

# SHAWNEE HEIGHTS USD 450 EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER



March, 2020

Vol. 20, No. 7



Theresa Foster, Berryton Elem.  
Brae Richards, Tecumseh South Elem.  
Maddy Martin, Tecumseh North Elem.  
Tracie Holcomb, Shawnee Heights Elem.  
Lisa Baker, ECSE Inclusion Teacher  
Michelle Peacocke, 357-5440

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!!**

USD 450 Shawnee Heights

Preschool Screening Dates:

March 6<sup>th</sup>

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

May 1<sup>st</sup>

**Call 785-357-5440 for an appointment**

**Must attend a screening to be considered**

**for the 4-year-old Pre-K program**

**\*\* March 8<sup>th</sup>, Daylight Saving Time**

**\*\* Spring Break- March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>\*\***

## Use games, music to promote your child's interest in math.

Children love to play games. If you make a game out of learning math, your child will be more eager to learn.

Here are some fun math activities to play with your preschooler:

- **Dot count.** Show your child how to shake two die. Then help her count the number of dots on the top of both die. Count aloud together.
- **Marble count.** Put one marble (or dried bean or button) in a bowl. Place two marbles in another bowl. Ask your child which bowl has more marbles. Keep playing, rearranging and increasing the number of marbles in the containers. When your child can't answer correctly, help her count the marbles.
- **Shape hunt.** Introduce your child to the shapes circle, square, triangle and rectangle. Take a walk and see if she can identify these shapes on the ground, in buildings (doors and windows) or on signs.
- **Happy math song.** Teach your child the popular song, "If you're happy and you know it..." (If you aren't familiar with this song, ask your child's teacher to sing it for you.). Add numbers to the words to help your child learn to count. For example, "If you're happy and you know it, clap three time..." "If you're happy and you know it, raise six fingers..."



## Set specific guidelines for your preschooler's use of video games.

In today's society, video games are a lot like candy. Even if you've avoided them in the early years, your child will eventually learn they exist. In fact, he probably already knows, especially if you have older children.

Remember, regulating game use is not as simple as just refusing to buy an expensive gaming system. Children may play at friends' houses, or they may learn to play games on a home computer/l-pad. So be prepared to set rules.

Here are some guidelines:

- **Limit.** Playing games is a bit more active than watching TV. On the other hand, it can also be more addictive. Experts recommend no more than two hours of total screen time a day. That includes TV, computer and video games.
- **Read.** Just because a game seems to be rated for "everyone," doesn't mean it's right for your child. Read the box to see what the game involves. Ask other parents, or children older than your child, to tell you about the game.
- **Restrict.** There should be no video games in your child's bedroom. The same should hold for the TV and computer.



## Boost Your Child's Brain Power Just by Talking, Talking, Talking

Kids whose parents talk to them a lot not only have better language skills, they're smarter.

Daily exposure to words from birth on builds brain pathways. And these boost a child's ability to think and learn.

To build brain power and language skills:

- **Sharpen your child's listening skills.** Ask her to listen to the sounds around you. Does she hear the clock ticking? The airplane flying?
- **Talk about everything** you and your child do together. For example, describe your actions as you set the table or pour milk. Name your child's body parts as you dress her. ("Socks go on your feet. Shirt goes over your head.")
- **Talk about the sounds** your child makes. Clapping hands. Splashing in the tub. Stomping feet.
- **Talk directly to your child** long before she can talk to you. This helps her understand the meaning of words. That is, the actions, objects or thoughts the words represent.
- **Don't use "baby talk,"** Speak clearly and correctly.

- **Follow your child's lead.** Talk and play with your child as long as she shows interest. Focus on the words and objects that she's focusing on at the moment.
- **Be an active listener.** When your child coos or babbles, stop what you're doing. Repeat what she says. Or say something that shows you approve of her talking and understand her message.
- **Check out any concerns.** If you have questions about your child's language development, talk to a pediatrician.

## Build comprehension skills by encouraging participation

One important element of reading is called comprehension. This is the ability to understand and make sense of what you read. Comprehension is what makes reading meaningful.

You can give your four-year-old a better chance at strong comprehension skills by encouraging him to participate when you read to him. Here are some ways to do it:

- **Retell.** After reading, pick a character in the story. Ask your child what happened to the character.
- **Use the picture** to tell the story. Choose one of our child's favorite picture books, find a picture that contains color and lots of action. Say, "I'm not sure what's happening in this picture. You know so much about this book. Can you tell me?"
- **Make connections.** Remind your child about anything in the story that relates to his own life.

- **Fill in the blank.** This is great for rhymes. Read two lines but leave off the last word. See if your child can give you a rhyming word.

## "What's Missing" Game Helps Children Sharpen Memory Skills

Remembering things is a key step in the thinking process. You can play a fun game with your child that will strengthen this skill.

For memory, play the "What's Missing" Game. Put 3 familiar objects on a tray. Have your child look for at least 20-30 seconds, then have her hide her eyes. Take one object away and ask her to open her eyes. See if she can tell you what you took away. Continue playing while increasing the number of objects you put out.



**Kindergarten Round Up  
April 10, 2020  
For Shawnee Heights School  
District**