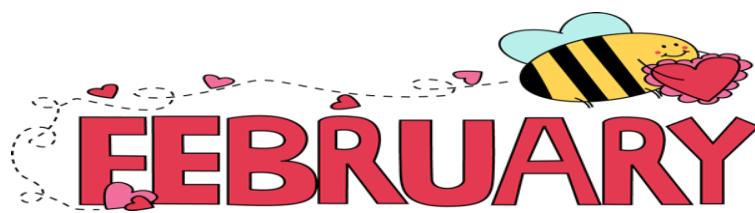




Pre-K Newsletter



This Month...

We look back at an exciting start of 2020. Our Building study is in full swing and the children are loving it! We have already built a variety of houses and homes, learned about design and engineering and we are looking forward to another month of learning about the world around us. We will continue our 'Buildings' study but will dive deeper into the world of building and buildings around the world. We will enhance our study with learning about 'Signs', 'Machines' and 'Tubes and Tunnels'. The children will get the chance to make road signs, use them during their Bikes and Trikes lesson and 'direct traffic'. We will extend our vocabulary learning about the machines we need to build bigger structures with and we will investigate what happens underneath buildings using tubes and tunnels to recreate a water supply system. If you have any kitchen rolls, toilet rolls, cardboard boxes, cereal boxes, yoghurt pots etc. Please do send them in as the children will use these in the Art Area to create their own buildings. It will be another busy but very exciting month and we are looking forward to meet all of you to discuss the children's progress reports on 2/2 Please remember, children should be staying home on this day. Thank you,

The Pre-K Team.



Important Dates

2/2 - Parent Teacher Meetings

2/12 - Sports Day

2/13/14/15 - Art Exhibition

2/20 Pizza Day

2/23 - 2/27 Half Term Holiday



Throughout the areas of learning

Literacy and Language: Knowledge of print, letters, and words: We will be exploring different forms of print and the students will get a chance to create signs for the classroom and courtyard. They will learn about the uses of print, letters, and words when they design greeting cards for Valentine's Day and general greeting cards for their friends. Children will be encouraged to write words that are important to them (their own names, family members and pets).



Mathematics: Geometry and spatial sense (2D & 3D shapes), measurements, and data analysis: Students will be exposed to the correct geometric terms for shapes and they will be given the opportunity to identify shapes by both name and their features. They will also learn the correct vocabulary for the different measurement attributes (length, capacity, weight, area, and time). Once they develop an understanding of measurements, they will be able to successfully compare and order objects. Students will be introduced to different measuring tools, and they will even come up with their own tools that they can use to measure their friends, classroom objects, or surroundings in the school. The children will be sorting and classifying objects and creating charts to represent the data they collected.

Science and Technology: Tools and equipment, awareness of technology: Children will be exposed to or using different tools, such as building tools, cooking tools, or audio players, and these are all different types of technological tools (not just technology devices). The students will be taught how technology is used for different purposes, for example tools used at home vs. tools used in school. And they will also learn the rules for using technology.



The Visual Arts: Tools and equipment, awareness of technology: Children will be exposed to or using different tools, such as building tools, a variety of art tools such as staplers and hole punchers. The students will be taught how to use tools safely and how to use them to make strong connections using paper, card, fabric, ribbon, rope, and other materials.



Working Memory

What is Working Memory?

Working Memory is the ability to store information temporarily for immediate recall for a short time. This is important when children are trying to remember a story, complete math word problems, or follow multi-step directions, etc. We have two kinds of working memory: auditory memory and visual-spatial memory. Auditory memory records what we're hearing, while visual-spatial memory captures what we're seeing. Effective working memory is key to learning. Here are ways children learn using working memory.



Working Memory and Accessing Information

Unlike short-term memory, working memory isn't stored for later use but accessed immediately—even while the addition of relevant information is taking place. Children with weak working memory skills have difficulty grabbing and holding on to complex, incoming information.

Tip: Work on visualization skills. - Encourage your child to practice creating a picture in his mind of what he just read or heard. For example, if you've told him to set the table for five people, ask him to make a mental picture of what the table should look like. Then, have him draw that picture. As he gets better at visualizing, he can describe the image to you instead of drawing it.

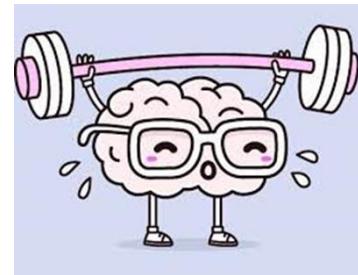
Working Memory and Remembering Instructions

To perform an activity, children rely on both incoming information and information stored in working memory. This can make it challenging to follow multi-step directions. Children with weak working memory skills have difficulty keeping in mind what comes next, while they're doing what comes now.

Tip: Have your child teach you. Being able to explain how to do something involves making sense of information and mentally filing it. If your child is learning a skill, ask him to teach it to you or repeat the directions of the task. This gives the child an opportunity to practice the skill of remembering a sequence of steps while explaining each step, one at a time.

Working memory and paying attention

The part of the brain that's responsible for working memory is also responsible for maintaining focus and concentration. Working memory skills help children pay attention to what they need to remember. Two examples are recalling facts from a presented story and following multi-step directions. Children use working memory to remember not only the sequence of events in the story but to remember and retain the relevant details. Children with weak working memory skills have trouble staying on task. With multi-step directions, children may remember the first or last direction but not the directions in between.



Tip: Play Cards and Games - Simple card games like Crazy Eights, Uno, and Go Fish can improve working memory in two ways: the child has to remember the cards he has, as well as keep the rules of the game in mind at the same time. Games such as Simon Says can also improve the skill of following directions.

Working Memory and Learning to Read

Working memory is responsible for many of the skills children use to learn to read as they sound out words and begin to recognize words by sight. Auditory working memory helps children remember the sounds letters make as they sound out new words. Visual working memory helps children remember what those words look and sound like. When these skills are working effectively, children will not have to sound out every word, allowing them to read with less hesitation and, therefore, becoming more fluent readers.

Tip: Suggest games that use visual memory - Playing memory matching card games can help children work on visual memory.

Other activities include using a magazine page and asking the child to circle all instances of a specific word/letter in one minute. You can also use flash cards with words printed on them. Have the child take a moment and look at several word cards, and then turn them over and ask the child to recall the words printed on the cards.

Useful links/websites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUNTMKpoLAI>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00y00mz/episodes/guide>

<https://www.learn4good.com/games/educational-learning-activities/building-games-online.htm>

<https://www.ixl.com/math/pre-k>

<https://www.ixl.com/ela/pre-k>

<http://www.memozor.com/memory-game-online-free/for-kids/kids-4-years-old-games/letters-of-the-alphabet>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP1blVh1ZQM>



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