

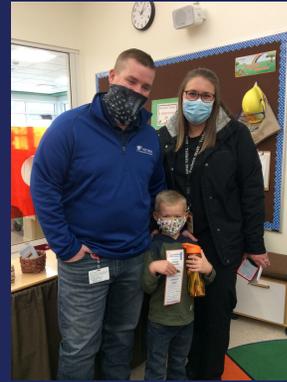
Beavercreek Preschool+

Jan. /Feb. 2021

Shine Award

Our character education program is a key component to helping our students understand what it means to lead and to be good citizens. To recognize these students for their efforts, we have created the "Shine Award—Highlighting Outstanding Students of Character." Every month, we honor one student in each building, across the district, who consistently demonstrates two or more pillars of character, which are: Citizenship, Caring, Trustworthiness, Fairness, Respect, and Responsibility.

Please join us in congratulating these students for their outstanding character!



Upcoming Dates:

Feb. 3rd - Character Ed Day - wear BLUE

Feb. 11th - Valentine's Day Parties at Preschool

Feb. 15th - No School

March 3rd - Character Ed Day - wear ORANGE

March 19th - End of 3rd Quarter

March 22nd - 26th - No School - Spring Break

Classroom Spotlight

Ms. Mosser and Mrs. McQuade

This month the students in Ms. Mosser and Mrs. McQuade's class have been focusing on the winter season. We have a hot cocoa shop open in the dramatic play area of the room where the children can either work in the shop as a barista or visit the shop as a customer. To go along with our hot cocoa theme, we recently made a chart where the children voted for how they prefer their hot cocoa. The morning and afternoon classes both voted that they prefer their hot cocoa with marshmallows. We drank hot cocoa (of course) and made a fun craft using real hot cocoa and cotton ball marshmallows where the students had to describe how hot cocoa is made to practice using our language skills.

We love creative art opportunities in room five and we made giant snowflakes using shaving cream and watercolor dye. The students also painted smaller snowflakes using watercolor paint. We learned about and practiced symmetry by designing matching mittens and using paint in between two mitten shapes to squish and open. We will soon be making blizzard bottles which are a great way to incorporate math (counting), science (sink/float and physical science) and fun! The blizzard bottles are beautiful to play with and can have a calming effect.

We practiced fine motor skills and visual discrimination in our circle snowman project. The children cut out circles, discussed the size and location of the circles and added all of the parts to complete the snowmen.



Therapist Zone - Speech and Language

Try this Activity

Play houses have been shown, through research, to elicit more language than a train set or cars. Labeling items & activities in the house is extremely functional and concrete for your child. Try...

Naming: all the items in the house that are furniture, things to cook with...

Describing: "the bed and pillow are soft" "the table is hard"

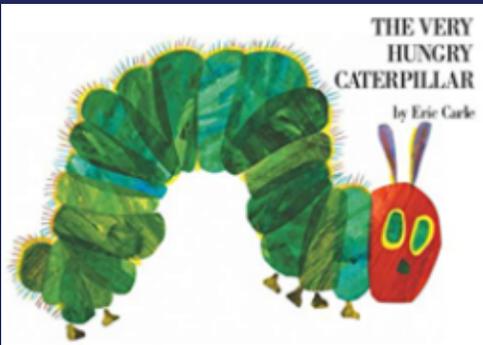
Verbs: "what are some activities you could do in the kitchen/ bedroom/ bathroom?"

Prepositions: "put the girl on the bed" "the dog is sitting under the table"

Sequence: the steps to get ready for bed with the dolls

Book Nook

The Very Hungry Caterpillar
by Eric Carle



This book has many different opportunities for vocabulary development with lots of types of food featured. Try categorizing the foods into fruits, vegetables and sweets. There are also plenty of new opportunities for word development including words like 'chrysalis' and 'cocoon.'

Focus on Vocabulary

Vocabulary development can vary greatly from child to child. Generally, first words should coincide with first steps. By toddler age, children will start to combine words into phrases. How can you boost your child's expressive and receptive vocabulary development?

Talk, talk & talk some more! Relatively simple, but immensely important. Try narrating your actions while interacting with your child. This technique is two-fold, exposing your child to more words, grammar and expression as well as relating it to concrete items around you.

Bombard your child with a single word. Pick one word to focus on during play and say this word over and over in many different contexts. It can feel overwhelming to be charged with increasing your child's vocabulary. Pick one word at a time to focus on and set realistic goals for you and your child.

Boost receptive vocabulary. This refers to what your child can understand separate from what they are expressing. Receptive language skills are the building blocks to later expression. Ask your child to point to pictures in a book or 'go find' different toys. Start with simple one-step directions then increase to two.

Strategy of the Month: Word Play

Finding new and interesting ways to challenge your child with words is great way to keep them engaged and learning. Target these skills:

Categories—working on categorization helps form connections between words and organizes an internal word filing cabinet.

Context Clues—giving your child clues or describing features of their favorite toys stimulates early inferencing and main idea skills.

Word Associations— "which two things go together? juice, dog & milk" This also helps with identifying features and categorizing.

Social Emotional Learning Corner

It can be baffling for parents when siblings can play peacefully one minute and fight the next. Spats are a normal part of growing up and can be common especially in younger children who don't have appropriate conflict resolution skills. Here are few tips and strategies to help:



- Minimize fights by spending daily individual time** with each child, even if it's only for 5-10 minutes.
 - Strive to create a fair and impartial environment.** Set up rules and remind children that we don't call people names. Keep routines: set up a system for taking turns- each child picks one TV show each night, swap the chores each day so they each get a turn to do the chore, etc.
 - Try not to use labels.** When children are labeled "the wild one" or "the smart one" it can create siblings that feel inferior and lead to fighting.
 - Try not to blow things out of proportion.** Keep perspective and try to keep calm to avoid adding to the drama.
 - Stay out of the fight as long as you can** until it is physical or gets verbally abusive. This not only takes your attention out of the argument, it also encourages children to work it out on their own.
 - Remain calm and help them work through it.** A raised voice only fuels a power struggle. Separate children until they are calm. Use non-judgmental language such as "It seems like you all are having a hard time getting along today. Tell me more about how you are feeling and what you are upset about."
 - Talk with each child separately** and encourage them to state the specific problem and emotion.
 - Model appropriate language**- encourage and model for children how to disagree using calm language and avoiding name calling. Model apologizing, walking away to stay calm, and voicing frustration without yelling. Have them practice during calm times.
 - When you hear a disagreement start encourage them to work it out before it turns into a full fight.** Use language such as "It sounds like you aren't agreeing right now, I like it when you listen to one another without yelling and try to work out a way to share they toy."
- Remember there are hidden benefits to conflict in the long term:**
Children are learning negotiation and resolution skills, they are practicing self- control, and learning to regulate emotions. This creates adults who are skilled at resolving differences.

PTO



February PTO Event: For the Love of Coffee

To show our appreciation and support of the wonderful staff at Beaver Creek Preschool, the Beaver Creek Preschool PTO would like to provide 'fancy' coffee and light treats each Friday in the month of February. Please complete the questions below if you are interested in helping the For the Love of Coffee event. Be on the lookout for a Google Form sent via email to participate.



Valentine's Day Family Project

Teachers will be sending home information the week of Feb. 1st about a family Valentine's day project. All projects will be donated to area hospitals to celebrate our frontline workers!

Beaver Creek City Schools - Levy Information

Our district will hold four community forums to share information regarding school funding, how school funding impacts Ohio schools and specifically Beaver Creek City Schools, Beaver Creek data compared to similar districts, and information about the May levy. In addition, we will provide a portion of the forum to serve as a Q&A section regarding topics related to the district.

These forums will be held in the BHS Auditorium from 7:00-8:30 pm and will be live-streamed, recorded, and available for viewing through the district website.

Please mark your calendars for the dates below, more information will be shared in the coming weeks.

- Wednesday, February 24
- Tuesday, March 16

- Tuesday, March 30
- Tuesday, April 13

Kinship Caregiver Support Group Information

Are you a grandparent raising a grandchild or an aunt/uncle caring for a nephew? You are not alone! There is a free online kinship caregiver support group that meets every Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm open to kinship caregivers in Ohio. We have speakers present information and resources covering a variety of topics and also leave time for open discussion. Some topics we have covered so far are schooling from home, custody, public benefits, cyber safety, healthy lifestyles, connecting with educators and much more. There is no attendance requirement so you can attend whenever works for you. We also raffle off monthly grocery gift cards as an incentive for attendance. It would be great to have you join!



If you are interested in attending a support group meeting or learning more, please email prov12@osumc.edu or text/call 203-466-9821

You can visit the support group website for more information:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Bkkt627LOWj03ctbTjHgA/featured>

You can visit our YouTube page to watch videos of previous speakers:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Bkkt627LOWj03ctbTjHgA/featured>

Art around Preschool

