



Play, Learn and Grow... Together

A CUSD Early Childhood Newsletter for Parents of Preschoolers



October

Issue 3

Dedicated to Excellence

Early Learning Standard

Focus:

Approaches to learning

Approaches to learning refer to observable behaviors that indicate ways children become engaged in social interactions and learning experiences. Children's approaches to learning contribute to their success in school and influence their development and learning in other domains. For example, curiosity is a prerequisite of the scientist, and reasoning and problem solving are as necessary for social relationships as they are for mathematics. Children's ability to stay focused, interested, and engaged in activities supports a range of positive outcomes, including cognitive, language, and social and emotional development. It allows children to acquire new knowledge, learn new skills, and set and achieve goals for themselves.

Many early learning experts view approaches to learning as one of the most important domains of early childhood development. When adults provide an engaging environment that allows children to explore and create independently, using their own approach to a learning situation, children will be better equipped for kindergarten and to take advantage of Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards (aka Common Core).

Book Nook

1. *Dream Big Little Pig* by Kristi Yamaguchi
2. *Ish* by Peter H. Reynolds
3. *Sally Jean, the Bicycle Queen* by Cari Best
4. *Rattletrap Car* by Phyllis Root

Inspiring Cooperation

Include your child: He is more likely to cooperate if he feels he is part of things.

Recognize initiative: If your child pitches in without being asked, tell her that you noticed. This will motivate her to think of more ways to help.

Point out benefits: It's one thing to tell your child that working together makes a job easier. It's another for him to see the results himself. ("When we all pitch in to clear the table after dinner, we have more time to play before bed!") He'll learn that cooperation pays off!

Online Parent Resources

Here are some website resources that provide information on education and child development.

1. www.childhood101.com: Playing, Learning, Growing
2. www.pbs.org/parents/child-development
3. www.earlychildhood.com

Learning at Home

Supporting Approaches to Learning

When children have a positive approach to learning, they are likely to want to learn more.

*When children blame, moan, or whine, turn it into an opportunity to find out what they care about! Uncover hidden convictions that can fuel **initiative** and action in the world.

Add surprise to a routine activity. To stimulate **curiosity** and **develop problem-solving** skills, change something in a familiar area or change up a familiar routine.

In order for something to be committed to memory, attention must first be given and held. This is why memory games help **build focus** in young children.

To build **persistence** and **confidence**, shift from a language of "Prizes and Praising" to a language of "Ongoing Regard." Instead of giving praise for all the things children "do," communicate appreciation for who they are.

Encourage **open-mindedness** and **creativity** by demonstrating that there may be more than one way to do things or to solve problems.

It's not just Art! Anything that encourages children to think in an abstract way can help increase ideational fluency, or **creativity**. Don't let your own creative influences affect what you provide to your children. Try things outside of your own comfort zone!

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Use stuffed animals or dolls to retell a story you've read. Use a sock to make a puppet for storytelling. (LL)		Encourage your child to "read" familiar names on products, buildings and businesses. Talk about them. "There's the truck that says US Mail." (SS)		Let your child scribble a design with crayons, markers or pencils. Have him/her fill in the empty spaces in the design with different colors or patterns. (FA)	
During bath time use different sized plastic cups and containers to measure water. Talk about which cup holds more or less? Find out how many small cups are needed to fill a big cup. (M)		Write stories your child dictates to you about his/her day. Encourage your child to draw pictures to illustrate the stories. (LL)		Write your child's name on a piece of paper. Have your child trace over it with his/her fingers. Remember to capitalize only the first letter. (PD)		Look through magazines to find people's faces. Talk about the expressions and emotions showing on their faces. "That person is frowning. He is probably sad." (SE)
	Take a walk outside. Investigate trees, leaves and other fall objects. Collect some in a bag and take home to use for other activities. (S)		Use objects to make patterns with your child. Lay out spoon, spoon, cup and ask your child to make the same pattern. Or try, black sock, white sock, black sock and see if your child can tell you what's next. (M)		Use a deck of playing cards to create and play a memory game. (ATL)	Talk to your child about the things you will do today, the things you did yesterday and what you might do tomorrow. (SS)
	Talk about the sequence of events in your daily activities (meal time, bath time, bed time). See if your child can tell you which one comes first during the day. Which one comes last? (SE)			Encourage your child to use his/her imagination. Use props to make up a short story. (FA)		With your child, make the letters of his/her name using play dough. (LL)

Domains of Learning: PD- Physical Development; LL- Language and Literacy; FA- Fine Arts; M- Mathematics; SS- Social Studies; SE- Social Emotional; S-Science; AL-Approaches to Learning