

Pathfinder Preschool News

June 2009
Volume 1, Issue 3

Pam Satterfield, Director
LaTanya Williams, Assistant Director



Contents

Summer Water Safety	1
Important Dates	1
Policies and Reminders	1
What is a Physical Therapist?	2
Employee of the Month	2
ACW @ Northeastern Annex	2
Staff Spotlight	2
Free Classes for Parents	3
Simple Signs	3
Upcoming Curriculum	4
Suggested Books	4
Featured Website	4
BookIT! Contest Results	4
Praising Your Child	4

● Important Dates ●

- July 3 - no school in observance of the 4th of July
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 21 - Father's Day
- July 24 - Preschool Graduation

☀ Water Safety

Drowning is the second most common cause of death from injuries among kids under the age of 14. Drowning can happen so fast – sometimes in less than 2 minutes after a person's head goes under the water. Each year many young children drown in swimming pools, other bodies of water, and standing water around the home.

- Never leave a child alone in a bathtub or in the care of another child, even for a moment.
- Never take your eyes off of children in the water – even for a moment!
- If you're in a group, appoint a designated water watcher, taking turns with other adults.
- While supervising, stay alert and avoid distractions like reading or the telephone.
- If your child can't swim, stay within an arm's reach.
- Keep a telephone nearby in case of an emergency.
- Don't rely on "water wings" or other inflatable toys.
- Do not drink alcohol while supervising children.

Remember that a child can drown in as little as one inch of water!

- Keep young children out of the bathroom unless they are closely watched. (e.g. toilets, bathtubs, sinks)
- Empty all buckets, pails, and bathtubs completely after each use - do not leave them filled and unattended.
- Monitor ice chests that may contain melted ice.
- Cover hot tubs, spas, and whirlpools when not in use.
- Keep children away from irrigation ditches, post holes, and wells.
- Children will be drawn to fish ponds and fountains - be sure to accompany them at all times!

☀ Policies and Reminders

- ◆ Please remember to sign your child in and out of school when you bring or take them from the building.
- ◆ We ask that children do not wear "flip flops" or sandals that do not stay securely on their feet. They may cause children to trip, fall, or injure their feet when playing on the playground.
- ◆ Please clearly mark all clothing, blankets, and personal items with your child's name. Unmarked items are more likely to be lost or sent home with the wrong child.
- ◆ If your child needs to wear sunscreen during outside play, please send a bottle or tube of sunscreen labeled with your child's name. It will be kept in your child's cubby for daily use.

★ Team ★ Player Award

Ms. Darnise Price was recently awarded the Pathfinder Preschool "Team Player Award" for giving so much of her energy and time to the four-year-old classrooms over the past month.

Ms. Darnise has been working for Pathfinder Preschool since September 22, 2003. She began as a teaching assistant / technician in our classrooms and is now one of our service coordinators.

Ms. Darnise goes above and beyond her responsibilities as a service coordinator. She can be seen on the playgrounds, in the classrooms, and helping with bulletin boards. When someone needs help, she is always willing to be there.

Most recently, Ms. Darnise gave a great deal of time and energy to help our four-year-old classrooms organize and decorate their classrooms. Having her assistance made a world of difference for our teachers, teaching assistants and children.

We love you, Ms. Darnise! Thank you for all that you do for our school!

★ What is a Physical Therapist?

A physical therapist (PT) is a health care professional who diagnoses and treats individuals who have medical problems or other health-related conditions that limit their abilities to move and perform functional activities in their daily lives.

Physical therapists work with individuals of all ages, from newborns to the elderly. Each individual is examined, or assessed, and the PT develops a plan using treatment techniques that promote the ability to move, reduce pain, restore function, and prevent disability.

Physical therapists provide care for people in a variety of settings, including hospitals, private practices, outpatient clinics, home health agencies, schools, sports and fitness facilities, work settings, and nursing homes. State licensure is required in each state in which a physical therapist practices.

All physical therapists must receive a graduate degree from an accredited physical therapist program before taking the national licensure examination that allows them to practice. The majority of programs offer the doctor of physical therapy (DPT) degree.

From the American Physical Therapy Association website at www.apta.org

★ Employee of the Month May 2009

We are proud to announce that our May 2009 Employee of the Month is Mrs. Delois Terry, also known as "Ms. Lois". She has been working as a teaching assistant at Pathfinder Preschool since January 8, 2008. Ms. Lois works tirelessly to provide her "babies" in Nursery 2 with a positive and loving learning environment. Ms. Lois is a professional and personal role model for all of us here at Pathfinder Preschool. We love you Ms. Lois! Thank you for everything that you do for our children and school!

★ Arkansas Children's Week at Northeastern

Thanks to Margie Powell, Northeastern's certified teacher, for providing us with a summary of their Arkansas Children's Week activities!

Children's week was lots of fun at the Northeastern Preschool site. We celebrated by reading a series of books written by Laura Joffe Numeroff which included If You Give A Mouse A Cookie, If You Give A Pig A Pancake, If You Give A Moose A Muffin, and If You Take A Mouse To School.

To go along with our literature theme, we had fun learning during activities such as flannel board stories, counting and number ordering, making puppets, and coloring activities. The children loved coming together as one big group and watching the story come alive through the flannel board! We cooked special treats throughout Children's Week to celebrate what we were learning. For one morning snack, we made muffins, pancakes were for breakfast on another day, and chocolate chip cookies were baked for an afternoon snack at the end of the week.

Our preschoolers had a great amount of fun while learning lots during National Children's Week. We wrapped up the celebration by wearing our colorful green t-shirts on Friday while eating our chocolate chip cookies, and reading, If You Give A Mouse A Cookie.

Free Classes for Parents and Caregivers

Center for Effective Parenting - Arkansas children's Hospital
 All classes are free of charge. Sorry, childcare is NOT provided.
 Call (501) 364-6911

- **Being an Effective Parent during the Toddler and Preschool Years**
 June 2, 2009 (6-9 pm) TUESDAY

Presented by *Nicholas Long, Ph.D.*, this class is designed for parents of toddlers and preschoolers. The focus will be on discussing various parenting issues, including discipline, sleep problems, self-esteem, sibling rivalry, children and television, and injury prevention.

- **Bringing Out the Best in Your Young Child**
 June 9-30, 2009 (6-8 pm) TUESDAYS OR
 June 10-July 1, 2009 (10 am-12 pm) WEDNESDAYS

Presented by *Linda Patterson, M.Ed.*, this four-part series is designed to strengthen parenting skills, prevent problem behaviors, and promote school readiness.

- **Preparing for Parenthood: What To Do After The Baby Arrives!**
 July 7, 2009 (6-9 pm) TUESDAY

Nicholas Long, Ph.D. will present a seminar designed for first-time expectant parents. The focus will be on discussing various parenting issues, including preparing for the role of a new parent, infant development, infant stimulation, infant temperament, day care, preventing sleep and feeding problems, and injury prevention.

- **Bringing Out the Best . . . : "Teaching Children to Problem Solve"**
 July 14, 2009 (6-8 pm) TUESDAY OR
 July 15, 2009 (10 am - 12 pm) WEDNESDAY

There is evidence that children who employ appropriate problem solving strategies play more constructively, are better liked by their peers, and are more cooperative at home and school. In this class, *Linda Patterson, M.Ed.* will present methods parents and teachers can use to teach those problem solving skills to children. Designed for parents of children ages 2-6.

- **Right From Birth**
 July 25, 2009 (9 am to 12 pm) SATURDAY

Parents will be led through the stages of early childhood from birth to 18 months and given practical advice on how adults can prepare infants for a lifetime of learning from the day they're born. Participants will receive: *A Caregiver's Guide*. Presenter: *Linda Patterson, M.Ed.*



The Centers for Youth & Families - The Parent Center

5905 Forest Place, Suite 205 - Little Rock, AR 72207

Class fees are \$15.00 / person - \$25.00 / couple

Free childcare is available for participants. Registration and payment required one week in advance. Call (501) 666-6833

- **New Mom's Support Group**

Every Thursday, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. No registering, no fees, just drop in!
 Open to all women who have become a parent within the past year.
 Babies are welcome!

Simple Signs



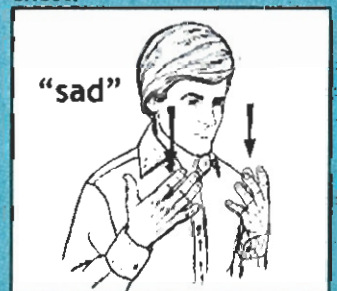
Place fingers and thumb of right hand at sides of mouth, then quickly pivot hand forward to the right.



Hold "L" hands with palms facing out. Move outward to sides beyond the body.



Hold one or both hands with palms facing chest. Move in forward circular movements with palms touching the chest.



With palms facing in, bend head forward slightly while dropping open hands down the length of the face. Assume a sad expression.



★ Praising Your Child ★

Parents can often prevent a child's inappropriate behavior by praising appropriate behavior that their child demonstrates. The following behaviors are often expected but not necessarily praised.

- Sharing
- Talking nicely
- Following directions
- Saying please
- Saying thank you
- Giving hugs or kisses
- Having a "good" day
- Playing quietly
- Solving a problem
- Turning down the TV
- Doing assigned chores
- Going to bed willingly
- Waking up dry in the AM
- Helping family members
- Picking up clothes
- Putting toys away
- Walking slowly
- Getting dressed
- Being patient
- Being kind to someone

Praise your child often!!

★ Upcoming Curriculum

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Toddlers:	Up in the Sky	Toddlers: Family Fun
Twos:	Up in the Sky	Twos: Family Fun
Threes:	Up in the Sky	Threes: Family Fun
Fours:	Ready for Kindergarten!	Fours: Curriculum Review

★ Suggested Books (available through the public library)

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
<i>Little Cloud</i>	<i>by Eric Carle</i>	<i>Family Lullaby</i> <i>by Jody Fickes Shapiro</i>
<i>What Color Was the Sky Today?</i>	<i>by Miela Ford</i>	<i>My Family Plays Music</i> <i>by Judy Cox</i>
<i>Birds</i>	<i>by Kevin Henkes</i>	<i>Families</i> <i>by Ann Morris</i>
<i>Kindergarten Countdown</i>	<i>by Anna Jane Hays</i>	<i>Two Times the Fun</i> <i>by Carol Thompson</i>

★ Featured Website : www.zerotothree.org

"ZERO TO THREE is a national nonprofit organization that informs, trains, and supports professionals, policymakers, and parents in their efforts to improve the lives of infants and toddlers." This website is the online home to the organization, and the information presented is often relevant to preschoolers as well as infants and toddlers.

The parenting section contains information on a variety of topics, including brain development, child care, child development, early language and literacy, health and nutrition, play, sleep, school readiness, social-emotional development, and temperament and behavior. This is a wonderful resource for both parents and educators, and there are handouts that can be printed and shared with others. Be sure to check out www.zerotothree.org!

★ BookIT! Contest Results

Thank you to Ms. Terrie for organizing our BookIT! program this year!

Pathfinder Preschool participated in the BookIT! program during March and April. Teachers, parents, and guest readers spent time reading to our children. The program began with a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday and continued with weekly dress up days, including pajamas, sports teams, mismatched, and hat days.

The program concluded with National Children's Week and certificates for free personal pan pizzas from Pizza Hut. Approximately 2000 books were read to our students during the program! Two classrooms won pizza parties by reading the most books for their age categories. Ms. Lavetta, Ms. Amanda, and Ms. Telecia's 2-year-olds read 227 books, and Ms. Petra and Ms. Laura's 4-year-olds read 484 books! Congratulations, and keep reading!