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Mary's Monthly Memo

Fall...what a wonderful time of the year. Not too hot, not too cold and a very festive time. There are so many activities you can plan during this time of year. Set up a classroom outside, have a picnic outside. Let the children just play and explore the outdoors and go on a nature walk around your center/home.

Take a piece of masking tape, attach it to the child's wrist with the sticky side out and let the children gather different things while on your walk, then go back to your classroom, let the children tell about the items they gathered. Make a Nature Collection Box (let the children help decorate it) and have the children place

the items they gathered in the box and put the box in your Science area along with a book about nature. Just think about how many different Florida State Standards you are covering with this activity. Have fun!



Announcement

Please welcome our new for-profit child care provider Board member, Laura Caley. Laura is the owner/operator of Kiddieland Mini-School and

Kiddieland Academy, both in Columbia County. Laura will add insight into the daily needs of for-profit providers in our service area during the process

of policy making decisions. We look forward to her expertise during her four year term.

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Special points of interest:

- Announcement
- Identifying Vision Problems in Children
- LAP Assessments due November 1st

Technical Assistance

I hope all or you have settled into your classrooms by now. I am available to assist you in your classrooms as needed. Remember your lesson plans should reflect the Florida State Standards and your classroom environment should reflect

your lesson plans. It should be evident when someone walks into your classroom what your theme is without looking at your lesson plans. If you need help, let me know.

This month I will be focusing on the book "Mouse's First Fall",

along with an art project based on the book.

Did you Know?

IDENTIFYING VISION PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN

Early diagnosis and treatment is critical in minimizing the effects of a vision disorder, yet children are too young to let you know that something's not right with their eyes. Following are some warning signs, and while the presence of one or more of these does not necessarily indicate a problem, parents/caregivers should look for changes in their child's eyes and let their pediatrician know about any of these symptoms.

BABIES:

- Chronic redness in the eye
- One eye moves and the other doesn't
- One eye doesn't open
- Persistent rubbing
- A bulge in the eye
- A drooping eyelid
- Squinting
- Tilted head when looking at things
- Eyes don't follow a toy moving
From side to side in front of the child

PRESCHOOLERS:

- Eyes appear to be crossed
- Closes one eye while reading or examining an object
- Tilted head when looking at things
- Rubs eyes when not sleepy
- Excessive tear production
- Overly sensitive to light
- Has white, grayish-white or yellow colored material in the pupil of the eye
- Redness in eyes that doesn't abate in a few days.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

- Holds books very close when reading
- Squinting
- Recurrent Headaches
- Complaints of achy, tired eyes
- Eyes don't seem to work in unison
- Double vision
- Any change in appearance of eyes

Crafts with Children

Nature Crowns



This easy-to-make accessory gives little naturalists a hands-free

place to store leaves, twigs, and other small finds.

Materials:

Poster board

Instructions:

1. Cut a length of poster board to fit your child's head.
2. Make horizontal slits in the paper with a craft knife, and tape the ends

together.

3. While outside let your child pick-up leaves, twigs and other small finds and insert in the slits to make a crown.



Upcoming Trainings

Fall Conference!

Registration confirmations have been mailed to each site. Please check your confirmation to make sure your name is on it. If it's not, unfortunately we did not receive your registration on time or did not receive it at all, and you will not be able to attend.

Finding the Intentional Teacher in You

Thursday, November 4th
(FGC)

6:30-8:30

Allied Health Auditorium

Based on the book *The Intentional Teacher* by: Ann Epstein

Presented by: Priscilla Jones

In this workshop we'll be looking at what is intentional teaching, why it is important and how you can find the intentional teacher in yourself. Topics will cover: curriculum, on-going assessments of your children and your program, and how to fill your room with meaningful content. Everything we do in our classrooms should be purposeful, even play.

Of course, register online and space is limited to 60. Deadline to register is Friday, October 22nd.

Literacy

- Autumn is for Apples by Michelle Knudsen
- Cock-a-Doodle Hoooo by Mick Manning
- Pigs Can't Fly by Ben Cort
- Never, Ever Talk to Strangers by Anne Marie Pace
- Grow a Pumpkin Pie by Jane Gerver





Attention

Don't forget

all LAP assessments

are due November 1st!

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Cooking with Kids

The Very Tasty Caterpillar



Your child can't help the famously ravenous caterpillar turn into a butterfly, but she can help him metamorphose into a pizza! Shaping and topping dough are perfect jobs for a (supervised) young chef.

Ingredients:

Store-bought pizza dough (half a bag)

White button mushrooms, sliced

Olive oil for brushing

Toppings, such as peppers, carrots, olives, fresh basil, and pepperoni

Sauce of your choice (we used both pesto and tomato)

Mozzarella (we cut deli-style slices into disks with a biscuit cutter)

Instructions:

- 1..Heat the oven to 400 F. Lay a piece of parchment paper on a cookie sheet so that it extends slightly beyond each end. If needed, let the dough rise according to the package directions. Divide the dough into 15 one-inch balls and combine 3 balls to make the head. Have your child dust her hands with flour, then let her arrange the balls on the cookie sheet and flatten them slightly with her palms.
- 2.Press the mushroom slices under the dough for legs, as shown. Brush the dough and mushrooms with olive oil, then bake until the dough is starting to crisp around the edges,

about 10 minutes.

- 3.While the dough bakes, create the caterpillar features from your choice of toppings. We used green peppers and carrots.

4. Remove the cookie sheet from the oven. Using the parchment paper as a carrier, lift the caterpillar off the cookie sheet and set it on a wire rack. When it's cool enough for your child to touch, let her paint the surface with sauce and arrange the Mozzarella and toppings. Again using the parchment, set the caterpillar back on the cookie sheet and bake it until the cheese is just starting to brown, about 8 minutes. Let it cool slightly, slice, and serve.