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## April 2017

### Curriculum & Easter Egg Hunt

Our theme for the month of April is “Springtime and Weather”! Along with the arrival of spring comes unpredictable weather, the perfect time for our students to become “weather watchers” as we introduce the concept of the changing weather and seasons. We will discuss Earth Day and the importance of recycling. We will also be focusing on learning the color yellow, the number 9, as well as continue with our weekly letter themes (letters W and X).

Friday, April 14th will be our Easter Egg Hunt and Party beginning at 9:00 am. Each class will celebrate by having a special snack in their classroom followed by many fun Easter-themed activities. They will also be participating in an Easter Egg Hunt. As always, all children are welcome but due to teacher/child ratios we are asking you stay with your child during the party if it is not their regularly scheduled day.

If you would like to donate hard-boiled eggs or non-candy items, please check the front communication board for classroom sign-up sheets. Please bring hard-boiled eggs in on Monday or Tuesday, April 10th or 11th **only** so children are able to dye them with their class in time for the party.

### Week of the Young Child

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children). It’s purpose is to focus attention on the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize and support early childhood programs who meet those needs. It is also a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibility. We are committed to ensuring each child experiences the type of environment at home, at child care, at school, and in the community that will promote their early learning.

This year we have many special activities planned for the Week of the Child, which begins Monday, April 24th through Friday, April 28th.

Monday & Wednesday: Parent Appreciation days. On Monday, please check your child's file folder for a special card from your child. On Wednesday, to show our appreciation we will provide juice, muffins and fruit for you to begin your day.

Tuesday & Thursday: Child Appreciation days. On Tuesday, Monster Jumps will be at Storyland! On Thursday, we will have an all school pizza party!

Friday: Teacher Appreciation day. Please let your child’s teacher know that their efforts are appreciated.

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## Graduation Pictures and Spring Portraits

Both Pre-K classes, Sunshine and Bay Rooms will have their graduation pictures taken on Tuesday, April 18th beginning at 9:00 am.

Each child will be wearing a cap and gown for these pictures. Girls will wear maroon and boys will wear white. It is suggested boys wear a plain, light colored shirt that day, as patterns or graphics will show through their white gown.

Spring portraits will be taken Wednesday, April 19th beginning at 9:00 am for all other children in the Little Stars, Little Monkeys, and Little Owls classes.

Please check your child's file folder for order form/ payment envelope.

## Happy Birthday!

Declan Marx	4/1
Ms. Cassie	4/1
Ms. Sammie	4/1
Conner Brown	4/3
Ethan Suhay	4/5
Lucas Garduno-Robles	4/11
Joshua Burton	4/12
Clara Musto	4/17
Larissa Garduno	4/20
Jesse Coughlan	4/21
Brenna Hutchinson	4/25
Deacon Lloyd	4/26
Sean Hutchinson	4/30

## Pennies for Patients

We have successfully completed the Pennies For Patients Drive to benefit The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. With your spare change we were able to raise money towards finding a cure! Thank you all so much for your participation.

To celebrate and show our appreciation we will be hosting a pizza party lunch Thursday, April 27th. No need to bring in a lunch for your child that day.

All children are welcome even if it is not their regularly scheduled day as long as a parent accompany them for lunch.



## Pre-K Graduation—Cap and Gown Orders

A reminder for all Pre-K parents to check your child's file folder on April 11th for cap and gown order forms for graduation.

Boys will be wearing white and girls will wear maroon. The cost for the cap and gown is \$25.00. We will need everyone's order forms and payment turned in by Friday, April 21st. Please make checks payable to Storyland School.



## Reminders

- Please **do not** let your child touch the sign-in screen.
- To ensure the safety of our children, please make sure the front entryway door is completely closed upon entrance and exit of the building.
- Please **do not** park on the right half of the driveway on the right side of the 4th Street building. That space belongs to our neighbor.
- If you love Storyland School, please share your experience at [yelp.com](http://www.yelp.com/biz/storyland-preschool-livermore) or you can go directly to <http://www.yelp.com/biz/storyland-preschool-livermore>

## Upcoming Events

### April:

Easter Egg Hunt & Party Friday, April 14th

Storyland closed Monday, April 17th

Graduation Pictures April 18th

Spring Portraits April 19th

Week of the Child April 24th-28th

### May:

Muffins for Mom Friday, May 5th

Open House Wednesday, May 24th

Storyland closed Monday, May 29th

### June:

Donuts for Dad Tuesday, June 6th

Pre-K Graduation Friday, June 9th

Summer Session begins Monday, June 12th



## Parent Center

### Promoting Independence

While 2 to 4-year-olds still need plenty of parental help, preschool teachers agree that children are typically able to do more than many of us think.

Here's how you can encourage them:

- 1. Expect more.** Most people have a way of living up (or down) to expectations – preschoolers included. Raise the bar and your child will probably stretch to meet it.
- 2. Resist doing for her what she can do herself.** While it may be quicker and easier to do it yourself, it won't help to make your child more self-sufficient.
- 3. Don't redo what they've done.** If your child makes their bed, resist the urge to smooth the blankets. If they dress themselves in stripes and polka dots, compliment their "eclectic" style. Unless absolutely necessary, don't fix what your child accomplishes, it may discourage them.
- 4. Let them solve simple problems.** If you see your child trying to assemble a toy or get a book from a shelf that they can reach if they stand on a stepstool, pause before racing over to help.
- 5. Assign a chore.** Putting your preschooler in charge of a regular, simple task will build their confidence and sense of competency. A child who is entrusted to water the plants or empty the clothes dryer is likely to believe they can also get dressed by themselves or pour their own cereal. Just be sure the chore you assign is manageable and that it's real work, not busywork, since even preschoolers know the difference. The goal is to make your child feel like a capable, contributing member of the family.
- 6. Praise is key.** Especially if your child is not in a cooperative phase, try to catch them being good. Children repeat behaviors that get attention.
- 7. Develop predictable routines.** Children cooperate in school because they know what's expected of them, while it would be impractical to have the same level of structure at home, the more consistent you are, the more cooperative your child is likely to be.
- 8. Lighten up.** If your child refuses to do something, try turning it into a game. Humor and games are two great tools that parents sometimes forget about in the heat of the moment.
- 9. Warn of transitions.** If your child pitches a fit whenever you announce it's time to switch gears –whether that means shutting off the TV, stopping play to come eat, or leaving a friend's house – it could be that you're not giving enough advance notice. Give a specific time or set a timer so they know when the time is up.
- 10. Use sticker charts and rewards judiciously.** Reserve rewards for finite endeavors, such as potty training, but avoid offering them for everyday things, such as dressing themselves or brushing their teeth.
- 11. Give structured choices.** If, for example, your 3-year-old refuses to sit at the dinner table, you might offer the choice of sitting and getting dessert – or not sitting and missing out on a treat. Just be sure, if you want your child to choose option A, that option B is less attractive.
- 12. Encourage teamwork.** If your child is fighting over a toy with another child, set a timer for five minutes. Tell one child he can have the toy until he hears the timer, and then it will be the other child's turn.
- 13. Let your child work out minor squabbles.** Instead of swooping in to settle disputes, stand back and let them work it out (unless they're hitting each other). You won't always be there to rescue your child.
- 14. Redirect.** If your preschooler is jumping on the couch or grabbing for their big sister's dolls, distract them by asking if they would like to draw a picture or read a short story together.
- 15. Involve your child in righting her wrongs.** If you find them coloring on the walls, have them help wash it off. If they knock over a playmate's block tower, ask them to help rebuild it.
- 16. Don't delay discipline.** If you must reprimand your child, do so when you see them misbehaving. If you wait to reprimand "later" or when "we get home" your child may forget the incident.