

April
2011

Preschool Press

Ann Arbor Preschool & Family Center 734-994-2303



Principal's Corner

Dates to Remember

April 4th-8th

School Closed
Spring Break

April 19th

Family Science
Night
5:30p-7:30p

April 22nd

School Closed

Upcoming Dates

May 5th

Workshop:
Readying Your
Child for
Kindergarten

May 6th

Toledo Zoo
Field Trip

May 12th

Workshop:
Safety Night

May 30th

School Closed
Memorial Day

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back!

Hope everyone took time to enjoy your family and the outdoors.

We are going to begin Walk-In enrollment for new Preschool students April 12th. If you know of anyone who has a 3 or 4 year old, who may be eligible based on low family income please have them call to inquire about our Preschool Programs (994-2303) or visit our website at www.a2schools.org/preschool.home.

The weather is starting to get nicer and all classrooms will be spending more time outside. Please remember to dress your child appropriately (i.e. in layers) for the changing temperatures throughout the day. This is also a good time to make sure everything we need for your child at school is up to date, including medications, address, phone numbers, etc. Please call 994-2303 or let your child's teacher know of any changes.

Happy Spring!

Michelle Pogliano, Principal



Transportation

Below are due dates for changes and when the changes will occur for the rest of this school year.

Changes for **May** due by 11AM Monday, Apr 25th

Changes for **June** due by 11AM Friday, May 27th

If you have any questions please call Amy

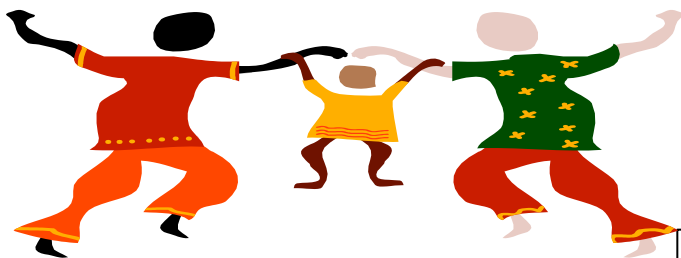
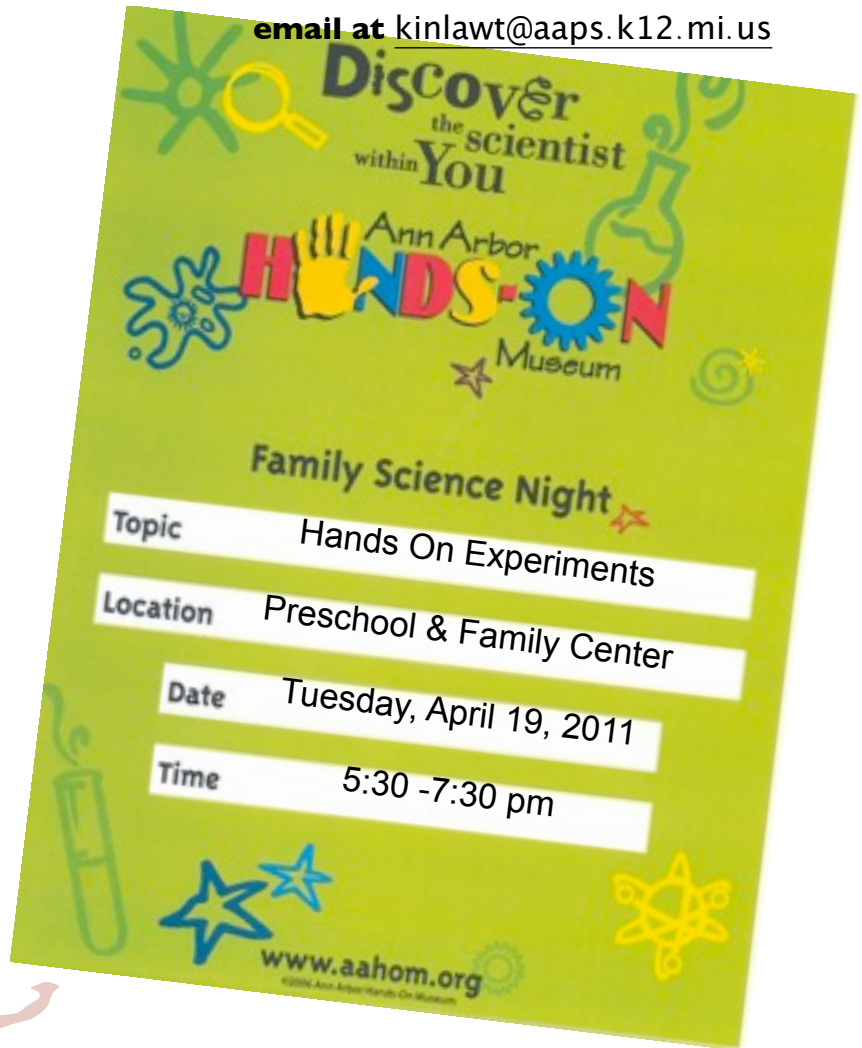
(734) 997-1245 ext 56200

Community News You Can Use

ATTENTION EVERYONE-
PARENTS, VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS &
STAFF-
SHOW YOUR
COLLEGE SPIRIT!!
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE
COLLEGE GEAR ON
APRIL 14TH
AS A PART OF THE
COLLEGE BEGINS AT
HEADSTART

Parent volunteers are needed for this event. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Thelma Kinlaw at 734.997.1245 ext 56300 or email at kinlawt@aaps.k12.mi.us

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Preschool Families-
The Board of Education will be visiting
the Ann Arbor Preschool and Family
Center this spring
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Free Preschool (for those who qualify)
Walk-In Enrollment Dates for 2011-2012
Monday-Thursday
April 12-June 2
9am-11am or 1pm-3pm,
Tuesday, May 3 or June 7, 4pm-6pm

You MUST bring:

- Birth Certificate (child)
- Proof of Residency
 - Utility Bill or Lease
- Immunization Record
- Health Insurance Card
- Proof of Income
 - 3 check stubs and 2010 taxes
 - DHS letter if you receive cash assistance
 - SSI

Language and Literacy

What the research says:

Make comments and ask questions that stimulate children to:

- **Predict** what is going to happen next
- **Project** and put themselves in the shoes of other people or onto situations they have never experienced
- Take on **Pretend** roles and act out imaginary scenarios; and
- **Problem-solve**

The more children use this kind of language themselves, the better prepared they will be to learn to read. Peterson, S.M., & French, L. (2008). Supporting young children's explanations through inquiry science in preschool. *Early Childhood Research quarterly*, 23, 395-408.

Tips for helping your child develop language and literacy skills:

Daily Activities



Predict: Help your child learn to predict what might happen next by making comments like: "If you pour too much water in your cup, it will spill."

Pretend Play



Pretend: After reading a story, provide props so you and your child can take on the roles of the characters and act out the story.

Reading Books



Project: While reading a book, ask your child what he would do in the same situation. For example, after reading "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", ask, "what do you think you would do if you woke up to find three bears looking at you?"

On the Go



Problem-solve: Draw attention to problems as they arise and think of possible solutions with your child. For example, "We forgot to buy eggs for breakfast. What else could we have for breakfast?"

Play it Safe on the Playground

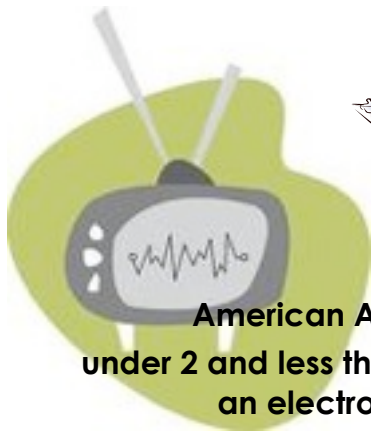
The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) has designated April 25-29 as National Playground Safety Week 2011.

Now that warm weather is finally here, it's a great time to take your kids out to the local playground for some fun and physical activity. According to NPPS, over 200,000 preschool and elementary aged children are injured on U.S. playgrounds every year, with 76% of the injuries occurring on public playgrounds.

Remember to teach children these safety tips from the NPPS:

- **Swing Safety:** Slow down before getting off the swing, and don't walk too closely in front of or behind someone who is swinging. Also look for open "S" hooks where the chain is attached to the seat that can catch clothing or strings and cause strangulation-these openings need to be closed.
- **Climbing Safety:** Use 2 hands on climbing equipment, and don't use this equipment when it is wet and slippery.
- **Slide Safety:** Don't climb up the front of a slide, because you could get hit by someone sliding down. Always go down a slide feet first and make sure only one child is going down the slide at a time.
- **Bike helmets** are meant for bike riding... take them off when playing on equipment. They can get caught in openings and injure a child.
- Make sure there is soft surfacing under equipment.

For more information on playground safety, check out the NPPS website at www.uni.edu/playground. - Kathy Gaines, PT



Nancy's News

Kids and Screens

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under 2 and less than 2 hours per day for older children. And that parents create an electronic-media-free environment in children's bedrooms.

On average, preschool children spend 32 hours a week with screen media. ^[1]

Excessive screen time puts young children at risk.

- ~ Forty percent of 3-month-old infants are regular viewers of screen media ^[2], and 19% of babies 1 year and under have a TV in their bedroom ^[3].
- ~ Screen time can be habit-forming: the more time children engage with screens, the harder time they have turning them off as older children. ^[4]
- ~ Screen time for children under 3 is linked to irregular sleep patterns ^[5] and delayed language acquisition ^[6].
- ~ The more time preschool children and babies spend with screens, the less time they spend interacting with their parents. ^[7] Even when parents co-view, they spend less time talking to their children than when they're engaged in other activities. ^[8]
- ~ Toddler screen time is also associated with problems in later childhood, including lower math and school achievement, reduced physical activity, victimization by classmates ^[9], and increased BMI ^[10].
- ~ Direct exposure to TV and overall household viewing are associated with increased early childhood aggression. ^[11]
- ~ The more time preschool children spend with screens, the less time they spend engaged in creative play ^[7] –the foundation of learning ^[12], constructive problem solving ^[13], and creativity ^[14].
- ~ On average, preschool children see nearly 25,000 television commercials, a figure that does not include product placement. ^[15]

Ann Arbor Preschool and Family Center



April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 NO	4 S	5 C	6 H	7 O	8 O	9 L
10	11	12 <u>WIC Clinic</u> 8:30a-12:30p <u>Policy Council</u> (LeForge) 5:30p	13	14 College Spirit Gear <u>Free Fresh Produce</u> 11a-1p	15	16
17	18	19 <u>WIC Clinic</u> 8:30a-12:30p <u>Policy Council</u> (Preschool) 5p <u>Family Science Night</u> 5:30-7:30p	20	21	22 School Closed	23
24	25 Deadline for Changes to Transportation 11a	26 <u>WIC Clinic</u> 8:30a-12:30p	27	28	29	30