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Jan/Feb/March 2007

Five Big Valentines

Five big valentines from the corner drug store

I mailed one to a friend - then there were four

Four big valentines, lovely ones to see

I mailed one to my Mommy - then there were three

Three big valentines - red, shiny, and new

I mailed one to my Daddy - then there were two

Two big valentines, the best is yet to come

I mailed one to Grandma - Then there was one

One big valentine, the giving is almost done

I mailed it to Grandpa - and now there is none



Policy and Procedure Updates and Reminders!

If your child develops a fever (temperature of 101 degrees orally) while at the Center we will notify you immediately. We do expect our families to pick their child up soon after being notified (within one hour). Remember, your child cannot return to the Center until they have been fever free for twenty four hours. This is for the safety of your child and others.

If you have recently had a change with your home/work phone number, address, jobs, or cell phone numbers, please notify the office, in writing of those changes so we can maintain current information in our files.

Children who require the use of diapers/wipes/pull~ups need to remember to

bring on large container of diapers and wipes the first Monday of each Month. That supply will be marked for identification.

♥ Please remember when scheduling doctor appointments etc...if your child leaves the Center during the day they are considered gone and will NOT return.

♥ The Center opens our doors at 6:00 am, if you should arrive prior to this time and our doors are unlocked; please stay with your child until 6:00 am. Our staff needs a few minutes to gather supplies to ready themselves for the day.

♥ Please notify the Center if your child is NOT going to be at the Center for any reason prior to 8:30 am.

♥ Please remove all unnecessary items from your child's cubby at least weekly, preferably daily if at all possible. The cubbies get so full your child has a difficult time placing their preschool items in them to show mom and dad.



WHAT TEACHERS MAKE

The dinner guests were sitting around the table discussing life.

One man, a CEO, decided to explain the problem with education. He argued, "What's a kid going to learn from someone who decided his/her best option in life was to become a teacher?"

He reminded the other dinner guests what they say about teachers:

"Those who can, do.
Those who can't,
teach."

To stress his point he said to another guest;

"You're a teacher,
Susan. Be honest.
What do you make?"

Susan, who had a

reputation for honesty and frankness replied,
"You want to know
what I make?"

"I make kids work harder than they ever thought they could. I make a C+ feel like the winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. I make kids sit through 40 minutes of study hall in absolute silence.

"You want to know
what I make?"

I make kids wonder.
I make them question.
I make them criticize.

I make them apologize
and mean it.

I make them write.

I make them read, read,
read.

I make them show all
their work in math and
perfect their final
drafts in English.

I make them understand
that if you have the
brains, and follow your
heart, and if someone


ever tries to judge you by what you make, you must pay no attention because they just didn't learn."

Susan paused and then continued. "You want to know what I make? 'I MAKE A DIFFERENCE.' What do you make?"

THERE IS MUCH TRUTH IN THAT STATEMENT.

And don't forget, "Teachers make every other profession possible.

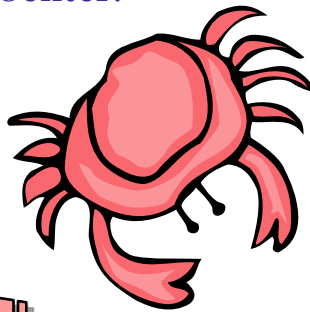
Thank a teacher.



Recycled Books

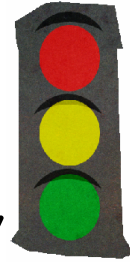
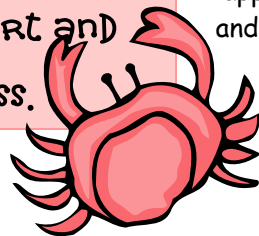
If you have books at home your child is not using or has lost interest in; you could donate them

to the Center! Other children could enjoy and also benefit from them. If you do bring books to the Center, please bring them to the office so we may log them into our system before distributing them throughout the Center.



Thank you Rusty!

Just a note of "thanks" to **Rusty Thompson** who gave our staff "CRABS!" You are such a special person and we thank you for all your support and kindness.



Safety Reminders

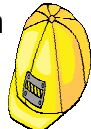
~ We would really appreciate parents and family members reminding their children to walk in the parking lot and when inside the Center. This will help reinforce what the teachers are instructing the children to do throughout the day. Otherwise, children and others are going to get hurt! Thank you so much for your understanding. Remember, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

~ We would also ask that you not throw your cigarette butts in the proper receptacles. We have literally picked up hundreds of cigarette butts in and around the front entry way of the Center. Parents have occasionally seen children pick them up and mimic smoking! YUK! We appreciate all your help and consideration in this matter.



UNDER
CONSTRUCTION

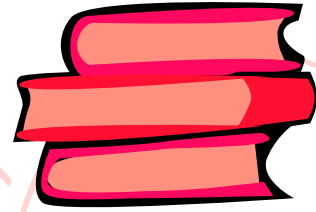
We thought we would never get started but the construction on our new building (South-east of the building) has begun! We are so excited and hope to have this completed in about three months, weather permitting. Let us just thank you for your patience during this "messy" time. We are also very excited about the additional parking area being developed (west of the current parking lot). If you have any questions please stop in the office and talk with Ms. Vickie or Ms. Cyndie!



Showing your "love" for your caregiver by being kind and considerate:

We all know how we would like to be treated. We instruct our staff to be kind and considerate and respectful of others' thoughts and feelings. In return we ask that you treat the staff with the same respect. The Center realizes that leaving your children under the watchful eye of others can be stressful and challenging to say the least. But we ask that you respect your child care provider as a person and treat her/him as a professional. Your provider should respect your role as final authority for your child. No matter what the topic, you will find it easier to address when you begin by respecting the other person.

You can get more accomplished with honey than you can with vinegar.



Choosing books for babies and young children

Many educational studies show that when parents read to their children from the time they are babies, children learn to read earlier and are better readers later in school. Having books and magazines at home is important. But how do you know what books to choose for your child? Here are some tips for getting good books for young children of all ages.

Where to get books

Borrowing books from the public library is a good place to start. Many libraries now offer board books for infants and toddlers plus picture books for preschoolers. Garage sales and sales conducted by libraries are good sources of inexpensive books. Or you can organize a book exchange in your neighborhood or preschool so children can trade books. Discount stores,

bookstores and Internet book sellers all have bargain sections or run specials.

Where to keep books

Children need to have books where they can reach them, so consider having several places at home and in the car where books are readily available. A cardboard box that the child is allowed to decorate with art work or scribbling is a simple solution. A low shelf or a bottom drawer also allows easy access.

What to look for in a book

Good books for young children need to be well made and durable. Little ones like to really explore their favorite books, carrying them around, tugging on the pages, and even "mouthing" them. Large, colorful pictures attract children to books and hold their interest. The youngest children will enjoy photographs or realistic pictures which help them relate the book to familiar things in their surroundings. Preschoolers are attracted to a wide variety of artwork in books. Good stories with interesting

characters and a plot with lots of action also appeal to preschoolers, where babies and toddlers are interested in books with just a few words on the page or ones that label objects in the pictures. Choose books for all ages that picture people with a variety of cultures, races, physical abilities or occupations.

When to get and give books

Anytime is a great time for a new book! Give books for special occasions or everyday treats. Encourage your child to choose a book as a souvenir on a family trip. Encourage grandparents or other relatives to help build your child's personal library, and let the giver have the pleasure of reading the book to your child for the first time. Buy books as gifts for baby showers, children's birthday parties, or holiday gifts. No matter when you give your child a book, you are helping build a love of reading.

Characteristics of good books

Books for babies to 1 year:

- Thick cardboard pages

- Flexible cloth or vinyl pages
- Small, chunky format
- Simple, bright pictures or photos
- Few or no words on a page
- Themes that encourage sounds (farm animals, vehicles, etc.)

Books for toddlers and twos:

- Cardboard or thick paper pages
- Repetition of words or phrases
- Pictures that tell a story without words
- A story told in a few, simple words
- Nursery rhymes or rhyming words
- Stories about familiar, everyday things
- Simple concepts like colors or shapes

Books for preschoolers:

- Increasingly more complicated stories
- Stories about different cultures and places
- Folktales

- Stories about issues children face (fears, separation, starting school)
- Rhyming text or poetry
- Humorous plots or characters
- Non-fiction subjects
- Color, letter or number themes



A study published in the January/February 2007 issue of General Dentistry, a journal from the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD), says babies who suck on pacifiers while sleeping might be less likely to die from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. Researchers found that the sucking kept babies from falling to a deep sleep that could result in the stopping of breathing. Although pacifier use can be helpful in this instance, parents are still encouraged to limit pacifier use and discourage prolonged use. AGD and other dentistry officials warn that pacifier use can cause damage to oral health such as teeth alignment problems and encourage parents to discontinue their child's use of a pacifier by age 2.

AGD offers the following tips and recommendations for pacifier use.

- Pacifier use should be restricted to the time

when the infant is falling asleep.

- Pacifiers can cause severe lacerations if the shield is held inside the lips.
- Look for a pacifier with ventilation holes in the shield, as they permit air passage. This is important if the pacifier accidentally becomes lodged in the child's throat.
- In order to prevent strangulation, do not place a cord around a child's neck to hold a pacifier. Look for pacifiers that have a ring.
- A symmetrical nipple permits the pacifier to remain in the correct sucking position.
- Dispose of the pacifier after use; it is not sanitary to keep it or give it away.
- Suggestions for breaking the habit: dipping the pacifier in white vinegar to make it distasteful; piercing the nipple of the pacifier with an ice pick or cutting it shorter to reduce sucking satisfaction; leaving it behind on a trip; or implementing the "cold turkey" method.

Parents as Teachers National Center understands the important role research studies like this one from AGD plays in informing parents about ways they can protect and assist their child's health and development. The 2007 Parents as Teachers Conference in April will highlight Parents as Teachers commitment to providing families with research-based information by focusing on "Why Research Matters".

Experts from around the world in early childhood education, parent involvement, child mental health, school readiness, diverse populations, child abuse intervention, and research measurement will share their findings.

parentsasteachers.orgStory posted January 18, 2007



Helping the Nannies celebrate 10 years of business!

What it was like ten years ago:
Mortgage interest rates: 8.5%
Average home price: \$121,800
Gas per gallon: \$1.51

Last Three Months of Interest Rates



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