



September 2010

Play and Learn at Odenton
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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.

We are excited to offer a free Jump Bunch class to our children on Wednesday, September 8th. Jump Bunch provides classes each week for a small, additional fee to enhance large motor skills, eye-hand and eye-foot coordination, as well as team activities. Jump Bunch will begin classes for the school year on Monday, September 13th. For more details about this program, contact Ms. Lola.

Soccer Shots is back! The children who participated last session truly enjoyed this program. Please let Ms. Lola know if you need a registration form for the upcoming session.

It is time to celebrate back to school at Play and Learn! Please join us on Friday, September 24th, between the hours of 5:00 and 7:00 pm for a "Back to School Social" in your child's classroom. This is a great opportunity to chat with teachers, review curriculum, daily schedules and routines, as well as network with other families in the community. Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to "socializing" with you this month!

We will have a center visitor, Ms. Duus, scheduled for Wednesday, September 29th. Ms. Duus is Alexander's Mom and she will speak to the preschoolers about her experience as a soldier in the military and her love of photography. Participation permission slips will be distributed in early September. Thanks in advance to this wonderful parent for volunteering her time and talents!

Finally, there are some staffing changes for the new school year. Ms. Lillian is now helping us as a substitute. Please join me in welcoming our new staff member, Mrs. Pate, to the Play and Learn teaching team. Ms. Denise is now opening the center and Mrs. Pate will relieve Denise in the afternoons to teach the two's. Mrs. Pate has worked in the school system and has her degree in Early Childhood Education.

Enjoy the final days of summer!

Ms. Lola 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!