



Small Talk

Volume 15, Issue 4

Director's Corner

Some days the weather is heralding that the holiday season is upon us, and other days it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is only a few weeks away. I've always appreciated that we have the opportunity to spend November focusing on the things we are thankful for, and as always, the wonderful teachers and children here at Huguenot are at the top of my list.



Our school pictures will be taken by Lifetouch Photography on November 13 & 14. The Rainbow, Green and Blue Rooms will do class pictures both days, and each child will have an individual picture on one of the days. If you have more than one child at the school, we will take sibling pictures as well as individual ones, which will coincide with the days all of your children are at school, or whenever the assigned picture day is for their class (if applicable). See page 5 for our request for a parent to help on picture days, and let me know if you are interested. (volunteers receive a \$50 credit towards their pictures)

What is Sensory Integration?

Sensory integration is the process by which we receive information through our senses, organize this information, and use it to participate in everyday activities.

There Are More than 5 Senses...

Most people are familiar with five senses - sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. However, we also receive input through two additional senses:

The vestibular sense, or movement and balance sense, gives us information about where our head and body are in space. It allows us to stay upright while we sit, stand, and walk.

Proprioception, or body awareness sense, tells us where our body parts are relative to each other. It also gives us information about how much force to use in certain activities, allowing us to crack open an egg without crushing it in our hands.

Most activities require us to combine information from many different senses at the same time.

For example, a toddler uses touch to explore the texture of his food, proprioception to bring the food to his mouth, smell and taste to identify different types of food, and the vestibular sense to sit upright during the meal.

As they grow, children learn how to take in and process all this sensory information at the same time and focus their attention on particular sensations while ignoring others.

NOVEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	SCHOOL CLOSED	SCHOOL CLOSED	8	9	10	11
12	PICTURE DAY	PICTURE DAY Parent Mtg 7pm	15 Parent Mtg 9:45 Einsteins Valentine Museum Visit	16	17	18
19	20	21	SCHOOL CLOSED	HAPPY THANKSGIVING CLOSED	SCHOOL CLOSED	25
26	27	28	29	30 Parent/Child Craft 12:30		



November Birthdays

Colt U. 11/2
 Easton K. 11/2
 Arrison B. 11/14
 Emily P. 11/20
 Ridley H. 11/21
 Andrew S. 11/21
 Ms. Jennifer D. 11/23

The Rainbow Room



Hello from the Rainbow Room! We are the colorful room at the end of the hallway, just before you enter the music room. We are a group of young toddlers who go on daily adventures, sometimes to birdwatch from our stroller and other times to conquer the playground.



Some days we dress up like firefighters and others we play Picasso in our smocks. We have lots of neat nooks in our classroom, and some of our favorites are the animal rescue center, the kitchen with yummy play foods, the reading corner with an ever-changing rotation of books, the gross

motor climbing cushions, and our “Future World Changers” bulletin board, where we can see the month’s Polaroid of each of us with some of our morning friends, too.

Our teacher, Mrs. Kelly, loves art education, and we are doing more and more each week! Sometimes we let our creativity take us wherever it leads in process art masterpieces and other times we follow Mrs. Kelly’s lead to create works of product art.



Rainbow Room Spotlight, continued...

We are also very much focusing on sensory stimulation. Did you know that each and every person has his or her own unique sensory preferences and needs, and sensory input and play isn't necessarily reserved for those with Sensory Processing Disorder? We, sometimes subconsciously, invent our own accommodations to meet those preferences and needs. We may bite our fingernails, twirl our hair, or fiddle and fidget in our seats to maintain attention and focus. Children have the same needs and preferences, and while they may find subtle, acceptable ways to meet those needs, other times the ways they seek to meet those needs aren't as appropriate. Mrs. Kelly is working to create a strategic classroom that meets those needs in a sensory friendly way. For those of us seeking more stimulation, we have "Busy Buckets" that come out to play if



we seem under stimulated during free play. For those of us who sometimes get over stimulated, we have a cozy nook under our countertop to snuggle up in when we just need some time away from the activity at hand. Mrs. Kelly seeks to be mindful of each child's sensory preferences and needs, and instead of deeming coping mechanisms and behaviors as "bad," she strives to



make the Rainbow Room a place that allows her students to thrive in their learning environment.

PARENT HELPER WANTED

Picture Day is Coming!

What does a Parent Helper do?

- Parent Helpers will spend 2-3 hours helping to ensure a smooth and efficient Picture Day.
- Keeping the flow of children moving and accompanying them to and from their classrooms.
- Helping with final grooming, making sure children are neat and camera ready.

WHEN: Monday, Nov. 13 and
Tuesday, Nov. 14

TIME: 8:00 - 11:00

Parent helpers
will receive a
\$50 CERTIFICATE

to use towards their portrait purchase
from Lifetouch Preschool Portraits

**LIMITED AVAILABILITY.
SEE YOUR DIRECTOR TO SIGN UP**

*Limit one parent helper certificate for every 50 students enrolled.



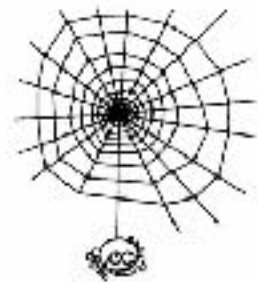
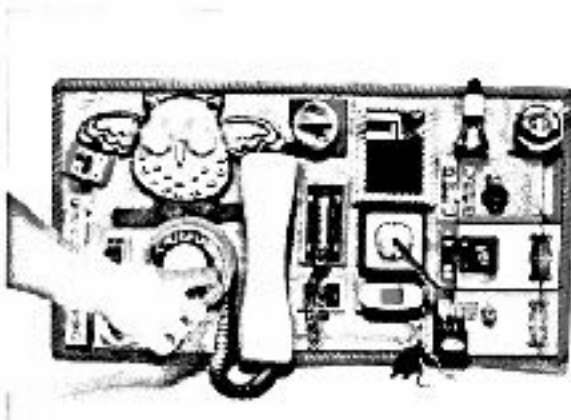
Lifetouch
Preschool Portraits

November 2017

Itsy Bitsy Spider

Focus: Fine Motor and Language

Reading begins early with the understanding that print and sound are related, and occurs through ongoing positive interactions and daily experiences with literacy that are predictive of early success in reading. Children gain language and vocabulary skills by having multiple and frequent opportunities to talk, as well as listen to, adults and peers.



Putting it Into Practice

Infants

Make an effort to change your voice tone for each family member of the family in the Itsy Bitsy Spider story.

Toddlers

Show children different sizes of a play spider to demonstrate the body size of the mom, dad and baby spider.

Preschoolers

Demonstrate the hand movements for the finger play. Ask children how would they change the ending to the story.



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Our Preschool and Child's Morning Out Programs are designed by our Preschool Committee to meet the unique needs of our parents and children. We offer a caring and positive atmosphere where the children can play and learn. In the preschool classes, we bridge the gap from home to school and we guide children to a continued good self-image while building social and academic skills in a school setting.

Our mission at Huguenot UMC Preschool is to prepare your child for a lifetime of successful learning. Our developmentally appropriate program supports your child's growth in a safe, nurturing, family-oriented environment.

Preschool Director: Debbi Mintz

Church Pastor: Rev. Gay Hall