

PRESCHOOL PARENT PRESS

A bi-monthly publication brought to you by the exceptional children's assistance center.



**Welcome to our
Premier Edition of the
PRESCHOOL
PARENT PRESS !**

This is the first newsletter written for parents of preschool children. We hope to help you make learning fun,

and bring you new and interesting ways to interact and teach your child. We all want the very best for our children but sometimes we don't take advantage of every opportunity to teach them. That is where the **PRESCHOOL PARENT PRESS** comes in. We want to show you fun

interactive ways to teach preschool skills to your child. Each issue will be filled with tips, suggestions and insight into helping your little one develop and learn. We hope to bring you fun activities that you can enjoy



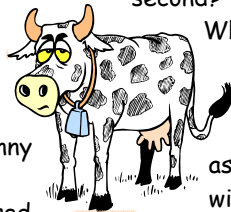
Storytelling is More than Just Telling Stories

Telling a story to your child is a wonderful way to develop their skills needed for reading, and grow their imaginations.

If you think about it, we all have stories to tell and share with our children. Whether it is a funny make believe story about some imaginary place and time, or shared experiences of our youth, children can benefit from listening and asking questions about the tales we have to tell.

When you are finished telling a story, be sure to ask questions

about what they just heard. What happened first? What happened second? What was funny?



What would you do in that situation? This builds important problem solving skills, as well as sequencing skills that will help your child build their comprehension.

Take advantage of the times you ride in the car together, let everyone take turns spinning a tale. For hilariously funny and interactive storytelling that kids young and old absolutely love, take

turns making up outrageous and unbelievable stories. Let everyone shave an active part by filling in the blanks. For example, start by saying: "There once was an old cow who lived in a "Blank".....(old shoe). He loved to eat "Blank".... (mashed potatoes and gravy). One day after eating he got the hiccups so badly that the "Blank" ... (ground shook so hard it caused all the leaves on the trees to fall)".... and so on and so on.

This builds excellent listening and problem solving skills.

Reading Looks Like FUN!

Parents can help their preschoolers to become interested in reading in simple ways.



1. Let your child see you enjoy reading different things. Your child will begin to see that there is a reason to read —

especially if you talk about something you have read with your child.

2. Bedtime is a very good time to read your child their favorite storybook. Your child may get to know the story so well, that they are able to "read along" from memory. Do not try to teach your child to read at this time, you should just be trying to spark their interest in reading.

3. Have conversations with your child throughout the day. Sing songs, do tongue twisters, and tell jokes and riddles. Recite poems together. Hearing new words will improve your

child's listening skills. Your preschooler will be listening to the way sentences are formed — important for their success in learning to read.

4. The more reading that goes on in your home, the less likely that TV and videos will be turned on if

Reading looks like fun!

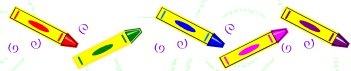


busy hands

Playing with water, dough, mud and sand are wonderful kinds of **messy play** for preschoolers. Your preschooler has to think about sizes and shapes as they make things out of the play dough. This recipe for "home-made play dough" is among the best we have found. It does not crumble and keeps well in an airtight container.

This is an excellent strength builder for little hands. Have some creative fun with your preschooler this weekend.

***Kneading the warm dough can be quite soothing –Relaxing for both preschooler and parent alike.*



"Play Cooking"

Play cooking helps the preschool child find out what happens when they mix different things together. Play cooking is also good practice for the preschooler in measuring and using utensils.

Collect some small plastic containers and lids. Scrub off labels (scouring pads

remove print from plastic). Fill the containers with flour, sugar, cereal, chocolate chips, dry noodles, raisins, etc. Make sure the ingredients are "edible" in case your preschooler decides to "taste-test" their concoction! Use as much variety of texture and color as you can when filling the containers. Collect small plastic spoons, measuring scoops, and plastic measuring cups. Provide a

big plastic mixing bowl to "cook" in. Have fun watching your preschooler "play-cook" with their very own "grocery ingredients." Make washing up part of the game!

Websites of Interest:

- www.BrainConnection.com/teasers
- www.literacycenter.net
- www.ncsnp.org/LiteracyRichClassroom.pdf

Allow Abilities to Bloom

Judith's Favorite Play Dough Recipe

Mix in a Medium Pot:

- 1 Cup White Flour
- 1/4 Cup Salt
- 2 Tablespoons Cream of Tartar

Combine and Add:

- 1 Cup water
- 2 Teaspoons Food Coloring
- 1 Tablespoon Vegetable Oil

Cook the mixture over **medium heat** stirring constantly for about 3 to 5 minutes. **It will look like a "globby" mess!** When the mixture **forms a ball in the center of the pot**, dump out the dough and **knead it until it becomes smooth**. Your child can help you knead once the dough is cooled down a bit for those tiny hands. Store in a airtight container.



tempera paint

- 2 Cups of Dry Tempera
- 1 Cup of Liquid Soap
- 1 Cup of Liquid Starch

Mix paint and soap. Add starch and stir. Add more soap if it is too thick. Store in coffee cans with plastic lids.

