



WCA Preschool Times

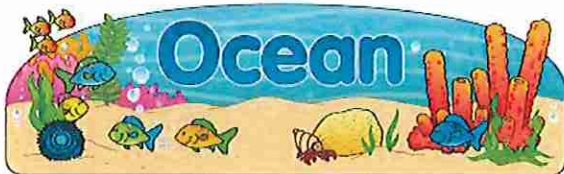


February 5, 2024

Last week we had the cold, snow and then warmer days with sunshine! We built snowmen and rolled down snow covered hills to start the week and then by weeks end we were enjoying the sun on our faces! Regardless of the weather, full snow gear was important for enjoying outside time in February. Thank you for sending your child each day ready to enjoy our playground! We wrapped up our Antarctica focus with an animal insulation science experiment. Each child was able to experience what blubber might feel like if they were an arctic animal that needed to keep warm. There were two bowls filled with snow. In one they put their bare right hand in and in the other they put their left hand into a rubber glove that was in a plastic bag filled with Crisco. Everyone immediately noticed that their left hand stayed warm! We also made kinetic sand in the sensory table with fine sand, flour and baby oil. Oh, what fun this was all week! The science table was the place to be to explore "ice burgers" in water with various arctic animals. We worked on letter recognition and printing in the alphabet sand trays. We counted and compared our January weather on the weather graph. Cloudy had the most and sunny had the least with zero squares filled in. Needless to say, it was a welcomed start to the February weather graph having a sunny square filled in! 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 didn't get to 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



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 takehome worksheet)

Focus Words

coral reef * tentacles * mammal * gills

Math, Science, Sensory

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



Important News

- ➔ **Wednesday** the letter for intent to return to WCA in the fall is due. Our preschoolers, if they do not already have an older sibling at WCA, have priority for a spot in the kindergarten class.
- ➔ **Friday** is the family dance at 6:30 PM.
- ➔ Next week on Wednesday we will exchange valentines. Please **no food items**, but thoughtful homemade ones are perfect!

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.

