

Preschool Press

AAPS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

MARCH 2023

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Preschool Families,

Thank you to all the preschool families who visited our classroom for NAAPID celebration. Also, thank you to parents who are volunteering to read their favorite books in our preschool classrooms as a part of March is reading month.

Month of the Young child

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing that the early childhood years (birth through age 8) lay the foundation for children's success in school and later life.

The purpose of the Week of the Young Child is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. Week of the young child celebration for this year is April 1- April 7. Please check this website for more information: <https://www.naeyc.org/events/woyc>

As always thank you for your continued support. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kristin Crowe
Principal/ Director
crowek@aaps.k12.mi.us

Jo Ann Serafano Telfer
Assistant Principal /Assistant Director
telferj@aaps.k12.mi.us



IMPORTANT DATES

3/27/23 Monday- 3/31/23 Friday	NO SCHOOL- Spring Break
4/3/23 Monday	School Resumes
4/7/23 Friday	NO SCHOOL
4/14/23 Friday	SCHOOL IN SESSION
4/20/23 Thursday	Early Release (School Dismissal 1:10pm)

UPCOMING EVENTS

3/10/23 FRIDAY	School Spirit Day- Wear your favorite HAT
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ANNOUNCEMENT

**Bus Transportation Form for
CHANGE in Transportation or
NEW Transportation is due on
Monday, APRIL 10 by 12pm**



ENJOY YOUR SPRING BREAK

Free ACTIVITIES for your family & More

June Parnell-Johnson

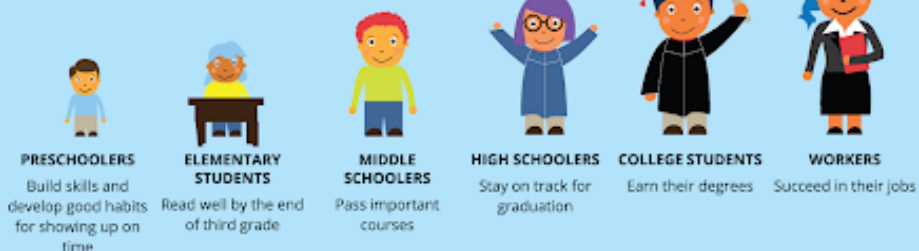
*Family Community Resource
Specialist*

REMEMBER....When we come back



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



FREE BOOKS THROUGH THE IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Anna Li, M.A. CCC-SLP
*Early On
Speech Language Pathologist*

Did you know that if you have a zip code of 48197, your child qualifies to receive a free book every month until the age of 5?

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. This program is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children through funding shared by

Dolly Parton and local community partners.

Families living with an Ypsilanti zip code can register via mail or contact:

Amanda James-Bennett.

Phone: 313-815-6306 Email: amandajames@washtenawpromise.org

The mail-in registration form can be found online or by using the link below:

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/usa/affiliate/MIYPSILANTICO/?chkAvalAddressData=cyJjYWxsYmFjayl6dHJ1ZSwiYWRkcmVzcy16cyJjb3VudHJ5IjoiVVMiLCJ6aXAiOiIoODE5NyIsInNoYXRlljoiTUkiLCJjaXR5IjoiWXBzaWxhbnRpIiwiaWY291bnR5IjoiV2FzaHRlbnF3Iiwic3RyZWV0Ijoiln19>

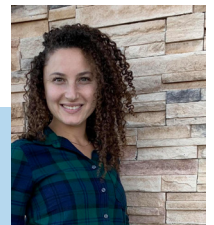
If you are having difficulties with the form or would like a hard copy, please contact your PSP from Early On or your child's preschool teacher.

SIMPLE IDEAS FOR HOW TO PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

Simple Ideas for how to play with your child:

- ❑ Trace letters together (write out their name and your name and trace them together)
- ❑ Matching shapes (go around the house and find things in your house that are similar shapes)
- ❑ Color scavenger hunt (inside or outside the house choose a color and find all things that color before moving on to the next color. Hint: Let your child choose the order of colors (they love to be in control))
- ❑ Look at family photos
- ❑ Make pasta jewelry with string and penne pasta (you could even paint the noodles together)
- ❑ Build a city using blocks/legos/magnatiles or other household items
- ❑ Make silly faces in the mirror together
- ❑ Blow bubbles and use different body parts to pop them

Alexandra Fahlsing
School Social Worker



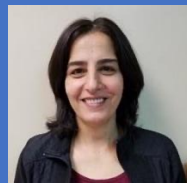
CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT



Elisabeth VanVliet



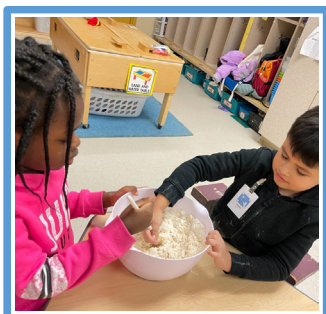
Breann Zenz



Rana Imseeh

When school is in session on Fridays, the kids of C103 cook!

Cooking together targets a variety of skills and concepts:



Teamwork



Spatial concepts
(put the spices IN)



Trying new foods



Turn taking & waiting



Counting



Using 2 hands together



Sequencing steps



Tolerating
new textures



Following directions
& reading a recipe



Kathy Gaines
Physical Therapist

A ball is an inexpensive and fun toy for kids of all ages, from babies to toddlers, and preschoolers to grown-ups! Ball games aren't just fun, they help your child develop hand-eye coordination, depth perception, body awareness, and bilateral coordination, as well as improving their balance and strength. In general, if you stand about 5 feet apart, your 4 year-old preschooler should be able to catch a ball that is bounced or tossed directly to them, throw a small ball or bean bag overhand to you or at a target, and kick a ball towards you.

If those skills are challenging, or if your child is younger than 4 years old...

- Start with rolling the ball back and forth, then working up to trapping a tossed ball to their body with their arms, and finally catching with just hands. Make sure the ball isn't too big or too small. Look for a ball that is about 4" to 8" in diameter.
- Rolled up socks work great for practicing overhand throws in the house, especially with a pretend snowball fight over the couch! Crumpling paper and throwing it into a bin develops hand strength, too.
- Sometimes the trickiest part of kicking is balancing on one foot, so practice first by kicking over towers of empty cereal boxes, or doing simple yoga or animal poses to improve single leg balance.
- Kicking a larger ball, like a beach ball, is a great way to gain confidence with kicking, since a little kick goes a long way! It's also large enough that the child's foot won't roll over the top of the ball and cause them to fall.

If your child has these skills already, you can build on them by catching and throwing from greater distances, tossing the ball to the side rather than directly to them, practicing dribbling a ball, kicking a rolling ball rather than a stationary ball, and catching a smaller ball, like a tennis ball, with just their hands. Remember, LeBron didn't get introduced to basketball until he was 9 years old, so there is plenty of time for you to build your child's ball skills to get them ready for the NBA, or at least elementary school physical education class!

FUN WITH LETTERS AND NUMBERS

Fun with letters and numbers (and sneak in some visual and motor learning, too!)

A great way to build children's awareness of written shapes that become letters and numbers is to build the shapes from household items, such as sticks, q-tips, writing in flour, etc. This is a way to use their sense of vision and touch to help to build their memory of the letter and number formation.

Another great idea is to use play-doh or homemade doh to imprint their memory. Use muscle strength to roll lines, make circles, pressing the letter and number form. The muscles help the letter and number formation to become more solid in the child's brain.

There are free printables available on the internet, or you can just draw the letters and numbers with a thick marker. Model the activity as in these pictures. Every little bit of exposure to the shapes that become letters and numbers assists with confidence for writing.

Here are a couple of ideas to get you started:

Raleigh Sadlier
Occupational Therapy

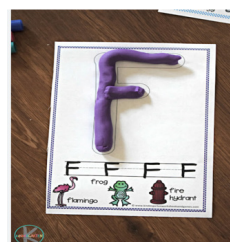
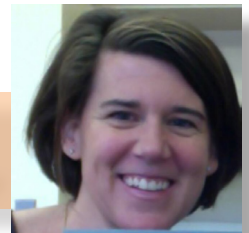


Photo credits for printables
<https://www.kindergartenworksheetsandgames.com/free-alphabet-playdough-cards/>

NAAPID CELEBRATIONS





MITCHELL ELEMENTARY - PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS VISIT FROM THE ANN ARBOR FIRE DEPARTMENT

Jim Podojil's and Courtney Smith's classrooms had a visit from the Ann Arbor Fire Department. The visit was part of their IB Community helper Unit.

The firefighters talked about the importance of having smoke alarms and knowing where they are located in your home. They also talked about having a safety plan for getting out of the house and a meeting spot outside of the house.

Questions for the students:

What number do you call when there is an emergency? **911**

Bad air is? **Up high**

Good air is...? **Down low**

If there is a fire you should? **Get low**

Should you hide and be quiet in a fire? **NO! do not hide, get to a window if you can and be very loud.... yell... "I'm here!!!"**





SAFETY TOWN 2023

For Fall 2023 Young 5's, Kindergarten, or 1st graders

MORNING SESSIONS

8:30am - 11:30am
Cost: \$129

- SESSION 1: June 19-23
- SESSION 2: June 26-30
- SESSION 3: July 10-14
- SESSION 4: July 17-21

AFTER CARE SESSIONS

11:30am - 5:30pm
Cost: \$149

- SESSION 1: June 19-23
- SESSION 2: June 26-30
- SESSION 3: July 10-14
- SESSION 4: July 17-21

SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

SPECIAL
NEEDS

SAFETY TOWN
WEBSITE

REGISTER ONLINE

ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS
MARCH 15 AT 10:00AM



The 2023 Safety Town program is sponsored by Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Education & Recreation in cooperation with the Ann Arbor Police Department and many community sponsors



Contact Us

734.994.2300

aarecedonline.com

safetytown@aaps.k12.mi.us



- ☑ **SHOP**
- ☑ **DONATE**
- ☑ **SUPPORT**

2280 S. Industrial Hwy. ♦ a2ptothriftshop.org

Supporting Ann Arbor Public Schools and its Students Since 1993

Here's what our community has to say about us . . .

*"As a fundraising chair at my children's school, I always enjoyed finding ways to package up donated goods for our Silent Auction. I always found what I needed at the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and donated back what we didn't sell!" ~Michelle M.*

*"One of my favorite fundraising activities was when we got tokens for schools collecting them to win. Love to support the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** and AAPS!" ~Samina D.*

*"As a working parent, my kids wouldn't have been able to participate in after-school activities or tutoring without the donations from the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop** that helped provide the late buses!" ~Brad B.*

*"I love knowing my children's stuff can be loved by another when I donate to the **Ann Arbor PTO Thrift Shop**. I feel like a contributing part of the community and it keeps things out of landfills!" ~Eddie K.*



Visit our website or FaceBook page for Current Hours