

Stix Early Childhood Center

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UNIFORMS
EVERY
DAY!

Nurturing Young Learners

November 2019

Principal's Message

I hope this monthly newsletter provides you with information on our upcoming events at Stix! Thanks to all the parents who attended parent conferences in October. It is extremely important that we work together to ensure your child's success this school year. Please know that you can always make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher throughout the school year if you have concerns or questions about your child's academic growth.

Do not be late!

School begins at 9:10 in all classrooms! Children should arrive to school no later than 9:05 to ensure they are in their rooms by 9:10. Any child who arrives after 9:10 must be escorted into the building (parents should not drop off at the front doors) and the parent needs to complete the information for the tardy binder. Excessive late arrivals have an impact on your child's academic growth and negatively affects their attendance. Our goal is to have less than 10 late arrivals each week. Please help us meet our goal by ensuring your child is brought to school on time or rides the bus to ensure his/her arrival time.

Dr. Dymond

Thank you, again, to parents who are sending their children in uniform every day! We have "gently used" uniforms available for families who may need additional pants or tops. Please contact Ms. Costello, our Family & Community Specialist, if you need assistance with uniforms. We are also partnering with The Assistance League of St. Louis and will soon have free, new uniforms available for students. **Remember, Fridays are uniform days too!**

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2nd Quarter Goals and Activities in PE

This quarter in P.E., we are working on games and activities that promote team building, taking turns, being part of a team, being a good sport, and reinforcing our school's character goals. Some of the games we will play are beanbag relay, bucket ball, banana tag, and cookie monster tag. Some of the activities we will do are rock, paper, scissor hop challenge, wall ball challenge, and station work, which will include activities that work on tossing, throwing, catching, balancing, jumping, and hopping.



K.I.S.S. Days at Stix!

Kids Invide Someone Special are days when the children can have someone important in their lives spend some time with them at school. During the **KISS** hours, visitors can see classroom lessons or specialist classes, tour the school with their child, and visit the Book Fair in the library. **KISS Days** will be:

Visitors may park in the bus lanes starting at 9:30 on both days.



Music News

In music students are continuing to build on their learning by playing songs and rhymes we know using Orff instruments like the xylophone, glockenspiel, rain sticks and other percussion. We also had a drum circle/dance party to celebrate student's success in the music room. Students can earn four points for entering quietly, listening attentively, good effort and lining up and leaving quietly. Once they earned thirty points, we had our celebration!

1st and 2nd grade students are preparing for our Winter Program which will take place on Thursday, December 12th. The students are very excited to perform, and I know it will be a fantastic celebration! Students will be receiving lyric sheets soon to take home and practice. In addition, I will also share lyrics and YouTube links with classroom teachers to help prepare students for the event. Looking forward to sharing this event with families. – Mr. Becker

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The Heart Work

From the School Counselor

Robin House, M.Ed., LPC, RPT

Suggestions, Tips and Tools for Parents and Caregivers

Tip 2.0

Getting Along with Others

As children come to school their world is expanding from family to the school community of adult's classmates and friends. There is much learning that is taking place academically, socially and emotionally. Learning is fun and challenging. Children feel proud of themselves when they accomplish new skills and gain new knowledge and make new friends. Parents can help children be ready for each day by first ensuring that each child gets plenty of sleep. Did you know that children between ages 3-5 need 13 hours of sleep each day? Children 6-10 need at least nine hours each night. Being at our best starts with a good night's sleep.

Students in Kindergarten through second grade here at Stix ECC have all received Friendship lessons. They have learned to use kind words and actions (Teddy Bear) and not to use unkind words or actions (Porcupine). Ask your children, they should be able to tell you what they have learned from Ms. Fitch from NCADA.

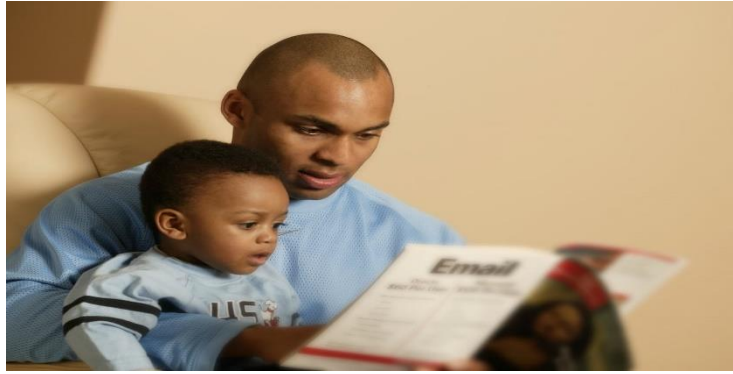
If a child is having a problem with another student, they have learned the technique of "Talk it Out, Walk it out, or Work it out" if it is a child size problem. If it is a bigger problem, they should ask an adult for help to work the problem out in a positive and productive way.

How can Parents help? Always validate your child's feelings. Know that your child does not want to disappoint you. You can model good problem-solving skills and getting along skills. Always stay calm when discussing the problem with your child. That models self-regulation skills for your child. Ask your child if you can do anything to help. Remember there are always two sides to a story, and we want children to be honest. Children tell lies to get out of trouble. Adults must make it comfortable for children to be honest. Let children be the problem solver. Take their ideas into consideration. They feel Proud when they can solve their own problems. Help reinforce using Teddy Bear words and actions. Use Talk It Out, Walk It Out or Work It Out at home when problems occur. This equips children to conduct themselves independently at school and be ready to learn. It builds self-esteem and confidence.

Feel free to call or stop by,

Robin.House@slps.org

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From Ms. Castaldi, our Academic Instructional Coach (AIC)

11 Ways Parents Can Help Their Children Read

(Reading Rockets)

1. Teaching reading will only help.

Sometimes, parents are told early teaching is harmful, but it isn't true. You simply can't introduce literacy too early. I started reading to my own children on the days they were each born!

2. Teaching literacy isn't different than teaching other skills.

You don't need a Ph.D. to raise a happy, healthy, smart child. Parents have been doing it for thousands of years. Mothers and fathers successfully teach their kids to eat with a spoon, use a potty, keep their fingers out of their noses, and say "please." These things can be taught pleasantly, or they can be made into a painful chore. Being unpleasant (e.g. yelling, punishing, pressuring) doesn't work, and it can be frustrating for everyone. This notion applies to teaching literacy, too. If you show your 18-month-old a book and she shows no interest, then put it away and come back to it later. If your child tries to write her name and ends up with a backwards "D," no problem. No pressure. No hassle. You should enjoy the journey, and so should your child.

3. Talk to your kids (a lot).

Reading is a language activity, and if you want to learn language, you'd better hear it, and eventually, speak it. Too many moms and dads feel a bit dopey talking to a baby or young child, but studies have shown that exposing your child to a variety of words helps in her development of literacy skills.

4. Read to your kids.

If a parent or caregiver can't read or can't read English, there are alternatives, such as using audiobooks; but for those who can, reading a book or story to a child is a great, easy way to advance literacy skills. Research shows benefits for kids as

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young as 9-months-old, and it could be effective even earlier than that. Reading to kids exposes them to richer vocabulary than they usually hear from the adults who speak to them, and can have positive impacts on their language, intelligence, and later literacy achievement.

5. Have them tell you a “story.”

One great way to introduce kids to literacy is to take their dictation. Have them recount an experience or make up a story. A typical first story may be something like, “I like fish. I like my sister. I like grandpa.” Write it as it is being told, and then read it aloud. Point at the words when you read them or point at them when your child is trying to read the story. Over time, with lots of rereading, don’t be surprised if your child starts to recognize words such as “I” or “like.” (As children learn some of the words, you can write them on cards and keep them in a “word bank” for your child, using them to review later.)

6. Teach phonemic awareness.

Young children don’t hear the sounds within words. Thus, they hear “dog,” but not the “duh”- “aw”- “guh.” To become readers, they must learn to hear these sounds (or phonemes). Play language games with your child. For instance, say a word, perhaps her name, and then change it by one phoneme: Jen-Pen, Jen-Hen, Jen-Men. Or, just break a word apart: chair... ch-ch-ch-air. Follow this link to learn more about language development milestones in children.

7. Teach phonics (letter names and their sounds).

You can’t sound out words or write them without knowing the letter sounds. Most kindergartens teach the letters, and parents can teach them, too. Keep the lessons brief and fun, no more than 5–10 minutes for young’uns. Understanding the different developmental stages of reading and writing skills will help to guide your lessons and expectations.

8. Listen to your child read.

When your child starts bringing books home from school, have her read to you. If it doesn’t sound good (mistakes, choppy reading), have her read it again. Or read it to her, and then have her try to read it herself. Studies show that this kind of repeated oral reading makes students better readers, even when it is done at home.

9. Promote writing.

Literacy involves reading and writing. Having books and magazines available for your child is a good idea, but it’s also helpful to have pencils, crayons, markers, and paper. Encourage your child to write. One way to do this is to write notes or short letters to her. It won’t be long before she is trying to write back to you.

10. Ask questions.

When your child reads, get her to retell the story or information. If it’s a story, ask who it was about and what happened. If it’s an informational text, have your child explain what it was about and how it worked, or what its parts were. Reading

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involves not just sounding out words but thinking about and remembering ideas and events. Improving reading comprehension skills early will prepare her for subsequent success in more difficult texts.

11. Make reading a regular activity in your home.

Make reading a part of your daily life, and kids will learn to love it. Take your child to the library to get books to kick off their love of reading. Set aside some time when everyone turns off the TV and the web and does nothing but read. Make it fun, too. When my children finished reading a book that had been made into a film, we'd make popcorn and watch the movie together. The point is to make reading a regular enjoyable part of your family routine.

Sources:

Ritchie, S.J., & Bates, T.C. (2013). Enduring links from childhood mathematics and reading achievement to adult socioeconomic status. *Psychological Science*, 24, 1301-1308.

Karass J., & Braungart-Rieker J. (2005). Effects of shared parent-infant reading on early language acquisition. *Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology*, 26, 133-148.



Art News

During the second quarter the students are working on weaving, collage, drawing and painting. Students are gaining a better understanding of vocabulary in the art elements and principles. We are talking about all the art elements and getting a better understanding of pattern, balance, space, and unity of the art principles.

Students are learning about different cultures that are related to their art assignments. During the weaving project students are introduced to the Ashanti tribe of Africa (Ghana). Before and during November 1st and 2nd the students are learning about the Mexican and South American holiday Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). All grade levels will also be casting a mold of recycled crayons. Students in 1st and 2nd grade will be creating artwork for the winter program.

Books I will integrate into my lesson this quarter are: *Anansi the Spider: A Tale from the Ashanti* by Gerald McDermott, *Creepy Carrots!* by Aaron Reynolds, *El Dia de Los Muertos* by Bob Barner, *The Spider Weaver: A Legend of Kente Cloth* by Margaret Musgrove, *Fall Leaves Fall!* by Zoe Hall and *Pick a Circle, Gather Square: A Fall Harvest of Shapes* by Felicia Sanzari Cernesky. – Ms. Mullins

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Important Dates in November:

- Monday, November 11 – Veterans’ Day – NO SCHOOL
- Friday, November 15 – Progress Reports go home
- Tuesday, November 26 – Picture RE-TAKE Day
- Wednesday, November 27 – Friday, November 29 – Thanksgiving Break – NO SCHOOL

Important Dates in December:

- Book Fair – December 2 – 6 in the library. Books make EXCELLENT holiday gifts!
- Tuesday, December 3 - KISS (Kids Invite Someone Special) For K and PK children from 9:30 – 11:30
- Wednesday, December 4 – KISS for 1st and 2nd grade children from 9:30 – 11:30
- Thursday, December 12 @ 7pm – Winter Concert featuring our 1st and 2nd grade students
- Friday, December 20 – NO SCHOOL – It’s Record Keeping Day for staff
- Monday, December 23 – January 3 – NO SCHOOL – Winter Break