



# WCA Preschool Times

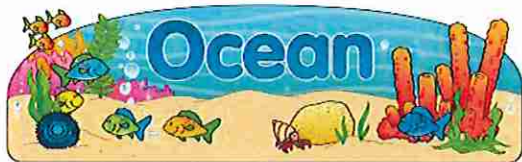


January 30, 2023

Mother Nature gave us our winter weather with snow last week! I hope you were able to get out and enjoy the sunshine and snow. While we obviously did not get to do several of the activities I had planned last week due to the snow days, we did enjoy sledding! The much needed outside time each morning was anticipated by all. Inside, I put snow in a large, shallow, plastic container and at each corner was a Dixie cup filled with water color. The children were then able to use paintbrushes to paint the snow. I think this may have been the highlight of the week, inside the classroom. Not much can compete with our great sledding hill outside though. There were smiles abundant with laughter and their large motor skills were put to work! The snow is sticking around for a little while, but the daily temperatures with windchill this week might keep us inside a little more. I will keep a close eye on the windchill before going outside. **Please, check your child's snow gear for wetness. Especially check their gloves and boots.** Dry gear to start the next day is important! ☺ This week our animal unit focus is turning our attention to ocean life. We will listen to ocean sounds of whales and dolphins while the sensory table is the ocean filled with marine life on the sandy ocean floor. We will use real sea shells to count, sort by size and alphabet match. It's going to be a great week exploring underwater life! I'm also planning to slip in a few activities we weren't able to do last week. On the reverse side I've given you information about why reading to preschoolers is important to their development.

## Areas of Focus

*Animals: Ocean*  
Sight Word: you



## Literacy and Language



- Books: *Rainbow Fish The Dangerous Deep, A Whale of a Tale!, Manatees, An Octopus is Amazing, Habitats of a Coral Reef, The Underwater Alphabet Book*
- Ocean Beginning Sounds Match
- Under the Sea Patterns (and take-home worksheet)

### *Focus Words*

coral reef \* tentacles \* mammal \* gills

## Math, Science, Sensory

- \* Sea Shell Count and Match
- \*What Makes Ice Melt Fastest?
  - \* Styrofoam Cup Jellyfish
  - \* Whale Spout Measurement
- \* Ocean Sensory: Sand, Blue & Clear Pebbles, Ocean Animals, Pretend Coral, Shells



## Important News

- ➔ **Wednesday** is pizza day for those that ordered! Please, remember to also send snacks.
- ➔ **Friday** is a half a day. We will dismiss at 11: 40 A.M. Please, send morning snacks.
- ➔ We will exchange homemade Valentine's on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>! **No food items, please.** Pinterest has some of the neatest ideas for non-edible valentines!



## Reading + Repetition = Language Development for Preschoolers

There is a lot of information here, but I wanted to share it with you because instilling a love for reading now will last your child a lifetime! *Knowledge is power!*

There are numerous studies that show the importance of reading to children every day. You may have noticed that your child asks you to read the same book over and over and over.

While for us as adults this can feel monotonous and boring, it's actually building huge connections in your child's brain!



### ***Repeating stories and rhymes allow children to memorize familiar words and phrases.***

Repetitious reading not only increases language and vocabulary, but it also allows children to predict the story's outcome. Predicting rhyming words and phrases is an essential step in the process of learning to read.

### ***Children enjoy repeating favorite stories and songs.***

Preschoolers naturally go through a developmental phase where they request to have favorite stories, songs, games, or movies repeated.

### ***Repetition supports brain development.***

During the formative years, a child's brain is especially active and wired to receive large amounts of new stimulation.



### ***Repetitious reading reinforces memory skills, sequencing skills and increases vocabulary.***

These three skills make a basic educational foundation that must be in place for all other learning to occur

### ***Memorized reading promotes positive independence.***

It is important to choose books with illustrations that prompt children to remember familiar words or phrases that correspond to the storyline on any particular page of the book. Using these visual cues, a child is able to retell a story without relying on an adult reader to be present. This satisfies the need for young children to express their independence in a positive way.

### ***Repetition combined with rhyme and rhythm is a powerful tool for developing language skills.***

Mother Goose rhymes are an excellent tool for developing language skills in preschoolers. Here are some of the reasons that Mother Goose is so successful:

- Children enjoy Mother Goose
- Appeal to the humor level of young children
- Has colorful characters
- Increases interest and attention span
- Have simple story line
- Allows children to play with sounds and words
- Can be recited over and over without boredom
- Mother Goose rhymes satisfy a natural learning process
- Are familiar to parents
- Provide opportunities for drama
- Increases vocabulary
- Provide a variety of subject matter
- Improves memory skills
- Easy to remember
- Introduces rhyming concepts
- Usually set to music
- Combines rhyme and rhythm
- Enhances pre-reading concepts
- Teaches left to right sequencing skills
- Develops phonological skills
- Positive educational benefits



### ***Memorized reading allows children to become involved in the process of reading.***

Repeating familiar words and phrases is the first step to memorized reading. Memorized reading lays the groundwork for phonetic awareness and the actual reading of words represented in print.

### ***Repetitious reading promotes the love of books and the enjoyment of reading.***

Reading is a skill that is necessary for higher forms of learning. Providing repetitious reading during the preschool years instills the love of books, reading and literature at an early age. Statistics prove that the younger the children acquire a love of books and reading, the more likely it is that a positive attitude will follow them throughout their educational experiences.

