Childhood icon (not the Elementary icon,) and wear your name badge in the classroom. If you are a returning volunteer, you now click on “opportunities” instead of “hours”, once you are in the system.

LOVELAND HALLOWEEN EVENTS 2017

Halloween Family Fun Festival – Saturday, October 28, 10 am. – 2 pm.; Peters Park next to the Loveland Museum/Gallery, 503 N. Lincoln. Vendor booths, food, activities, costume contest, trick-or-treating at downtown businesses.

Halloween on the Promenade – Sunday, October 29, noon – 3 pm, Promenade Shops at Centerra, near Rock Bottom Brewery. Horse-drawn hayrides, games, petting zoo, pumpkin patch, dancing, activity stations. Dog costume contest at 1:00 pm. Non-perishable food donations accepted.

Halloween Hullabaloo – Saturday, October 28, The Marketplace at Centerra – Halloween fun for the whole family.

Osborne Farm - Open until October 31, 10 am – 6 pm. 1230 S. Boise Avenue. Pumpkin patch, pumpkins sold by the pound, gourds, Indian Corn, corn stalks and hay bales for sale. Hayrides on weekends for a fee.

Bartels Farm – Open until October 31, 10 am – 6 pm, 3424 E. Douglas Rd. Ft. Collins. Pumpkins and gourds for sale, “punkin chunkin,” farm animals, Hayrides $2 per person, Corn Maze $5 per person.

Tiny Tot Halloween - Tuesday, October 31, 10 am – 1 pm, Old Town Square in Ft. Collins. Trick or treat at downtown businesses. Free for children under age 7.

Julie Lindsay
Family & Community Engagement Coordinator
(970) 613-5053
A NOTE FOR YOUR HEALTH AND WELLNESS

A good source of articles and recipes for your health and wellness can be found at kidshealth.com. Check out the articles entitled Food Guide Becomes Pyramid and Go Slow and Whoa! A Kids Guide to Eating Right. Both articles give good information on portion control and healthy food choices.

**Spiced Pumpkin Seeds**
1 1/2 tablespoons margarine, melted
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon garlic salt
2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds

Directions:
Preheat oven to 275 degrees F (135 degrees C).
Combine the margarine, salt, garlic salt, Worcestershire sauce and pumpkin seeds. Mix thoroughly and place in shallow baking dish.
Bake for 1 hour, stirring occasionally.

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**Roasted Pumpkin Seeds**
1 1/2 cups raw whole pumpkin seeds
2 teaspoons butter, melted
1 pinch salt

Directions:
Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).
Toss seeds in a bowl with the melted butter and salt. Spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet and bake for about 45 minutes or until golden brown; stir occasionally.
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Christiana Shorten
Health Coordinator
(970)613-5063


**Education Corner...**

**Fall is in the air!**

This is a busy month in preschool, as students have settled into the routine of the school day and are really ready to learn! We will be working on exploring who we are as individuals, how we grow and change over time, exploring our 5 senses, identifying shapes and how we can make friends.

Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up this month, as well. Please be sure to celebrate your child’s growth and success with your teacher and feel free to ask questions at this time. Your teacher will be sending home information about times and what to expect. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin that partnership with your child’s teacher in making the most of this preschool experience. When we work together, we see so much growth in our little ones.

Finally, while spending time with your children this month, be sure to point out the changes in the weather, leaves, etc. Talk about what they notice and see what questions they have. We often get so busy in our adult world that we forget to stop and enjoy the season through the wonder of our preschoolers!

**Amy Gerhard**  
**Education Coordinator**

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**P.S.**

I hope you enjoyed our Hugs Family Night! Many of you have asked for the link to the “Just Breathe” video...here it is!  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVA2N6tX2cg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RVA2N6tX2cg)
Hello Parents,

I hope you and your family are settling into and enjoying the new preschool year. One of the first things that teachers are teaching children is our safety rules. These rules are:

- We keep ourselves safe
- We keep each other safe
- We keep our things safe

You can teach these same rules at home. Some examples would be...

- “You keep yourself safe when you wear your helmet on your bike.” or “You keep yourself safe when you brush your teeth.”
- “You keep your friends safe when you take turns with your toys.” or “You keep others safe when you use words to say that you are angry.”
- “You keep your things safe when you put your toys away.” or “You keep your toys safe when you play with them gently.”

Mary Bowman
Mental Health coordinator