



SBJC Early Childhood Program Newsletter

 November 2023

Principal's Note

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we transition from October to November, I want to share some exciting news with you. Our first Community-Based Instruction (CBI) trips in October were a great success! Our students had a wonderful time exploring and learning beyond the classroom, and I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated staff for making these experiences possible.

For those who may be less familiar with CBI, it's an integral component of our curriculum that extends learning beyond the classroom walls. During these trips, students have the opportunity to apply what they've been learning in a real-world context. It's a hands-on approach to education that we believe significantly benefits our students.

We are also concluding our Creative Curriculum Tree Study for October. For the month of November we will be learning about pets. We're eager to witness the continued growth and development of our young learners in the coming month as we delve into this study.

As we transition into November, I'd like to emphasize the importance of reading to your child each night. Literacy is a continued focus in our program as well as developing the love of reading in all of our students. Your involvement in nurturing this aspect of your child's development is invaluable.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I look forward to another month filled with growth, learning, and fun in November.

Warm regards,
Lorraine Rake Principal,
SBJC Early Childhood Learning Program

Upcoming Events

Teacher Convention: 11/9 & 11/10 School Closed

Thanksgiving: 11/23 & 24 School Closed

Parent Workshop: The School Avoidant Child: A Collaborative Approach to Fostering Change
11/30 6:30PM-8:00PM

Home/School Connection

We are delighted to announce our upcoming Creative Curriculum study for the month of November, where we will be diving into the world of pets! This adventure promises to be an engaging and enriching experience for your child, and we'd like to share some insights and tips on how to make the most of it in your own home.

Pet Adventures: Encourage your child to draw, describe, or interact with images of pets. Even if your child is nonverbal, you can explore various pet-related items and sensations, like touching soft fur or observing pet toys. Label items for them to begin to extend their vocabulary,

Letter Fun: While talking about pets, integrate letter learning. Practice recognizing and naming letters within the context of pets' names or related words. For example, "C" for "cat" or "D" for "dog." Students using alternative communication can use their methods of communication to begin to recognize or identify letters.

Number Play: Counting can be a fun, tactile activity. You can count pet-themed objects or use sensory items to introduce numbers. Count how many legs a cat, dog, or other pet has. Or try asking your child to count the number of treats you're giving your furry friend.

Color and Shape Exploration: Discuss the different colors and shapes associated with pets. Even nonverbal children can engage with visual and tactile elements related to pets to explore colors and shapes. Discuss the different colors and shapes you see while observing your pet. Ask questions like, "What shape is the dog's tail?" or "What color is the cat's fur?"

Pet Stories: Reading together is a wonderful way to foster language skills and stimulate imagination. We will be exploring pet-themed books, and you can find or create stories at home as well. Some suggestions are listed in the book corner of this newsletter.

We look forward to embarking on this exciting study in November. For our students with autism, we understand that communication may vary. However, every interaction and observation will contribute to their learning journey. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or require additional ideas. Thank you for your continued partnership in nurturing your child's love for learning.

Developing a Love of Reading



Book Corner



Books on Pets & Giving Thanks

1. Title: **"If You Give a Dog a Donut"**

Author: Laura Numeroff

Description: "If You Give a Dog a Donut" is a heartwarming and imaginative story that follows the delightful adventures of a young boy and his furry friend. Laura Numeroff's charming tale is a part of her beloved 'If You Give...' series and offers a perfect blend of humor, friendship, and creativity. This book is filled with engaging illustrations and playful storytelling that preschoolers will find captivating. As the story unfolds, it showcases the joy of giving and the warm bond between the boy and his lovable dog, making it an ideal choice for parents and children to share at home.

Here are three books that parents can read with their children on the topic of being a good friend.

2. Title: **"Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?"** Author: Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle Description: "Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?" is a classic picture book created by the dynamic duo of Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle. This beautifully illustrated book is a fantastic choice for young children. The repetitive and rhythmic text makes it an engaging and accessible read for a wide range of young readers. It introduces children to a colorful cast of animals and their visual world while fostering language development and early literacy skills. The captivating illustrations by Eric Carle are both visually stimulating and emotionally reassuring, making this book a wonderful addition to any home library.

3. Title: **"Bear Says Thanks"** Author: Karma Wilson Description: "Bear Says Thanks" by Karma Wilson is a delightful and heartwarming picture book that explores the themes of friendship, gratitude, and sharing. With simple yet engaging text, it tells the story of Bear, who wants to host a feast but has nothing to contribute. However, his friends come to the rescue, each bringing a dish to share. The story beautifully conveys the message of being thankful for the kindness and generosity of friends. With its charming illustrations and easy-to-follow narrative, this book is an excellent choice for introducing young children to the concept of thankfulness during the Thanksgiving season. It's a perfect addition to your home library for preschoolers.

Reading Suggestions:

To engage your preschooler while reading these books, consider the following strategies:

- Use animated facial expressions and exaggerated voices to convey the emotions and actions in the stories.
- Encourage the child to participate by pointing to and discussing the illustrations. Nonverbal communication, such as gestures or expressions, can also be a form of participation.
- Take breaks to explore the pictures and relate them to the story. This can enhance the child's comprehension and engagement.
- Use simple gestures or nonverbal communication to help the child express their emotions or reactions to the story. For instance, encourage them to show excitement, fear, or happiness through their own gestures or art.
- Create a safe and calm reading environment to make the child feel comfortable and receptive to the story's emotional cues.