

Teddy Bear Day Care and Preschool Newsletter



October 2023

October Events

National Fire Prevention Week:

October 8-14



NFPA's 2023 campaign is "Cooking safety starts with YOU. Pay attention to fire prevention".

Download some printable resources: <https://www.nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week/About>.

October 9 – Columbus Day

This U.S. holiday commemorates the landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492! Read about this



Columbus Day

Tuesday, October 31

In lieu of this year's field trip, we will provide a small pumpkin and goodie bag for your child to take home!



October News

We've all experienced some changes this year – and we are ready to celebrate – the "fall" season! We are excited for the children to play in cooler weather, notice the vibrant colors of the leaves outside, experience the scent and texture of pinecones, smell/taste pumpkin-flavored drinks and treats, and much more! With the change in weather, we ask that all parents provide a jacket with a zipper for your child, and make sure that your child's bag has long pants and long sleeve shirts.

Last month, we implemented the "First Thirty Days" curriculum to the children in our Preschool, Jr. Pre-k, and Sr. Pre-k programs. This month, the Preschool's curriculum is based on HighScope's KDI "Approaches to Learning" – please read the brochure - <https://highscope.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/152.pdf> Jr. Pre-K and Sr. Pre-K have been introduced to the letters "Mm" and "Gg". In October, the letters "Ff", "Pp", and "Tt" will be introduced. Jr. Pre-k children will be reviewing the "square" shape, number amounts 6 to 10, that two make a pair, and much more! Sr. Pre-k children will be weighing and measuring, counting seeds to 15, beginning scissor use, and learning to care for their environment!

Your child is welcome to participate in their classroom Halloween party and "parade"; your child's costume must be in a labeled bag (**no toy weapons**). Look for a message on Kangarootime about the Halloween Party Sign-Up Sheet for your child's classroom.

What Happens in the House Area?

The house area provides many opportunities for children to develop key skills: taking turns, interact with each other, and recognize real-life roles played by adults. Children gather at a small group table with their teacher and are introduced to food groups (meats, fruits, dairy, vegetables), and are asked where these materials are found and used. They are also introduced to the equipment (refrigerator, sink, etc.) and discuss their purposes. The children have been practicing: "I find it. I use it. I return it," as they use the materials. All containers and shelves are labeled so children can find their materials.



Looking Ahead



We will be **closed Fri., November 10th for Veteran's Day** and will be **closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.**

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Why is “play” so vital for children? It improves their mobility of thought, problem-solving skills, develops their attention span, gross motor skills and hand-eye coordination.

Science Experiments At-Home: “Dancing Frankenworms”

Grab one bag of gummy worms (or as many as you want to use!) and cut them into quarters. Next, (invite your preschooler to help you) measure out 3 tbsp. of baking soda and stir into a glass filled with 1 cup of warm water. Ask your child to put the cut worms into the baking soda/water mixture. Then the hard part – **wait 15 minutes** for the worms to soak in the baking soda mixture. While waiting, fill a second clear glass completely with vinegar. After 15 minutes, use a fork to remove the cut worms and place them in the vinegar – ask your child what they see happening to the worms! **Parents: you could explain that when you add the worms soaked in baking soda, the acid in the vinegar reacts with the bicarbonate in the baking soda. When an acid and base react, carbon dioxide gas bubbles form!**



www.playdoughtoplato.com/kids-science-dancing-frankenworms/

Fun Halloween Experiences for the Family

Craft Stick Puppet Show You'll need jumbo craft sticks, googly eyes, and craft paint (white/black/orange) – check out your Dollar Store! Gather as a family to create colorful Halloween characters and let the puppet show begin!



Halloween Dance Party Who says you have to leave home to have fun on Halloween? Pick out some Dollar Store decorations and a Halloween CD (or visit YouTube) and dance to “Monster Mash” or the “Ghostbusters” theme song!



<https://creativefamilyfun.net/halloween-craft-stick-puppets/>

and www.creativechild.com/articles/view/13-fun-family-friendly-halloween-activities

Cooking Corner

A great way to encourage principles of good nutrition and encourage healthy eating habits for your child is to let them cook and/or prepare meals with you.

Mac-O-Lantern and Cheese Bowls

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Fill a large bowl with ice water. Cut the tops off medium orange bell peppers and reserve (remove seeds and membranes). Put the peppers and tops in the boiling water and cook for 2-3 minutes. Plunge



the peppers into the ice bath. Once cool, remove and use a sharp knife to carve a jack-o-lantern face into one side of each pepper. Return the water to a boil, add and cook 8 oz. elbow macaroni for about 6 minutes, then drain. Heat 1+1/4 cups half-and-half in a large saucepan over medium heat until it simmers and cook for 10 minutes. Add 8 oz. cream cheese and stir until melted. Whisk in 4 oz. mild cheddar cheese until smooth. Off the heat, add the macaroni to the saucepan and stir to combine. Let sit for 10 minutes, then divide the mac & cheese among the peppers and cap each pepper with a pepper top!

Candy Corn Punch

Fill your pitcher to the top with ice. Fill 1/3 of the pitcher with orange soda. Next, slowly pour yellow Gatorade and let it trickle down on the orange soda until the pitcher is 2/3 full. Then, slowly pour lemonade Vitamin Water and let it trickle down on top of the Gatorade.



www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/mac-o-lantern-and-cheese-bowls-3813492

and <https://www.highheelsandgrills.com/candy-corn-punch/>