



Mrs. Teague & Mrs. Paden's February 2018 Classroom Newsletter

MONTHLY FOCUS

Letters – **Dd, Ee, and Zz**

Number – **0, zero, cero & 10, ten, diez**

Shape - **Heart**

Color – **Pink, rosado**

Word Wall Words:

but, a, in & pink

Main objectives:

*We will be working on self-control and following directions

* Teeth

*Fine motor activities

*Sharing

*Using our words

Addresses & Phone Numbers

Bible Verse:

**Love~ “As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”
John 13:34**

Upcoming events:

February 13th - Pastor Maggie visits with our class

February 13th- Valentine's Party- More info. will be sent home.

March 12th – Conference Day- We will have scheduled times to meet so we can review your child's progress.

10 Tips for Promoting Independence in your child.

While 3- and 4-year-olds still need plenty of parental help, our preschool kids are typically able to do more than many of us think. Here's how you can encourage them:

1. Expect more. Most people have a way of living up (or down) to expectations -- preschoolers included. At school we expect the kids to hang up

their own coat and book bag. They are expected to put their own coat, hats and gloves on -- and they do.

2. Resist doing for him/her what he/she can do themselves. While it may be quicker and easier to do it yourself, it won't help to make your child more self-sufficient. Quick hint: Appeal to her sense of pride. "Whenever I'm trying to get kids to dress, put jackets on, sit on chairs during meals and so on, I'll ask them: 'Do you want me to help you or can you do it yourself?' Those words are like magic, the kids always want to do it for themselves.

3. Don't redo what they've done. If your child makes his/her bed, resist the urge to smooth the blankets. If he/she dresses herself in stripes and polka dots, compliment her "eclectic" style. Unless absolutely necessary, try not to fix what your child

accomplishes. He/she may notice and it may discourage him/her.

4. Let them solve simple problems. If you see your child trying to assemble a toy or get a book from a shelf that she can reach if she stands on her stepstool, pause before racing over to help. "Provided that they are safe, those moments when you don't rush in, when you give children a moment to solve things for themselves, those are the character-building moments."

5. Assign a chore. Putting your preschooler in charge of a regular, simple task will build his/her confidence and sense of competency. A child who is entrusted to water the plants or empty the clothes dryer is likely to believe she can also get dressed herself or pour her own cereal. The goal is to make your child feel like a capable, contributing member of the family.

6. Praise is key, try to catch him/her being good. Kids repeat behaviors that get attention.

7. Develop predictable routines. Kids cooperate in school because they know what's expected of them. "The children follow essentially the same routine day after day, so they quickly learn what they are supposed to be doing, and after a while barely need reminding."

8. Lighten up. If your child refuses to do something, try turning it into a game. "Humor and games are two great tools that parents sometimes forget about in the heat of the moment.

9. Warn of transitions. If your child pitches a fit whenever you announce it's time to switch gears --whether that means shutting off the TV, stopping play to come eat, or leaving a friend's house -- it could be that you're not giving enough notice. "At school we let

kids know when transitions are coming so they have time to finish whatever they're doing," "If you need to leave the house at 8:30 a.m., warn your child at 8:15 that he/she has five more minutes to play, then they will have to stop to put their toys away. Set a timer so she knows when the time is up."

10. Give structured choices. If, for example, your 3-year-old refuses to sit at the dinner table, you might offer the choice of sitting and getting dessert -- or not sitting and missing out on a treat. At first, your child may not make the right choice, but eventually he will, because he'll see that the wrong choice isn't getting him what he wants. Just be sure, if you want your child to choose option A, that option B is less attractive.

Snow Investigation: Our class is wrapping up the investigation on snow. Our class had the opportunity to explore snow. Our class's first activity was taking the temperature of the snow. A question our class started with was, "How cold is snow?" Our students also discovered how many sides every snowflake has. The kids had a wonderful time looking through the microscope. We took the opportunity to explore the differences in snowflakes, with the large amount of snow we had this past month. We finished up our investigation with answering, "What happens to snow when it melts?" The children loved playing in the snow and observed it melting to water.

