



What we are learning this week:

Monday: Exploring Books

Tuesday: Scissor Practice

Wednesday: Practicing glues

Thursday: What makes up a pumpkin?

School Readiness Goals:

LIT 2. Understanding of how print is used and rules that govern how print works.

PMP 3. Increasing control, strength, coordination of small muscles.

SCI 1. Observes and describes observable phenomena (objects, materials, organisms, and events).

This week we will be exploring what makes up a book.

We will also cut open a pumpkin to look inside. We will use our senses to examine what pumpkins are made of.

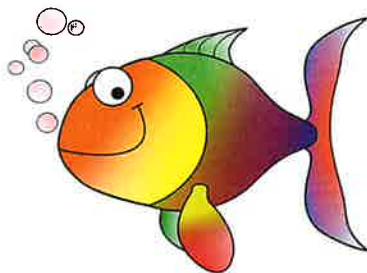
Important Dates:

Parent/Teacher Conferences 11/13-11/16

No School 11/23 and 11/24

Reminders:

- * Please send extra clothing with your child in their backpacks everyday.
- **We go to the bike path on Tuesdays. Please have your daughters hair in a low pony so it will fit in the bike helmets.**
- **The weather is getting colder. Please have your child wear warm coats, hat, and gloves.**



As a special adult in your child's life, I want you to know I appreciate the important work you do. Caring for and nurturing your loved one is a huge responsibility and you're doing a fantastic job! You are your child's first teacher and their lifelong champion, seeing them through their educational experiences and ensuring they have the best beginning! Each month you will receive a book accompanied by a newsletter to support learning ideas that pair with the story. Your first book will arrive in November. I will also be including information on the back of a newsletter each month to share ideas and important information for the home. I look forward to working with your child's teacher this year as we foster all children's love for literacy! Happy Learning!

Marisa Schmidt, MAEd ECE
Birth to 5 Literacy Coach

What is Literacy?

Each year, Head Start's focus is on what they have dubbed "The Big 5". They are:

- ***Phonological Awareness** (letter sounds and rhyming),
- ***Oral Language and Vocabulary** (speaking),
- ***Book Knowledge and Print Concepts, Background Knowledge** (previous experiences)
- * **Alphabet Knowledge and Early Writing.**

In Head Start, teachers plan their day to address each of these areas throughout the day to build on what they already know or have experienced. Providing these experiences helps children to become confident learners who enjoy learning.

Did you know?

Getting children moving and crossing the midline is great for reading because you are getting them to activate both parts of the brain. Moving the left and right side of the body in coordination is something children enjoy as they are strengthening their little brains.

What does "Crossing the Midline" mean?

The body's mid-line is an imaginary line down the center of the body dividing the body into left and right. Crossing the body's mid-line is the ability to reach across the middle of the body with the arms and legs. This allows children to cross over their body to perform a task on the opposite side of their body (e.g. being able to draw a horizontal line across a page without having to switch hands in the middle, sitting cross-legged on the floor or being able to insert puzzle pieces using the dominant right hand when the puzzle is placed on the left hand side of the body). Crossing the midline also helps a reader track words on a page from left to right and top to bottom.

ACTIVITIES

***Have your child crawl around on the ground imitating an animal you name.** *Have them do toe touches and reach across their body with the opposite hand. ***Encourage them to wash their body in the tub using the opposite hand.** *Play catch with a ball. ***Play a card game.** *Play tug-of-war. ***Rub lotion on their body using the opposite hand.** *Help with washing the dishes, one hand holds the plate and the other hand scrubs. ***Make a figure 8 on paper for your child to trace.**