



Bamboo News



Isaacs Early Childhood School, PISD

December 2011 / January 2012

Dear Parents,

December is always a busy month. I want to inform you of our approach to the upcoming holiday season. The following paragraph is from the book entitled ***Celebrate!***, it helps explain the philosophy at PISD Early Childhood Schools.

“It’s best not to make any holiday the entire focus of your curriculum for an extended time. In some programs, for example, teachers turn December into one giant holiday activity. This approach not only over-stimulates children but also leaves out a lot of other wonderful activities.”

Our goal is to continue to provide a rich environment for all children that values each child’s unique background. We will be responsive to topics young children want to discuss, but we will not be teaching about the upcoming holidays. It is our intent that this approach will respect each family’s culture and beliefs.

December 14th is going to be Nursery Rhyme Day (information to follow). It is one of the three party days this year (February 14 and May 31 are our other two party days). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

My best wishes for a wonderful Winter Break.

Sincerely,

Elaine M. Schmidt, Ed.D.

Principal

“Helping Preschoolers Excel”

A recent study shows that encouraging preschoolers to take on responsibilities as home, and giving them choices, can help them academically and socially during their school years. This style of parenting, which researchers call “autonomy supportive” led to higher



achievement in reading and math in third grade and in the student’s abilities to adjust socially. According to researchers, the study’s results were consistent regardless of the children’s socioeconomic status, gender or IQ. Jacobson, L. 205, September 21, 2008 “Education Week”

Birthday Parties

Many parents elect to send a treat to school in order to celebrate their child’s birthday. Cupcakes or individual ice cream novelties are great suggestions (no nuts please). Isaacs has an ice cream machine in its lounge. If you would like to purchase novelties from the machine, please check with your child’s teacher on the number of students in the class and the cost of the treats. (They range in price from .75 to \$1.00). Please send dollar bills.



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Nurse's Notes



Every year, many children are accidentally poisoned in their own homes. A poison is anything that causes sickness or death if it gets into your body. This includes solids, liquids, sprays, or gases that are eaten, inhaled, or transmitted through the eyes or skin.

Poisons can be found in many areas of the home. It is a good idea to go from room to room and poison proof your house. There are many potential hazards for poisoning in every home. Vitamins, household cleaners, mouthwash, and some household plants are often poisonous. Some common poison prevention measures to implement:

Kitchen:

- All household products are out of reach and sight of children.

Child safety latches are on cabinets and drawers containing harmful products or sharp objects.

No toxic products stored with food or in food containers.



Bathroom:

All medications and personal care products are out of reach and sight of children.



Laundry Area:

- All detergents, bleach, and laundry products are out of reach and sight of children.

All products are in their original containers.



Garage:

- All lawn products and pesticides are out of reach and sight of children.

Gasoline, paint, and home-care products are stored in a secure location and out of reach and sight of children.



If someone you know is poisoned, contact your Poison Control Center and if possible have available the container with a list of ingredients that has caused the poisoning. It is a good idea to have the Poison Control Center's phone number on/near each phone in your home. The phone # is 1-800-222-1222. Do not induce vomiting unless instructed to by a Poison Control Operator or by 911.

Save the Date!

Parent Academy 2

Thursday, January 12th @ 6:30 PM

Strategies to help your child learn at home!



Comments from our Counselor

We are continuing to have a fabulous year here at Isaacs Early Childhood School!

Thank you for sharing your wonderful children with us.



Skippy and I are having lots of fun in our weekly guidance lessons with your children. We've been singing songs, reading books and having lots of fun together! We have been learning that we are all special. We've also been learning about how we are the same and how we are different. Your child had "homework". The homework was to look in the mirror, wave, and say, "Hi, good looking!" We had lots of laughter when practicing that at school after reading the book I Like Me by Nancy Carlson.

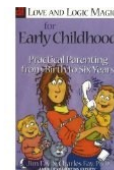
We'll also be offering the Love and Logic class Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun. This free class will be offered in English with Spanish translation. We'll be learning the Love and Logic way of parenting by using many of the skills that our Isaacs teachers use daily with your children such as giving them choices, using empathy, etc. The classes will be held at Isaacs on Thursday afternoons from 1:00-3:00, January 12th, 19th, 26th, February 2nd, 9th, and 16th.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 469-752-3494 (kay.glawe@pisd.edu)

Sincerely,

Kay Glawe (rhymes with Dave)

Isaacs Early Childhood Counselor



Lines from the Library

Thank you for reading with your children. The time you spend reading together makes such a great impact on their lives. It is also great for your children to see you reading a book, magazine or the newspaper for your enjoyment. Getting an early start on reading and enjoying books makes such a difference in the lives of children. I hope to see you in the library!

If you are looking for some books to read try looking either in our library or the public library for books by the same author that has written a book your child has enjoyed before.

Reading is great anytime, anywhere, but winter is the best time to snuggle up with a good book. When it's too cold to go outside, I can't think of a better time to read together.

We won't be checking out Friday, Dec 16, due to the two-week holiday. Enjoy reading over the break with selections from the public library or books you have at home that you haven't read in a while.

The next page is a literacy checklist for you. Check to see how many of these things you are already doing at your house. If you have any questions, please call me.

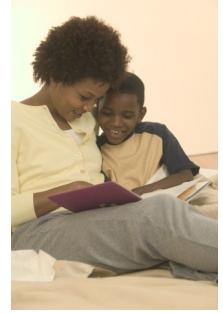
Hollie Scargall at 469-752-3497

In-Home Literacy Environment Checklist

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Quick Facts – Reading to Your Child

Books are key in children’s learning of language. Researcher Keith Stanovich discovered that more words are found in books than other avenues, such as conversation, television and magazine reading. Read with your child at least 15 minutes each day.



Curriculum Note – Conventions of Writing

Children are highly motivated to learn to print their own name. The PISD Prekindergarten Curriculum specifies that by the end of their preschool experience, students should be able to “Write their first name in any (recognizable) form.” and we also work on a student’s last name as appropriate. Teachers support this objective in the classroom by incorporating numerous activities including:

- Teaching the children how to form letters with play-doh or clay.
- Using a popsicle stick as a writing tool, and have the children print the letters.
- Modeling the correct letter formation during the Morning Message, journal writing, and the development of language experience stories
- Modeling and practicing writing letters in a sand or salt tray, finger paint, or pudding.
- Writing a letter on the table top with a dry erase marker and then asking the students to trace it with a small cotton ball

As of this year, in Kindergarten, PISD students receive handwriting instruction in Benson manuscript. The Prekindergarten program supports the transition to kindergarten by modeling this type of print for the children and the stroke pattern. You will find



a copy of the Manuscript Alphabet in this newsletter for you to model at home. (Ideally, children learn to print their name with the first letter being upper case and the other let-

Handwriting "Quick Talk"

A	Slant left; Slant right; cross in the middle	N	Slant down; slant down and push up
a	Around and up and down to a puppy tail	n	Down, up and over and a puppy tail
B	Slant down, trace back up, curve around, curve around	O	Around and close (use a big voice)
b	Slant down, curve up and around	o	Around and close (use a tiny voice)
C	Curve up and around (use a big voice)	P	Slant down, trace back up and curve around
c	Curve up and around (use a tiny voice)	p	Down below, up and around
D	Slant down, curve up and touch	Q	Around and close; add a worm
d	Around and up high and down to a puppy tail	q	Around and up, down below and a puppy tail
E	Slide, slant, slide; push out	R	Slant down, trace back up, curve around and out to a puppy tail
e	Curve up to the middle and around	r	Down, up, curve
F	Slide, slant; push out	S	Curve up and around, curve down and around (use a big voice)
f	Curve up and slant down; cross in the middle	s	Curve up and around, curve down and around (use a tiny voice)
G	Curve up and around, slide in	T	Slant down; cross on the top
g	Around and up, down below and a hook	t	Down and a puppy tail; cross in the middle
H	Slant down; slant down; cross in the middle	U	Slant down around up, and down to a puppy tail (use a big voice)
h	Slant down, up and over, and a puppy tail	u	Slant down around up and down to a puppy tail (use a tiny voice)
I	Slant down; cross on the top; cross on the bottom	V	Slant down, slant up (use a big voice)
i	Down and a puppy tail; dot	v	Slant down, slant up (use a tiny voice)
J	Slant down and a hook	W	Slant down, push up, slant down, push up
j	Down below and a hook; dot	w	Down around up, down around up
K	Slant down; slant to the middle and out to a puppy tail	X	Slant down and a puppy tail; cross (use a big voice)
k	Slant down, trace up and around, out to a puppy tail	x	Slant down and a puppy tail; cross (use a tiny voice)
L	Slant down, slide	Y	Slant down halfway; slant down all the way
l	Slant down and a puppy tail	y	Down around up, down below and a hook
M	Slant down; down to the middle, up and down	Z	Slide, slant, slide (use a big voice)
m	Down, up and over, up and over and a puppy tail	z	Slide, slant, slide (use a tiny voice)