



# Funshine Children's Center

NOVEMBER 2018

## Wee Care Pre-K Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I cannot believe we are already in the month of November. We had a wonderful Halloween Party. A special thanks to all the parents who sent in snacks, fruit, drinks and treat bags! The children are just now beginning to understand what a fun holiday Halloween is for children.

During the month of November we will focus on another wonderful holiday, Thanksgiving. We have many fun activities planned this month that will help the children to grow socially, emotionally and help to develop fine and gross motor skills. The themes for the month are:

The first week we will focus on table manners, saying please and thank you (learning sign language and Spanish songs for these as well) and learning to take turns with our friends and helping make our friends happy.

Harvest week means the crops are ready to be picked and enjoyed by everyone! We are surrounded by all the beautiful colors and wonderful tastes of Fall. Growing vegetable soup by Lois Ehlert is a delightful story that explains the process of growing vegetables from seed to. We will use this book as a springboard for many activities this week.

This week we are going to talk about Thanksgiving and what it means to be thankful for what we have. We will discuss

the foods we have on Thanksgiving and traditions.

This week is going to be wonderful week, because we are going to learn about what nutrition means and what types of foods are good for your body and why. We are asking the children what types of vegetable and fruit they like.

We are all truly thankful to have the opportunity to teach your adorable and amazing children and share in all their joyful childhood moments and achievements with you.

Please know we will always be available for any suggestions, questions, or concerns and we are thankful for strong partnerships we have with our families in their child's development.

Thank you so much to my wonderful parents! Happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Claudia, Ms. Aleeda & Ms. Kanisha

### 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
<b>Younger than 2</b>	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.	<b>For children younger than 2,</b> <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. However, children 15 to 18 months of age can learn from high-quality educational media, IF their parents play or view with them and reteach the lessons.	<b>For children 18 to 24 months, if you want to introduce digital media,</b> <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>
<b>2 to 5 years of age</b>	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. 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.	<b>For children 2 to 5 years of age,</b> <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>