

Creative Preschool Newsletter - October 2016



From the Director

When I taught in the 4s program I often found myself astounded on the first school day when I saw the new 3 year old children—surely they were just babies still, not preschoolers! I am no longer fooled, because I now know that they will grow and develop in leaps and bounds over the course of the upcoming school year. Johann Wolfgang von Goethe made the observation that when we watch the astounding pace of the development of the infant and the young child, we should deduce that “if children grew up according to early indications, we should have nothing but geniuses” as adults. Yes, indeed, the young child does grow and learn at an amazing pace!

We at Creative Preschool are excited and happy to be partners in this process. We strive to provide an environment rich in possibilities to explore, think, deduce and discover, not only for future success in school, but for success in life. We also strive to provide an environment which encourages respect and courtesy for ourselves and for others in ways which have the greatest potential to lay the foundation of growing productive, kind, and polite adults.

You, however, are the primary source of your child’s education and growth. Home is the place where children first learn to limit their wishes, abide by rules, take responsibility for their actions and inactions, and consider the rights and needs of others.

As parents ourselves, we understand that there are always parenting questions on a your mind. “Am I handling this the best way?” “Will my child learn all he needs to know?” “Am I raising a child of respect and responsibility?” From time to time, then, attached to your newsletter will be an article which will address issues parents face. This month’s article addresses *Back-Talking and the Young Child, Why and What We Can Do About It*.

There is no doubt that parenting is by far one of the most exhausting and frustrating, yet the most important and rewarding of jobs we shall ever undertake! We, as a society, and we, the staff here at Creative Preschool, owe a debt of gratitude to you parents for taking on and for **DOING SO WELL** the job of raising your little ones into future magnificent adults.

So, in October we hope you will notice in our halls and in your child’s cubby our meager effort to thank you, our Creative Preschool parents, for all you are and all you do.

You are definitely ost arvelous!

Halloween News and Guidelines

Halloween is almost as important as Christmas in the world of a child, so we celebrate here at Creative with a parade and lots of fun! Parents, siblings and guests are invited to join us as spectators of our Halloween Parade. Bring your camera for a photo-op! You can expect to be here for no more than one-half hour after the parade begins.



PARTY DAYS AND PARADE TIMES:

| Class | Halloween Celebration | Parade Time |
|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| MW & MWF AM | Monday October 31 | 9:20 |
| MW & MWF PM | Monday October 31 | 12:50 |
| TTh AM | Thursday October 27 | 9:20 |
| TTh/TThF PM | Thursday October 27 | 12:55 |
| Friday Friends | Friday October 28 | 9:20 |

After dropping your child off in the classroom (at regular start time), please go upstairs to the Fellowship Hall, to await the parade of our costumed little ones and a child-friendly song or two!

Although Halloween is most definitely anticipated with delight, young children often experience some fear, as well. In our effort to make this day as fun, stress-free, and as safe as possible for our preschoolers, then, we are asking that you please keep some simple pointers in mind:

- Children should wear *child-friendly* costumes
- Please either have your child wear shorts and t-shirt under the costume or send a change of clothing
- No weapons are ever allowed at school! :)
- Costume props, though fun, can create safety issues during the parade and in the classroom. If your child brings props to school, please take them home with you after the parade
- Princess heels and fancy shoes are unsafe. Gym shoes are still appropriate!
- The children will trick-or-treat in their classroom, so you may send treats to pass out to their friends. Please send a treat for each classmate *and one for your child, as well*, as we will be developing the concept of one-to-one correspondence while passing treats, one into each of their classmate’s bag
- Children will be making their own trick or treat bag at school, so there is no need to send one with them

REMEMBER THAT THERE IS NO SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 1 DUE TO TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY.

News from Threes

October is a very busy month for us! We will be discussing the fall season and observing all the changes this time of year brings. Our field trip will enhance our appreciation of this colorful season. The field trip to Farbach-Werner is Oct. 18 for the TTH classes and Oct. 19 for the MW classes. All AM class programs begin at 10:00 and PM classes at 1:00. Halloween Party information and reminders are posted above. Please read the schedule and the guidelines so that the day can be as happy as possible for the children! Remember that there is **no school** for the children on **Monday, November 1** for teacher in-service day. We are off to a great start and we are having fun learning, too! Never hesitate to contact your teacher if you have a problem or a concern.



News from Friday Friends

Friday Friends are off to a great start! We are making new friends, learning new things, learning our classroom rules, and practicing putting our toys away. The children will continue to develop social skills, most importantly taking turns and sharing. We will be creating some special Fall/Halloween art projects to decorate your house, as well as learn more about colors and shapes. We will begin an introduction to numerals and their value, play with positional words, and discuss feelings. Halloween information and reminders are posted above. Please read the schedule and the guidelines so that the day can be as happy as possible for the children! Please always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

News from Fours

REMINDER: The Wendel Farm Field Trip will be Monday, October 3rd for the M/W/F A.M. and P.M. classes and Tuesday, October 4 for the TTH and TTHF classes.

As we begin our second month of school, we are happy to say that the children are adjusting quite well to our routines and to their new friends. The children are learning to take care of their own needs, to clean up after themselves, and to be responsible for the proper use of materials in our classrooms. As each day passes we expect to see more and more independence!

We will continue to learn about our senses this month. With the approach of Halloween, we will also be talking about our feelings and we will create creepy (but fun!) art and crafts in keeping with the season!

Child-friendly Halloween celebrations will be held here at Creative. Halloween information and reminders are posted above. Please read the schedule and guidelines so that the day can be as happy as possible for the children.



Vocabulary: nature, rough, smooth, soft, hard, heavy, light, diameter, bitter, sour, sweet and salty, weight, experiment, insect, arachnid

Senses: hearing, taste, smell, touch

Letters: T, P, H

Shape: oval

Numbers: 5, 6, 7

News from Pre-K

The first month of school has gone well! The children are becoming good friends and they have adjusted to the routines and activities in our classroom. Everyone is always excited to participate in whatever is planned for the day and we are all working very hard at being good listeners. They are a terrific group of children!

We begin this month with our trip to Wendell Farm and Special Art with Mrs. DePaoli for the first time. Themes for this month: we will finish our study of shapes and our five senses; and continue with our study of numbers and letters. Autumn items will be found on our Science table. We will also celebrate Halloween with a party on October 31. Halloween information and reminders are posted in this newsletter. Please read the schedule and guidelines so that the day can be as happy as possible for the children.

Vocabulary: autumn, sweet, sour, salty, smooth, rough, insect, emotions

Letters: T, P, H

Shape: oval

News from Art

At our first meeting, October 6 and 7 the 4s and PreK children will be making shape collages, using the work of the artists Joan Miro and Henri Matisse as inspiration. Be on the lookout for the children's masterpieces in the hallways at the middle of the month!



News from Motor Skills and Music

We started having "special" Motor Skills and Music time in in late September. Mrs. Fluegeman is thrilled to have time with all her friends! We enjoy going upstairs and using the big space in Fellowship Hall for Motor Skills. Our beginning lessons help us gain body and spatial awareness and how to use our space safely without running into any of our friends. Ask your child about our games "Scrambled Eggs" and "Late Last Night While You Were Sleeping." During October we will play some bean-bag games, work on tossing and catching, and use our bodies to practice directional words in space (up, down, over, under, forward,, backward and sideways.)

In Music, we begin the year by talking about "The Most Amazing Music-Making Machine The World Has Ever Known" - ourselves! Who knew we are all such amazing musical instruments?! Ask your child about how our bodies are musical instruments, as well. (Hint: we can tap, clap, slap, snap, drum, hum, bibble and sing.) We will continue to find ways we make music, as well as touch upon the

basics of rhythm, tempo and pitch, and we will begin to learn about the orchestra in coming weeks.

Openings

We have openings in the 4's TTh morning class. Spread the word!

Do You Like Us?!

Our Facebook page is up and running, so be sure to check us out and "LIKE US!"

www.facebook.com/creativepreschoolcincinnati2

Keeping You Informed

The week of October 31 expect to find an envelope in your child's cubby with a form in regard to your child's Social-Emotional progress. The report will be emailed to each family in the Fall (addressing Social and ProSocial development only), and again in Winter, and Spring, along with skills development. These reports will convey how your child appears to be progressing toward achievement of developmental milestones for children ages 3-5. You are asked to return the form stating that you have received the report no later than November 6.

Also enclosed in this envelope you will find a goal sheet for your child. Using the results of the ASQs you filled out and what we have learned about him/her through observation and testing, combined with your comments on the Child and Family Information Sheet, your teacher has isolated a goal for the upcoming year. This goal might be related to a struggle your child seems to be having, it may be directed toward improving a skill or reaching a developmental milestone, or it may be directed toward helping your child further hone a strength. As you partner with us in your child's education and development, you may be asked to support this goal with certain activities at home. Please sign and return this sheet, as well.

Although we do not automatically schedule conferences for each family, we are so happy to meet or talk with parents at any time, including after you have received progress reports. Please either indicate your desire to meet or talk by phone on the form or just request a meeting at any time!

Fall Fundraiser

Our annual fundraiser of Little Caesars Pizza Kits and Yankee Candles order turn-in deadline is Friday, September 30. If you still have an order you haven't sent in, please get it to Mrs. DePaoli by October 4th at the very latest. Mark your calendar.....YOUR LITTLE CAESARS PICK-UP DATE WILL BE WEDNESDAY,

OCTOBER 12 FROM 6:00 PM UNTIL 7:30 PM. Please remember to be prepared to deliver these orders that evening or have space ready in your freezer. Little Caesars needs to be refrigerated or frozen shortly after receiving.

YANKEE CANDLES will be sent home through school before Thanksgiving. If you have any questions please contact Karen Miller (karenrat@hotmail.com) or Brigid Lipps (brigidlipps@gmail.com).

Fall Family Fun Night

Our Fall Family Fun Night is on Friday, **October 14 at 6:30 pm**. Invitation and ticket order forms should have come home through your child's cubby by now. Please don't forget to make your reservation by Friday



October 7th if you'd like to join the fun! If you have registered for this Fun Night we can't wait to see you there! Remember, we are painting pumpkins with *acrylic paints*, which may not wash out, so wear old clothes! If you are able or would like to help at

the event check your email for a Sign Up Genius invite or email VP Events Chair, Kerri Sobolewski at kerrisobo@gmail.com or Amanda Prickett at aerprickett@gmail.com.

Shop and Save on Tuition!

Usborne Books will be displayed the entire week of October 10-14. This is NOT a fundraiser for the school; instead YOU will receive a tuition credit of 15% of your total family sales to your child's tuition account! Usborne Books will be on display for your shopping pleasure at Fall Family Fun Night, as well.

Absences

Please remember to **CALL WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT AND STATE THE REASON FOR THE ABSENCE.**

Creative Preschool Spring Carnival

As Christmas approaches, we know you're probably looking to clean out those closets and playrooms. Please think of donating your new or gently used stuffed animals and "happy meal" type toys to Creative for the Spring Carnival. You can leave your items in Mrs. DePaoli's office. If you have any questions about what to donate or about the Carnival in general, please feel free to contact Amy Huwel at amyhuwel@yahoo.com or Lori Tranter at lpetrungaro@hotmail.com. Also, please be sure to "Like" the Spring Carnival's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/creativepreschoolspringcarnival where you can keep up with all the latest Carnival news.

Preschoolers, talking back: Why it happens and what to do about it



By Karen Miles

Why preschoolers talk back

Ask your preschooler to clear his train set off the kitchen table so you can serve dinner and he retorts, "No way!" Does this display of attitude mean you're in for years of sassing?

Not necessarily. "When a child talks back, what he's really expressing is anger, frustration, fear, or hurt," says Jane Nelsen, author of *Positive Discipline for Preschoolers*.



Of course, it's hard not to respond angrily to such back talk. But a wiser course of action is to try to find out what's bothering your preschooler, then teach him to express his difficult emotions in a more acceptable way. Think of it this way: Your child's feelings aren't the problem – it's how he expresses them that's the issue.

What to do about back talk



Is it preventable? If certain situations almost always cause your child to talk back, see if you can help him problem solve ahead of time. For example, if he gets angry about having to clean up when he feels like he's in the middle of something, offer to give him a five-minute warning the next time you need him to pick up his toys.

Or maybe he gets out of bed every night not because "it's a stupid bed," but because he's really afraid of the shadows moving across the wall. In that case, give him a flashlight to keep nearby, or put up shades to block the spooky shadows.

Choose your battles wisely. If you set out your child's clothes for the day and he balks at your choice, is that important enough to argue over? Another solution might be to say calmly, "If you don't like that shirt, you can choose another one, but it's important that you talk to me nicely."

Do some sleuthing. Ask yourself if he could be imitating an attitude he sees in movies or on TV. Kids on comedy shows may get a big laugh when they talk back. Monitor the shows your child watches to make sure he's not picking up the wrong message.



Also watch for a pattern to your child's back talk. Does it usually happen when he's tired or overstimulated? Maybe he's involved in too many activities or needs a little quiet time after preschool to rest or calm down.

Set limits ahead of time. Make sure your child understands what is – and isn't – okay to say. So if it's a family rule not to use the word "yuck" at the dinner table, make that clear. Or if you don't appreciate his huffy response to an earnest explanation remind him, "We don't talk that way. Please speak to me nicely."

Also teach your child that he doesn't have to speak every thought that runs through his head. Grandma doesn't need to be told, however innocently, that her pie is runny, and the bagger at the grocery store doesn't need a preschooler's advice to lose a little weight.

Keep your composure. Don't overreact to your child's mouthing off or get into a power struggle over his choice of words or his tone. And, of course, never answer in kind. The best way to teach your preschooler to speak respectfully is to do so yourself. Tell him, "I think you can find a much better way to say that."

A knee-jerk response ("Don't you talk to me that way, you bad boy!" won't set a very good example and will only add to his frustration.

Get behind the back talk. When your preschooler verbally lashes out, let him know that you care about his feelings, even if you don't approve of the way he's expressing them. Parents sometimes skip this step and go right to scolding or disciplining a child, but it's important to let your child know you understand that he's mad or frustrated – and even help him label those feelings.

If your child thinks you don't get it, he may amp up his reaction to show you just how upset he is. On the other hand, acknowledging his emotions ("Wow, you sound really angry about this") often removes you from the adversarial role. If you can get past his tone, you can focus on the message he's trying to convey.



If he can talk about it calmly, try to come up with a compromise you both can live with. Perhaps he can finish his drawing, *then* put his socks in the laundry basket, for instance.

Offer choices. If your preschooler has some control over the course of his day, he's less likely to feel the need to assert himself in offensive ways. So give him appropriate opportunities to make choices for himself.

But don't overwhelm him (or yourself!) by letting him decide everything. Instead, focus on letting him make the decisions most important to him. Try asking, "Would you like to wear your green sweater or your red sweatshirt today?" or "Would you rather go to the park or the library this afternoon?"

Be sure to offer acceptable choices, and respect the ones he makes. Don't give your child a choice between ice cream and fresh fruit for dessert if you really want him to eat the fruit.

Choices aren't the same as bribes, though. So if you tell him, "Put on your shoes without a fuss and you can have ice cream later," you're only rewarding him for not acting out.



Also beware of the "okay" trap. It may feel natural to say, "Let's get ready for bed now, okay?" or "Time to get your shoes on, okay?" But this can confuse young kids and make them think they have a choice to say no. Be clear about what is and isn't a choice: "It's time to get ready for bed. Do you want to wear your cowboy pajamas or your red pajamas?"

Know when to turn a deaf ear. If your preschooler has moved beyond a simple "no" and turned nasty or throws a tantrum, don't negotiate, compromise, or even discuss his opinion with him. This will only reinforce the behavior.

For instance, if you're playing a lively game of Twister and he spits out, "I did not fall down, you dummy!" tell him that you won't play with him unless he talks nicely. If he continues to be rude, make good on your promise and end the game immediately (no more chances, and no more discussion). Leave the room, and tell him, "We'll talk when you're ready to be nice."

Of course, you can't exactly abandon your child in the checkout line if he tries to pressure you into buying a candy bar. When faced with back talk in public, don't be intimidated into being a pushover (or a taskmaster, for that matter). Briefly and calmly let your preschooler know that being nasty – no matter where or when – doesn't cut it.



Find a quiet spot and tell him that if he does it again, there will be a consequence, like missing his favorite TV show or skipping the post-shopping trip to the playground.

Showing your child that you respect yourself too much to be treated this way will both model respect and *earn* it.