

A Busy Child Preschool Preschool/Pre-K 2011 – 2012 Curriculum Outline

AUGUST

- Letters: *a, b, c, d, e*
- Numbers: *1, 2, 3, 4, 5*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Peas Porridge Hot*
- WELCOME TO SCHOOL
- GETTING ACQUAINTED

SEPTEMBER

- Letters: *f, g, h, i, j, k*
- Numbers: *6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *The Itsy Bitsy Spider*
- FALL

OCTOBER

- Letters: *l, m, n, o, p, q*
- Numbers: *12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Five Little Ducks*
- FALL
- THE FARM

NOVEMBER

- Letters: *r, s, t, u, v, w*
- Numbers: *18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*
- FALL
- HARVEST

DECEMBER

- Letters: *x, y, z, A, B, C*
- Numbers: *24, 25, 26, Review 1-3*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Hickory Dickory Dock*
- WINTER
- GINGERBREAD MAN

JANUARY

- Letters: *D, E, F, G, H, I*
- Numbers: *Review 4-9*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Jack & Jill*
- WINTER

FEBRUARY

- Letters: *J, K, L, M, N, O*
- Numbers: *Review 10-15*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Jack Be Nimble*
- WINTER

MARCH

- Letters: *P, Q, R, S, T, U*
- Numbers: *Review 16-21*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *This Little Piggy*
- SPRING

APRIL

- Letters: *V, W, X, Y, Z*
- Numbers: *Review 22-26*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Mary Had a Little Lamb*
- SPRING

MAY

- Letters: *REVIEW A-Z*
- Numbers: *1-26 +*
- *Mathematical Concepts*
- Shapes: *Review All*
- Nursery Rhyme: *Little Miss Muffet*
- SPRING

TEACHING THE LETTERS & LITERACY

This year we will reinforce letter recognition as well as focus on vocabulary development, phonics, and phonemic awareness. We will be using the Zoo Phonics Adventures in Learning (Preschool Level) program to supplement our lesson plans.

Zoo-phonics is a method developed to make children strong readers and spellers using a "phono" (hearing), "oral" (speaking), "visual" (seeing), "kinesthetic" (moving), and tactile (touching)—whole brain approach. Students actually learn the sounds of the alphabet and advanced phonemic concepts through an easily understood, concrete method of presentation. We will first present the lowercase letters, and then introduce the uppercase letters. Uppercase letters only account for about 5% of all letters in the written word. The thought is to pay more attention to the teaching of the lowercase letters, as these are the ones children will be introduced to first in their environment.

WHAT IS PHONICS?:

Phonics is knowing that sounds and letters have a relationship.

Why is phonics important?

The ultimate goal of reading is good comprehension. But in order for your child to understand what he reads, he must be able to do it quickly and automatically, without stumbling over words. Phonics facilitates that process. With lots of practice sounding out words, in combination with other important reading skills such as phonemic awareness, letter recognition, vocabulary building, and concepts of print, he learns to read more fluently. Then he can turn his attention to grasping the passages.

WHAT IS PHONEMIC AWARENESS?:

First of all, Phonemic awareness is not phonics. Phonemic awareness is the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate individual sounds-phonemes--in spoken words. Before children learn to read print, they need to become more aware of how the sounds in words work. They must understand that words are made up of speech sounds, or *phonemes* (the smallest parts of sound in a spoken word that make a difference in a word's meaning).

Why is Phonemic Awareness Important?

- It requires readers to notice how letters represent sounds. It primes readers for print.
- It gives readers a way to approach sounding out and reading new words.
- It helps readers understand the alphabetic principle (that the letters in words are systematically represented by sounds).

WHY CHILDREN NEED NURSERY RHYMES

Nursery Rhymes introduce children to the idea of a narrative, promote social skills, boost language development, and lay the foundation for learning to read and spell.

In fact, reciting nursery rhymes may be just as important as reading stories and talking to your child. A rhyme's repetition can sensitize the children to the individual units of sound known as phonemes, which make up words. Nursery rhymes and other repetitive language help children learn to think their way through a word sound by sound in the order in which they hear it. This ability, known as phonemic segmentation, is the best predictor of future reading success. The teaching of nursery rhymes is an excellent place to begin building phonemic awareness and memorization skills.