

Preschool Press

February 2012

Principal's Message



Dear Parents,

Please join us in celebrating NAAPID (National African American Parent Involvement Day) on Monday, February 13th. This is a Parent Involvement Day in schools across the nation. We welcome and look forward to seeing **ALL** parents participate in the day. Come and visit your child's classroom, visit the Community Health Expo, get a family picture taken.

You may notice some new faces in the classroom. Each semester, the "Project Outreach" class at University of Michigan sends volunteers to work in the preschool classrooms. The winter semester has brought in new classroom volunteers.

Remember that Kindergarten Round Ups begin this month. Make sure you take time to visit your schools website to confirm the dates and times so you can attend. It is very important that all families attend Round Up so that you have all the information you need for registering. Look for letters soon in your child's backpack indicating which school your child should be attending based on your address.

I hope all of you stay warm and healthy during these final cold months of the winter.

Michelle Pogliano
Principal

Preschool Parent Corner

Hello Parents,

A parent advocate group is forming to support and maintain the quality of educational programming at Ann Arbor Preschool and Family center. Parents have expressed concerns about potential budget cuts and what this specifically means in terms of their child's education. They have also expressed concerns with increasing class size, which translates to less intense programming for their child.

I am happy to be spearheading this parent group and am asking parents to join me in this effort to keep this wonderful school operating under their current policies and practices.

Please email me with your interest to be part of this parent task force.

mjcuppone@comcast.net

Thanks,

MaryJo Cuppone, Parent from Chris Trumpour's Class

Transportation Updates!



Most calls regarding Transportation will go to Amy at 997-1245 ext 56200.

If there is a day you do not need transportation (for example your child being sick) AND ***if your child is the only student getting on the bus at that stop, you need to call the Transportation Department at 994-5515.***

If you move, change daycares, need to add a drop off or pick up, or add/cancel transportation you must see Amy in the main office; these things are *not* handled at the Transportation Department. If you have questions regarding our group stops, times, routes, etc please contact **Amy 997-1245 ext 56200**

Changes to routes are being made only once a month. You will receive a new letter and bus tag from your teacher by the Thursday before the changes will begin.

Submit Transportation Form by 12 p.m. on:for Changes to Begin on:
Friday February 17 th	Monday March 5 th
Friday March 23 rd	Monday April 9 th
Friday April 27 th	Monday May 7 th
Friday May 25 th	Monday June 4 th



Hello Preschool Families!

I hope you have been enjoying your child's library books and the great conversation time those books can create in your relationship. We have been talking about the role of the **author** and the **illustrator** in many of the library classes, so when you're reading your books together make sure to point out the author and ask your child, "what does the author do?" We have also been

talking about the illustrations in the book and how the illustrations help us understand more about the story. When you're reading together always feel free to stop and have your child tell you what is happening in the picture/ illustration. How does a character feel, is something silly happening, does it remind your child of anything else, etc. These are great ways to connect with the story and build your child vocabulary at the same time. This past month we've been learning "Hey diddle diddle" as our Mother Goose nursery rhyme, for February we'll be looking at "Jack be Nimble." Jack be nimble, jack be quick, jack jumped over the candlestick. It has been great to see all the kids being able to recite these rhymes, or at least keywords from the rhyme to join in the songs and activities. In February we'll also be exploring some poetry and books about the

Arctic. Looking ahead to March we'll be joining in the Read Across America event by reading Doctor Seuss books for Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd. Get ready for Green Eggs and Ham, Hop on Pop, the Lorax, and more!



Like always, if you have any suggestions or questions please call me at the school 997-1245, ext. 56101.
Yours in Reading,
Laurel Maguire
Library Media Specialist

PRESCHOOL LANGUAGE AND LITERACY CORNER

Active Preschoolers...Leaner Big Kids! Kathy Gaines, PT

Encourage Children to Think Beyond the Here-and-Now.
What the research says....

Talk to children about things beyond the here-and-now so they learn to understand and use this kind of talk themselves. Encourage children to:

- Relate their own **Experiences** to what they are learning about
- Consider their own **Emotions** and how others might feel in various situations
- **Explain** why things happen; and
- **Evaluate** a situation by making judgments and offering opinions

The ability to use this kind of abstract language lays an important foundation for learning to read.*

*Wiseman, A. (2011). Interactive read alouds: Teachers and students constructing knowledge and literacy together. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 38(6), 431-438

Daily activities:

Emotions. When serving dinner to your child, make a comment about how she will feel about eating the food. For example, "I bet you're happy that there are no Brussels sprouts tonight!"

Pretend Play:

Experiences. Give your child opportunities to draw on her previous experiences during pretend play. For example, play "school" together, and pretend to be the child while your child is the teacher.



Reading Books:

Explain: Go beyond the hear-and-now by explaining the reason for an event in the story. For example, "The Big Bad Wolf couldn't blow down the Third Little Pig's house because it was made of strong bricks."



On the Go:

Evaluate: Ask your child to evaluate the things she sees. While out for a walk in the park, ask, "Do you think it's a good idea to keep dogs on a leash?"



We all know how important it is for kids to be healthy, amount of can also changes as recent study



know how for kids to be healthy, amount of can also changes as recent study in the American Journal of Preventative Medicine found that preschoolers who got at least 50 minutes of vigorous activity each day (such as running, jumping, sports, etc.) had about 2 pounds less body fat by the time they were ages 8 and 11 than those who got only 10 minutes of daily exercise. One hour of daily activity is recommended for all kids, and it can be added up throughout the day, so think about your child's day at school and add to that when he or she gets home...if there is at least 20 minutes of running at recess and 10 minutes of dancing in circle time, make sure there are more opportunities to be active at home before or after school and on the weekend! For more game ideas for your kids, the library and the internet are full of ideas, such as the "milestones" section of this link: <http://www.preschools4all.com>, or this link from about.com: <http://familyfitness.about.com/od/preschoolers/a/grossmotorskill.htm>.

PICTURES WITH YOUR PRESCHOOLER

When: Monday Feb 13th 10 am - 2 pm

Where: Preschool Main Office

Price: \$6 4x6 with frame



(class photo's will be taken at a later date)

Household chores: Want some help?

From the
occupational
therapists



Of course you do!
Teaching your
young children to
grow towards
independence

begins at a young age. Teaching self-help skills is where it begins. Guide your child to learn to feed themselves with their fingers and then to lift a cup and tip it just right so they can drink the liquid. Next comes using spoons and forks independently, washing their hands, doing some of the toothbrushing (mom or dad finish), undressing and dressing and eventually using the toilet by themselves. Another part of daily routines includes teaching your child to do chores such as clean up their toys, help set and clear the table (napkins and utensils are a good place to start), put their dirty clothes in the hamper, put their outer clothing on hooks or in bins, folding/matching socks from the laundry, maybe even wiping off the table when they are tall

enough to reach. When adding responsibilities here are some things to remember:



- ▶make sure your *directions are clear*
- ▶when you say “clean up” make sure they know what that means (e.g. put the toys in bins, make sure the whole floor is clear)
- ▶have routines to support what you are teaching them (try to have the

task happen at the same time each day)

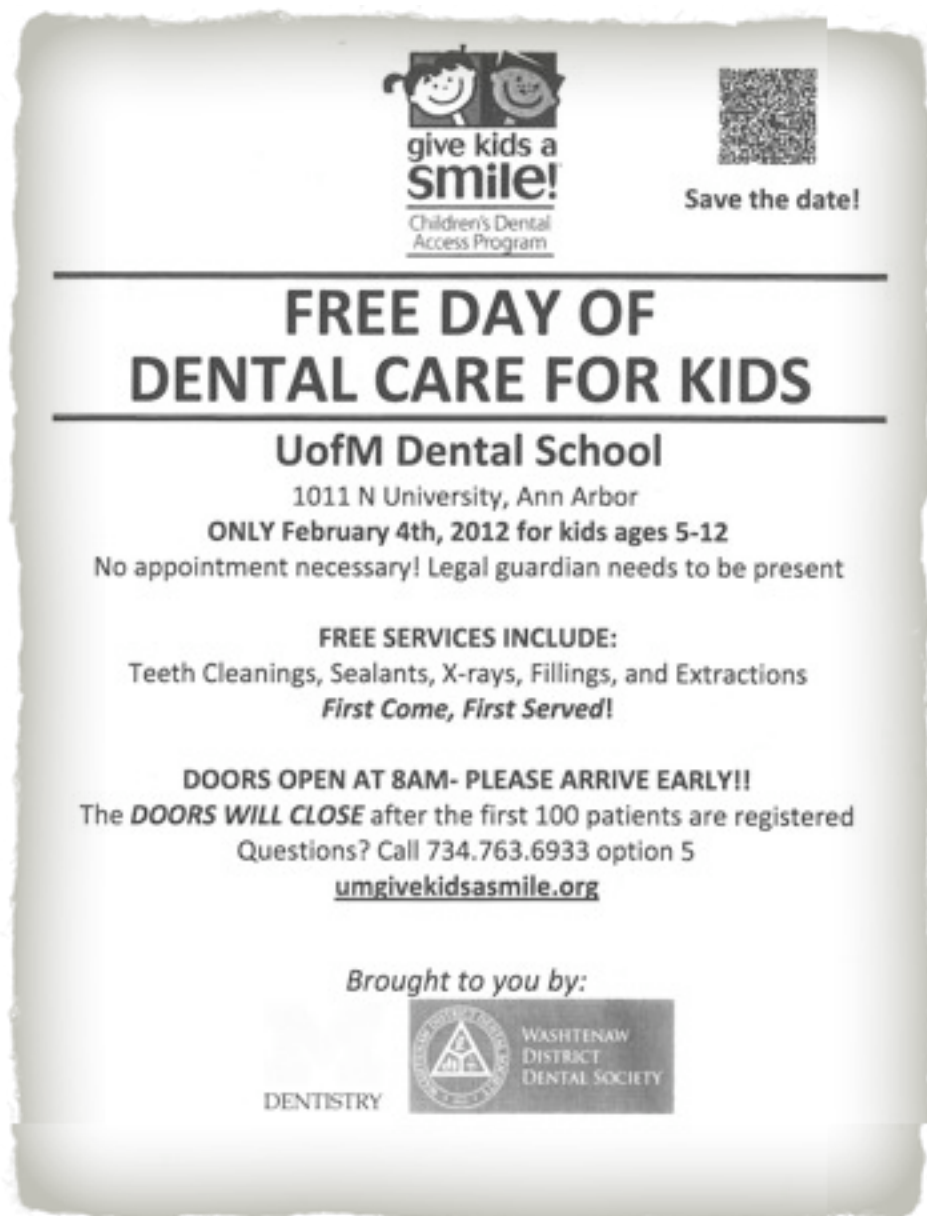
- ▶think about your child’s age and abilities and match your expectations to that (don’t expect them to stick with a chore very long...)
- ▶guide them physically until they have the physical skill to complete the task
- ▶when things are too hard for them, let them try and then assist them in the hard parts
- ▶break new tasks down into steps and *teach each step*





▶when they don’t want to do a chore, make it fun by singing a song while you do it...see if they can finish

before the song is done...or do the non-preferred chores before the fun ones (as adults we do that all the time for ourselves)

▶*praise*, praise, praise...let them know when they are making good effort!



  Save the date!

FREE DAY OF DENTAL CARE FOR KIDS


UofM Dental School

1011 N University, Ann Arbor
ONLY February 4th, 2012 for kids ages 5-12
No appointment necessary! Legal guardian needs to be present

FREE SERVICES INCLUDE:
Teeth Cleanings, Sealants, X-rays, Fillings, and Extractions
First Come, First Served!

DOORS OPEN AT 8AM- PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY!!
The **DOORS WILL CLOSE** after the first 100 patients are registered
Questions? Call 734.763.6933 option 5
umgivekidsasmile.org

Brought to you by:

 WASHTENAW
DISTRICT
DENTAL SOCIETY

DENTISTRY

Are You Ready For Change...



Please join us for a...

Community Resource Expo

And a visit to your child's classroom for....

N.A.A.P.I.D.

When: Monday, February 13th

Time: 10am - 2pm

Where: Ann Arbor Preschool & Family Center

Participants will have access to the following and MORE.....

Healthy Cooking Demo - Joe Catalfo

Personal Trainer - Mark Harris

Photographer - Michael Ulmer

Health Insurance Advocate - Kelly Stupple

National Kidney Foundation - Crystal D-Agostino, MSW

Mott Buckle-Up (car seat), Weight Watchers, Taxes 101,

Habitat for Humanity, Hope Clinic, BP Screening, Public Health

Mental and Dental Health, Cancer Society, First Steps

Ann Arbor Preschool & Family Center

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Workshop: Road to Kindergarten 6p	9 Policy Committee 12:30 p	10	11
12	13 NAAPID & Community Resource Expo	14 Policy Council 5:30p (on LeForge)	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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26	27	28	29			