

Building Blocks Nursery School

November Newsletter

Preschool Class

A typical day for children in our preschool program now starts out with an opening circle with Mrs. Vammus or Mrs. Quibell. The children are entering the large playroom quite happily and with confidence. During this part of their program they are encouraged to explore the various activities that are out. This might include time spent at the sand box, water play, or play dough table. These are sensory areas and are social areas as well. There are quiet areas of the room where solitary play occurs. Of course many children love to participate in our dress up dramatic area. The children enjoyed the hospital that we have had out. We have a science area, magnets were the most recent resource for your child to discover.

Each day they work at the art table doing a theme related activity. These activities enhance various components of your child's development. We are working at your child's developmental level.

We believe children very much learn through their play. The children are moving from area to area, exploring as they go. Mrs. Vammus and Mrs. Quibell enjoy the time they are able to spend with your child and have noticed many changes in the children over the last two months.

At 10:30/ 2:30 after the children have had a washroom routine, they switch rooms and go to the smaller rooms with Mrs. Freer and Mrs. Sanger. The children are divided into 2 groups according to their age. They have snack and a small circle time each day with the same group of children and the same teacher. The children are participating more and more during this time with their group and teacher. Circle time consists of a hello song, calendar time, theme related songs and games and finishes with a theme related story. There is then a short play time, consisting of small motor and cognitive development equipment i.e. cutting, gluing, colouring, puzzles, and games. We finish off the day with a fun closing circle involving all the preschool class.

We have all commented on how well the children are doing with the changes we have made to our program this year. The children all seem very happy and content and eager to learn and participate. We have had fun watching all the children progress so much so early in the year.

JK Class

Children entering our JK class with Mrs. Freer include children born in the year 2000 and SK children who have not attended Building Blocks before. The children start their day with a greeting circle, and a calendar time. We then start our **Phonics program**. Two new sounds are taught a week

with an accompanied action, story, and song. At this time the children in this class have learned 16 sounds and are reviewing them using a number of teaching methods. Many of the children are reading 3 and 4 letter words. We have also started to include tricky/ sight words. We use flash cards, word families, word bags when we review. After the review is done the new sound is taught with an accompanying work sheet. A great improvement has been noticed with all the children in this area. The children are loving this part of the program!

When the children are finished they are encouraged to pick a quiet activity.

SK Class

Children in this class completed our JK program last year. This is the first year that we have had a separate classroom for our SK children. Mrs. Sanger is teaching this class. The children in this class have a weekly spelling list they take home and have a test every Monday /Tuesday. The children are doing awesome with this! They really want to get 10 out of 10. The words are things that they can sound out, and a few tricky words to memorize. They are writing sentences, learning about nouns, verbs, grammar and structure. All of these children are really well in this program. Some of our SK's were struggling last year with our JK Phonics and printing, so we are so happy to see such progression this year!!

We have some older children in our preschool who start at this end due to openings in the class. We work with age specific activities with these children. They are not doing the phonics work.

At 10:00/2:00 we divide these two groups up according to their age. Mrs. Sanger has the oldest children in the group and Mrs. Freer has the younger half of the group. We have a snack time, then a theme related story followed by theme related songs and games. The children enjoy this part of their day.

At 10:30/2:30 the children move to the large play area where they are free to choose which areas they wish to participate in. We value play and know how important this time is for this group. Mrs. Quibell and Mrs. Vammus have developmentally appropriate art activities planned for each age group. This group finishes their day with a fun action filled ending circle.

In closing we would like to say it is a pleasure teaching all the children at Building Blocks. Each teacher does get to spend time with your child and truly enjoys being at school each day. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to speak to any one of the teachers.

Mrs. Joanne Freer
Mrs. Karen Sanger

Mrs. Lorraine Quibell
Mrs. Niki Vammus