

Early Childhood Center Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

April 2024



Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Guardians:

Spring is in the Air and with it brings a lot of exciting things here at ECC! We are in full swing as we prepare for our transitioning to kindergarten activities, earth day and our field day. It is hard to believe that we have so little time left in the school year. One of my greatest rewards as an early childhood principal is to watch our young learners grow and transition to kindergarten. The transformation is remarkable! We want our students to continue to work hard and prepare for their next phase in their education. Our students have been working hard to meet their academic goals. I am very proud of all their efforts and progress they have made. We are working hard to make sure that every single child will feel the pride in achieving success. We have awesome students here at ECC. Even as we are wrapping up this school year, we are already working on plans for next school year. We are working on creating our school goals, purchasing supplies, reorganizing items and creating class lists. Please utilize spring break as time to explore the outdoors and introduce the elements of spring to our young learners. Please remember to check ClassDojo for frequent announcements and as always I am available if you have any questions or concerns

Your partner in education,

Angel Powell-Muldro

Principal

Early Childhood Center at Harriet Tubman School

Calendar of Events

Monday 4/1 – 4/5 2024

Spring Break
NO School

Friday 4/19/24

Students Dismissed @ 12 p.m.
HALF DAY (SIP Day)

Preschool Screenings @ ECC
will Resume in May

Tuesday 4/23/24

Board Meeting
@ 6:00 p.m.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 2



Mrs. Falls & Mrs. Usher – Room 101 (Butterflies)

New Study:

Boxes

A friendly reminder:

Check your child's backpack every day. Please return forms back immediately

Please work with your child on letter recognition.

Happening Born Days

To everyone born in April



Ms. Rountree, Ms. Lechuga & Ms. India - Room 104 (Shining Stars)

It is hard to believe its springtime. We will introduce a new study about reduce, reuse, recycle and boxes. In addition to the study, we will continue to print your names daily, letter of the week, counting 1-20 or more, rhyming words and letter sounds. There are many different things you can do at home to reinforce these skills. First, check home school activities that are given weekly. Counting: When on a walk or in the car you and your child can count all the trees or all the blue cars. Identifying letters: start with their names and talk about the letters in their names and the sounds. Rhyming: Listen to nursery rhymes and talk about how they sound the same at the end. For example: Little Miss Muffet or Jack and Jill. Those are some simple activities you can do at home with your child daily.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 3



Ms. McGrew – Room 106 (Crayon's)

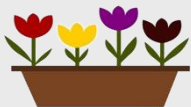
Dear Crayon Families,

We've noticed that children get excited when they see large cardboard boxes. Boxes are full of possibilities! Children are curious about the different types of boxes, how boxes are made, how people use boxes, and how people move very large boxes. We think this study of boxes will be engaging and fun!



Ms. Ruffin & Mrs. Thomas – Room 107 (Busy Bees)

Our study/theme for this month Boxes. We will explore to find out what can we do with boxes, characteristics of boxes, how are boxes made, which jobs involve boxes, and much more! In addition to the theme/study, we will continue to work on writing our names, identifying letters and letter sounds (Aa-Zz) counting (1-40) and identifying and writing numerals (1-30), one-to-one correspondence, rhyming (deciding if two words rhyme, producing two rhyming words), and simple adding and subtraction up to 5. Parents, please ensure you are checking Class Dojo daily for important information and special activities.



Ms. Neely, Ms. McClain, Mrs. Collier – Room 109 (Garden Room)

Hi Garden Room parents! We have been having lots of fun learning about different balls. But for the month of April, we will be studying boxes. During this study we will be talking about different size/shape of boxes, things you can do with boxes, we will be building with boxes, and much much more. Please make sure you are checking the students' communication folders and that you send them back every day. Also, parents please make sure you check Class Dojo daily for important information and activities going on in the classroom.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 4



Mrs. Baker & Ms. Brown –Room 111 (Diamonds)

Parent/Teacher: Children's Goals for progress, Potty Training Goals/Techniques

Review: (1-20) (Aa-Ss), Basic Colors & Shapes

Numbers: (19-20)-Counting, How many, Identify, Quantity

Study: Boxes

Letters: (Tt-Ww) Identify/Sounds/Naming objects

Writing: Names, Words (Sizes of Boxes & their use)

Story Time: Daily read, ask questions, draw pictures.

Discussions: (Thinking of Solutions) Speak Assertively

Rules: Safety/Routines @Home & School/Better choices

Reminders: Complete Change of clothes (2-sets) Parents (Provide) Pull Ups

Class Dojo: Check Daily A.M. & P.M.

Thank you! & Shine Bright 😊



Mrs. Wordlaw & Mrs. Donegan–Room 112 (Rockets)

Box Study – Cereal Box Puzzle

During this study students will use their creative skills to investigate, discuss, and explore what we can do with boxes. One activity that can be done at home with boxes is a cereal box puzzle. Doing puzzles gets kids thinking, planning and problem solving. They are also great for fine motor skills. Instead of throwing those cereal boxes away, cut the box into 4 to larges pieces. Challenge your scholar to put together. The cereal box is a form of environmental print. While putting the puzzle together, students can identify letters and letter sounds. This activity also makes a child feel a real sense of accomplishment when they complete a puzzle correctly.



Mrs. Miles & Ms. Porter – Room 113 (The Bears)

Goals and objectives for this month include:

- This month's theme will be boxes.
- The monthly field trip will be to Amazon.
- Students are always excited about field trips and riding the school bus.
- Students enjoy the weekly activities in the flying classroom.
- Students begin to learn how to think of solutions to solve problems.
- Students also learn how to speak assertively.
- Students will create artwork to display on our classroom door.
- Students demonstrate good behavior when walking in the hallway.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

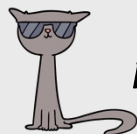
Page 5



Mrs. Roudez, Ms. Cobb & Ms. Destiny – Room 114 (The Aquarium Room)

Hello Families:

The next study for the month of April will be Boxes. We will discuss big boxes, small boxes, shoe boxes, tissue boxes, what can we use boxes for and try to make/build something with boxes. With Spring on the way, maybe we can find some type of plant to plant in a box as well.



Mrs. Hogan & Ms. Goldman – Room 115 (Cool Cats)

Hello Pre-K Parents!

Can I say Happy Spring, or will I jinx this beautiful weather? LOL! We are rolling into March with the box study.

As we study boxes, we will learn concepts and skills related to literacy, math (especially geometry), science, social studies, the arts, and technology. We'll also develop thinking skills as we observe, investigate, ask questions, solve problems, make predictions, and test our ideas. So all of our students can benefit all that we do during our school day, please make sure your child is attending school every day, is arriving on time for school, and has the proper amount of sleep. Most Pre-K children need 8-10 hours a night. Thank you so much for the support you give your child for a successful education.

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 6



District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Ms. Carter & Mrs. Brown – Cuddle Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Cuddle Care Butterflies will focus on Problem Solving (Thinking of Solutions) with Boxes being our study. The children will demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways.



District 148 –Early Learning Satellite Site

Mrs. Williams-Sargent & Ms. Liggett – Under Carrey's Care (Pre-K Expansion)

Dear Super Parents

During last month's lesson, we discussed clothes. In a YouTube video, we learned how to make sweaters from sheep wool. Additionally, we designed aprons for the ECC fashion show, which took place on January 28.

Our focus in February will be on music and movement. In the Superstars classroom, we sing a variety of songs. Hip-Hop Freeze also inspires us to move creatively. In addition to expressing themselves and learning new skills, music allows children to hear and appreciate different kinds of music. Each day, the children sing together, and music helps them learn rules and procedures (e.g., walking downstairs or singing the days of the week). To encourage children to enjoy music and movement, here are some ways I do so.

- We listen to different kinds and tempos of music.
- We make our own instruments.
- We move to music and dance to different rhythms.

By the end of the month, we are going to feel the beat all the way to our feet.

Early Childhood Center & School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 7

Screening Corner

Thanks to all the families for your support! We are constantly growing and that would not be possible without you. **Screenings at ECC will resume in May.** If you are interested in preschool for children ages 3-5, please contact our school at (708) 849-9848. Thank you for your cooperation.

Why do we screen?

Developmental screening is designed to identify problems or delays during normal childhood development. When properly applied, screening tests for developmental or behavioral problems in preschool children allow improved outcomes due to early implementation of treatment.



Curriculum Coordinator – Ms. Walton (Townsend)



Pyramid Tip

Making and Keeping Friends

Knowing how to make and keep friends is an important skill for young children to learn. For preschool and school-age children, friends are fun to have around. They can also be important to success in school! Here are some facts about friendships.

The effect of friendships on school success shows up very early Young children who know how to form and maintain close friendships tend to:

- adjust well to school and do well in classes
- have high self-esteem • learn important social skills, such as cooperation and problem solving

The benefits of childhood friendships can have lifelong effects

People who learn at an early age to make and keep close friends tend to engage in fewer risky behaviors as teens and have fewer mental health problems as adults than do those who have no close childhood friends.

Parents can help their child learn how to be a good friend

The best social skills teacher of all can be the example you set in your daily interactions with others. (Actions speak louder than words!) You help your children learn how to make and keep friends when you:

- model cooperation and kindness with other people, including neighbors, shopkeepers, and teachers
- invite friends over and find times for your child to play with others
- talk to your child about what it means to be a “host” and how to look out for another child’s needs
- help your child learn how to listen to others’ idea
- discuss fairness with your child—how to take turns, how to share, and how to solve problems
- help your child learn words to express his feelings
- discuss the importance of being honest and loyal with friends

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Parent Coordinator – Ms. Haggie & Parent Educator – Ms. Bishop

The Benefits of Parent Involvement

Greetings families,

The month of April we are studying boxes. Children love to learn about different shapes of boxes and where they come from. Families, when you receive packages at home, allow the children to play with the box, feel the different texture and look at the different shapes. Teachers will discuss with the children's what boxes are used for and how they come in all different sizes. As always if you all have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the parent education department.

April	
April 1-5	Spring break
April 10	Parent Advisory Meeting 4:30pm-5:30pm
April 16	Night to remember with Mommy and Me 4:30pm-6:00pm
April 26	Prom 5:00 p.m. to 7 p.m.
April 22-26	Kindergarten Classroom Visit



Administrative Assistants – Mrs. Harris

Please keep your contact information updated. The contact information you gave during registration is what the district and school sites have on file for your student. These are the phone number(s) that will be called to notify parents/guardians of school-hour and non-school-hour emergencies, weather-related announcements and school closings, absence notifications, school/district announcements, reminders and much more.

Contact information for OFFICE STAFF

CALL: (708) 849-9848 | FAX: (708) 201-6233 | EMAIL: harrisa@district148.net



Call **Alltown Bus Company at (708) 333-7663** with any **BUS Related Issues**

Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 9

Support Programs – Therapy Team:

- Occupational Therapy, OT

-Speech Therapy, ST

-Physical Therapy, PT

6 Speech Therapy Techniques to Try at Home

It's exciting when your little ones start to talk and express themselves using sounds and new words. You can practice speech therapy techniques at home to encourage their talking and help them learn and develop language skills. Speech exercises are an excellent way to prepare your children with skills they'll need for comprehension, articulation, and language during everyday interactions.

Speech Techniques to Try at Home With Your Child

Whether your children are in speech therapy or not, practicing these techniques at home ensures children can continue developing their communication skills as much as possible.

Here are some speech therapy techniques to try at home when you want to assist your child in improving their speech.

1. Complete the Thought Game

One of the best ways to support your children in their communication journey is to start simple conversations and share stories with them. It can be a fun game of finishing each other's sentences, but you're guiding and encouraging your child to complete a thought or story.

To start the game, you could begin telling a story, then pause and finish your sentence with a connecting word like "and," "but," "then" or "because" and have your child continue the story using their own words. Once they've completed their addition, repeat the entire sentence or story to show how your words blend with your child's, then continue playing the game.

By the end of the game, you've worked together to create a fun and imaginative story while helping your child speak longer sentences.

2. Use Flashcards

Flashcards help your child begin to associate words with objects. Children can connect the pictures they see on the cards with the words you speak to name or describe the image. With regular practice, your child will develop skills to identify different objects and name them correctly. Flashcards are a simple way to start building a toddler's vocabulary.

3. Make Silly Sounds

Children love to laugh and have fun. While teaching your child a new word or practicing ones they have trouble understanding, be silly and make funny sounds to help them understand the words better. Creating a fun experience will make your child more engaged while learning.

Explain animals by making their sounds in exaggerated voices and beep like a car horn. You could even use a mirror to show your kids how your mouth moves while saying a word, then have them repeat the word while watching their mouths to see how they move while talking.

Making silly sounds is a great way to have fun with your children while helping them develop their language skills.

4. Read With Your Child

Another way to start building vocabulary and helping your child learn how to pronounce and enunciate words is reading to and with them. Children learn to imitate sounds and grasp words while listening to someone reading. You and your child will have fun exploring imaginary adventures through various books.

While reading picture books to your kids, you can use similar techniques as the flashcards and have your child identify the objects in the book's images. Have your child repeat some words after you to encourage correct diction.

5. Model Simple Language for Your Child

Children learn new words, sounds, and actions by imitating what they see. When your child begins talking, modeling simple language is an easy way to help them understand and associate words with objects.

Modeling simple language supports your child as they independently imitate and use words and sounds. You can hold an object near your mouth as you name it before handing it to your child. Eventually, they'll start associating the item with what you're saying.

6. Provide Choices to Your Child

Be direct with your questions and provide choices when asking your child about something. For instance, instead of using open-ended questions, ask ones that give clear options, like "Do you want the yellow car or the green car?" Children will learn the impact of using language to make requests when they first understand how to communicate their desires.

Benefits of Continuing Speech Therapy Techniques at Home

If your child is in speech therapy, continuing to practice the techniques learned during the sessions while at home will help them retain the lessons. Your child will continue improving and developing their language skills to use in their everyday life.

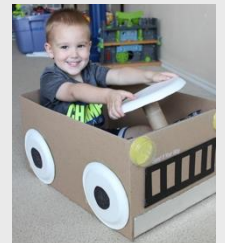
Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Resource Teachers – Mrs. Slager & Mrs. Wasik

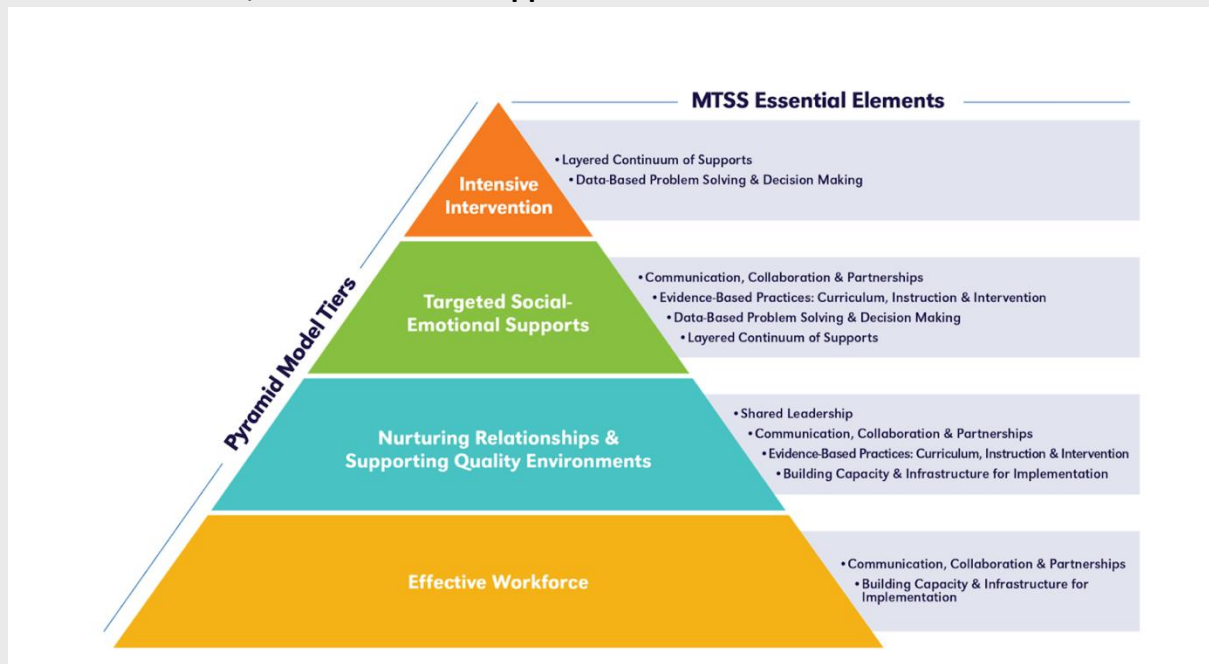
Welcome Spring! Have fun making toys and playing games out of boxes. The activities in this theme require little or no money and they will provide hours of fun. This month we focus on the theme of boxes. Cardboard boxes can be just about anything you or your child wants them to be. Some activities to do at home include:

1. Giant Nail Salon-Create this giant nail salon for your kids using just a cardboard box and sharpie.
2. Hot Wheels Race Track- Convert a cardboard box into simple race lanes for Hot Wheels cars!
3. Fish Sewing Board- Help your child with fine motor skills by creating a sewing board from boxes.
4. Cardboard Box Wash and/or Paint- Wash or Paint boxes around the house any way your child likes.
5. Cardboard Box Car- Create a car out of those big boxes you might have.



MTSS Facilitator – Mrs. Freeman

At ECC, we use MTSS to support academic and behavior needs.



Early Childhood Center School Newsletter

CUBBIES NEWS

Page 11



Nurse's Corner –

April Showers bring May flowers and... ALLERGY & ASTHMA SEASON!

If you suffer from allergies, you know the symptoms: coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes, runny nose, and scratchy throat. Common allergens and irritants found in and around the home are pollen, dust mites, mold, insect droppings, pet dander, and secondhand smoke. Exposure to these allergens can even bring about a serious asthma attack.

During an Asthma attack, airways become narrowed, and breathing can become extremely difficult. Other asthma triggers include: respiratory infections, pollen (trees, grasses, weeds) air pollution, food, allergies, cleaning products, perfumes, exercise, and cold air exposure. Common asthma symptoms include wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing. Asthma cannot be cured but it can be controlled.

**Talk to your pediatrician about the best daily management
for your child's symptoms.**