



# Funshine Children's Center

NOVEMBER 2018

## Sr. Pre-K Newsletter

Dear Parents,

The holiday season is upon us and we are so thankful to have you all as part of our Sr. Pre family.

We have been hard at work learning and exploring new things every day. We hope you are seeing some of this learning at home. Thank you all for your continued help and support as we work together to educate and encourage these wonderful young minds.

With the changing weather, please remember to check your child's extra clothes box. Please ensure there is a complete change of clothes for those unexpected needs.

Over the next month we will explore many new themes. We will start off with plants of the forest. There are trees of course, but what else is growing on the forest floor? Shrubs, wildflowers, ferns and moss, let's explore and see what is down there. Then we move on to the animals of the forest. There are many types of birds in the forest trees but what else lives there? Squirrels, bears, deer, foxes and even mice. Where do these animals live in the forest and what do they eat? We take a break from the forest just in

time for thanksgiving. We will talk about the things (and people) we are most thankful for.

It's back to the forest for the final week. We move on to the insects of the forest. How many different types of insects live in the forest and how do the parts of the forest work?

We will continue to work on a letter each week in our classroom and will start off with the letter H, then move on to the letter N, then the letter O, and end the month with the letter D. Thank you for partnering with our school in developing your child's early literacy skills!

Again, thank you for all you do for the kiddos. We have such wonderful, thoughtful parents!

Ms. Wendy & Ms. Sophia

### Important Dates:

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Drive in Movie Night & Pajama Day!
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Indy Parks & Recreation Visit
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Feast
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Happy Thanksgiving (Funshine Closed)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Funshine Open 8am-4pm



### Children's Thanksgiving Feast

On Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> we will hold a special Thanksgiving Feast for the children and will have our lunch together in our "gym." Children will be eating on placemats they created and at tables decorated with their lovely hand-made centerpieces! We are thankful for the blessings of teaching your wonderful children and caring for them; Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

### Drive-in Movie Night

On Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> we invite you to join us for a fun night of popcorn and a movie projected in the gym! To add to the fun, we ask families to help their child create a "car" out of a box that the children can sit in and enjoy their movie like a real drive-in!

### 2018 Holiday Closings

Please note our holiday closings for the 2018 year:

- \*Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving
- \*Friday November 23<sup>rd</sup>: Hours 8:00 – 4:00
- \*Monday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve
- \* Tuesday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas

# Introducing Technology to Children

During the preschool years, young children are developing a sense of initiative and creativity. They are curious about the world around them and about learning. They are exploring their ability to create and communicate using a variety of media (crayons, felt-tip markers, paints and other art materials, blocks, dramatic play materials, miniature life figures) and through creative movement, singing, dancing, and using their bodies to represent ideas and experiences. Digital technologies provide one more outlet for them to demonstrate their creativity and learning

In our Sr. Pre-K and Pre-K programs we have been happy to have computers as part of our curriculum, however with tablet use becoming more prevalent in elementary schools, we will be moving toward introducing tablets. Here are some of the things children learn when they use tablets at Funshine:

- to be comfortable with technology
- beginning reading and writing skills
- math skills and concepts such as counting and numerical relationships
- how to express themselves creatively
- how to solve problems and begin to do research

We encourage children to work at the technology centers in pairs or small groups. This helps them learn from each other and develops their

social skills at the same time.

By working with children in these ways, we not only encourage their growth and development but also help prepare them for a future in which they will need to know how to work with technology at home and at school. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends using the following guidelines for at home, and at school

## Teacher Appreciation Board

Take a star from our teacher appreciation board and write a special comment for your child's teacher. Place the star on the board to show your appreciation for all the ways they make a difference in your child life.

## Parent Surveys

We will be handing out parent surveys this month. We use feedback from these surveys to evaluate what we can change/improve upon, or keep the same. We are looking to have all surveys back by Friday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thank you all in advance for your participation

American Academy of Pediatrics Media Use Guidelines for Young Children

Age	Description	Media Use Guidelines
Younger than 2	Children younger than 2 learn and grow when they explore the physical world around them. Their minds learn best when they interact and play with parents, siblings, caregivers, and other children and adults.	<p><b>For children younger than 2,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media use should be very limited and only when an adult is standing by to co-view, talk, and teach. For example, video-chatting with family along with parents.</li> </ul>
	Children younger than 2 have a hard time understanding what they see on screen media and how it relates to the world around them.	<p><b>For children 18 to 24 months, if you want to introduce digital media,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose high-quality programming.</li> <li>• Use media together with your child.</li> <li>• Avoid solo media use.</li> </ul>
2 to 5 years of age	<p>At 2 years of age, many children can understand and learn words from live video-chatting. Young children can listen to or join a conversation with their parents.</p> <p>Children 3 to 5 years of age have more mature minds, so a well-designed educational program such as Sesame Street (in moderation) can help children learn social, language, and reading skills.</p>	<p><b>For children 2 to 5 years of age,</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit screen use to no more than 1 hour per day.</li> <li>• Find other activities for your children to do that are healthy for their bodies and minds.</li> <li>• Choose media that is interactive, non-violent, educational, and prosocial.</li> <li>• Co-view or co-play with your children.</li> </ul>