



September 2010

Play and Learn at Hunt Valley
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From the Director

Welcome to the super month of September! We are excited to begin another award-winning school year and look forward to the opportunity to enrich the lives of your children.

The Kid Stuff Coupon Books have been distributed to all families. Coupons are always a welcome addition in this economic climate, so purchase one for your family by the deadline of Monday, September 13th!

We will be hosting a "Back to School" Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 7th, starting at 3:00 pm, for ages two and up. Please join us in the classrooms to meet the teachers, network with other families, and enjoy a sweet treat.

The Abilities Network is partnering with Play and Learn to provide a free workshop for staff and parents on Monday, September 13th, from 7:00 - 9:00pm, at Play and Learn at Hunt Valley. The title of the workshop is "Exploring Myths about ADHD". Please RSVP to Ms. Angie by Friday, September 10th.

Show your team spirit on Monday, September 13th. Help us kick off football season in Baltimore by celebrating Ravens Day at Play and Learn. Allow your child to wear their Ravens attire to school or wear lots of purple to show your pride. Go Ravens!

We will be taking a field trip to Native American Cromwell Valley Park on Tuesday, September 21st. Children 3 and older may ride the bus and enjoy the field trip. Parents are welcome to attend. Permission slips will be distributed in early September.

Play and Learn will offer free vision screenings for our four's and five's on Monday, September 27th, and Tuesday, September 28th, beginning each day at 8:30 am. Permission slips will be forthcoming.

Finally, join me in wishing Ms. Bassegy a very happy anniversary! Ms. Bassegy has been a valued team member, as well as a dedicated teacher, with Play and Learn for three years this September. Although Ms. Bassegy has recently requested to become a substitute, we congratulate Ms. Bassegy on her dedication!

Enjoy the final days of summer!

Ms. Marina, Ms. Angie and Super Star Staff

Parents' Corner

Play in the Early Years: Key to School Success (an excerpt)

There is a well-established consensus among early childhood professionals that play is an essential element of developmentally appropriate, high-quality, early education programs.

- ◆ Play is not a break from the curriculum; play is the best way to implement the curriculum.
- ◆ A growing body of research shows that every competency important to school success is enhanced by play. For example, high-quality pretend play is related to children's abilities to begin to think abstractly and to take the perspectives of others. Connections between the complexity of children's pretend play and early literacy, mathematical thinking, and problem-solving are documented in research literature.
- ◆ For example, through dramatic play with objects, people, and imagined situations, children develop their oral language skills and capacity for narrative, or "thinking in stories." Oral language skills and narrative form the foundation for reading comprehension, the ability to produce coherent writing, and the ability to understand subjects such as history, social studies, and science.
- ◆ Teachers use keen observation to assess and support children's learning and development through play.
- ◆ Teachers facilitate play through responsive interactions with children, based on an understanding of how play contributes to academic and social learning.

<http://www.4children.org/images/pdf/play07.pdf>

Important Dates

(See Calendar for more information)

September 6 - Labor Day - Center Closed

Parents -

Please check for the posted Parent Resource List, as well as the Parent Resource Binder. We hope you find this information to be useful!