



Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool

Home + School Connection Preschool Newsletter

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Save the Earth, One Child at a Time

By Lori Forcey, Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

In honor of Earth Day (Monday, April 22), here are some fun ways to teach reducing, reusing, and recycling at home to children of all ages:

Reduce: At GSLP, we encourage students to use one paper towel when they dry their hands so we can reduce waste, and we talk about the importance of reducing consumption by turning off water faucets and lights when we are done using them. One of our most important (and popular!) class job assignments is “electrician.” This child is responsible for turning off our lights when we leave the classroom. Young children love having responsibilities, and this is a great one to task them with at home. We also talk about reducing the amount of trash we put into landfills. Preschoolers can help to sort plastic and paper and put them in the proper recycling bins.

Reuse: Want to get some enthusiastic help with spring cleaning? Explain how your child has gotten so big, you now have to pack up and pass on outgrown clothes and toys to a younger child. Clothes with holes or stains can be repurposed into doll clothes, collage materials, or cleaning rags.

Recycle: Recycled materials are crafting gold! Recycle clean yogurt or applesauce cups into play dough toys (applesauce cup “muffins” made from play dough – m’m! m’m! good!). Try stamping recycled materials in paint – the bottoms of drink bottles make cool flower prints, overturned yogurt cups make perfect circles, and bubble wrap makes awesome textures. Coffee cans or plastic wipe containers can be decorated and made into all sorts of cool treasure holders. And you already know we love to recycle water bottles. Use them to create sensory bottles: Put in a little food coloring; add beads, twigs, glitter, buttons, pompoms (anything, really!); and then fill the bottle with water or corn syrup. Secure the top with hot glue or duct tape and let your child twist and twirl the bottle around. Amazing! This is just the tip of the iceberg! There are thousands of wonderful ideas for incorporating recycled materials into craft projects with your preschooler. Visit Pinterest for tons of inspiration.

Dressing for the Weather

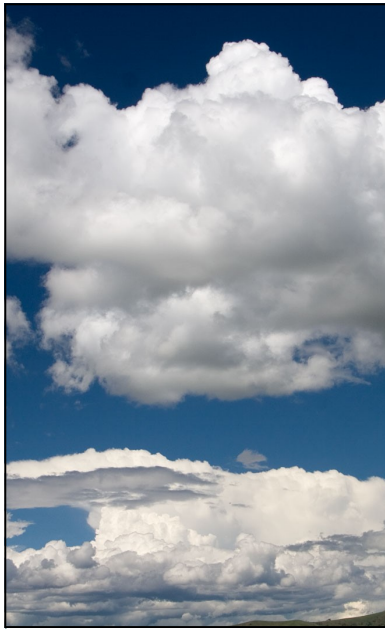
Warm weather is here! Wait—now cold weather is here! No, no, wait—it’s warm again!

Spring in our area can be all over the place, weather-wise. Please keep the shifting temperatures in mind when planning your child’s clothing for the day. A light jacket or sweatshirt is often necessary for morning hours, but a short-sleeved shirt worn underneath allows the child to remove the outer layer as the day becomes warmer.

Also, please do not send your child to school in sandals, flip-flops, Crocs, or any other stiff or open-toed shoes. Such footwear can be dangerous for children when running and climbing on the playground.



GSLP is a mission of
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
www.goserve.net



DinoRock Coming April 25 and 26

We invite families to join us this month for our big spring “in-school field trip,” DinoRock!

DinoRock (www.dinorock.com) features amazing dinosaur puppets—some bigger than a person! The performers present facts about dinosaurs through award-winning music. Children are frequently invited up to participate in the show.

The show presented at GSLP, “Dinosaur Babies,” makes a connection dinosaur and human ba-

bies to help children relate to the ancient creatures. Some of the characters include:

Doris the Stegosaurus - “She’s not even 2 but she knows what to do: I’m Just Followin’ Mom.”

QE, The Quetzalcoatlus Kid - The only flying reptile baby in the show

Sam the Triceratops - who wants to grow up to be just like his dad

Big Bad Baby Rex - “My favorite food is meat, meat, meat.”

Fun Fact: “April showers” help turn our area green (and wet!) during the springtime, but do you know what the driest continent is? Antarctica! It is actually a frozen desert, with less than 10 cm of precipitation at the South Pole each year, on average. So leave your umbrellas at home!

Resource Roundup

Preschool Parent Resource Board

GSLP helps keep parents in the know about community resources through our Preschool Parent Resource Board, located in the hallway between PS 1 and PS 2. This board, which currently features lots of information about registering for kindergarten through Montgomery County Public Schools, is where the directors post notices about programs that can help students with special needs, families with financial needs, and caregivers looking for advice on raising children. The monthly Snack Calendar and info on the Judy Center are also posted on this board.

Book Drive to Honor GSLP Teachers

In honor of the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week (May 6-10), GSLP will hold a Picture Book Drive starting in late April to benefit the children served by the Gaithersburg Judy Center.

The staff at the Judy Center works directly with at-risk children to build school-readiness skills, in addition to partnering with families to help parents learn how to prepare their children for kindergarten. They also work with teachers at their partner schools to improve the quality of instruction offered to students. Learn more about this fantastic program on page 4.

Our teachers work hard every day to help GSLP students build the foundation they will need to learn to read in kindergarten.

Our Early Pre-Kindergarten 2 teachers focus on building oral language skills. They encourage conversation, asking students questions to pull out language, and then they reflect and rephrase student answers using full sentences to model correct grammar and inject colorful vocabulary.

Early Pre-Kindergarten 3 teachers add a focus on phonological awareness skills. Children work on rhyming and hearing sounds—such as syllables and initial consonants—within words. Children need to hear the sounds of language to be able to manipulate them later as they start working on more advanced phonemic awareness skills in Pre-Kindergarten, such as adding and deleting sounds, and associating print with the sounds it represents.

Please bring in new or gently used books to donate once you see the collection boxes come out later this month.



Springtime Events and Destinations

Now that winter is finally drawing to a close, it's time to start planning some activities to shake off that cabin fever! Check out some of these local venues that offer fun for families with young children:

Wheaton Regional Park, Georgia Ave. Entrance: Entering Wheaton Regional Park off Georgia Avenue — just south of Randolph Road — you will find a large picnic area with lots of play equipment, a miniature train, and a working carousel. Weekends in April this year feature a fun “Eye Spy” experience on the miniature train. Riders will receive a card with characters to spot along the trip. Children under 2 ride free with a paying adult. The “Eye Spy” experience is available April 17 to 22 as well for MCPS spring break, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Pack a picnic and enjoy this free public park!

More information is available at: www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/wheaton-regional-park/

Brookside Gardens: Spring is a wonderful time to visit Brookside Gardens. This 50-acre public garden includes an aquatic garden, azalea garden, butterfly garden, children's garden, Japanese garden (complete with koi pond), rain garden, a woodland walk, and more.

You'll also find a picnic area and nature center near the parking lot. Admission to the gardens is free. Brookside Gardens also has a variety of classes and program for preschool-age children.

Information on both the park and child-friendly programs can be found at: www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-gardens/

Technology FAQ

What technology is at GSLP?

As a state-accredited school, GSLP incorporates technology into every classroom. Each room has an iPod for music and an iPad. Teachers also have access to a projector, Chromebook, and PCs.

How do kids get iPad access?

Tablets are available to children during free play centers time. Teachers determine based on age and curriculum needs how often it is appropriate to provide iPad access.

What software is available?

Our iPads have software for creating pictures, making videos, reading books, and practicing math and literacy skills. We also have concrete manipulatives made by Osmo and Tiggly that children can use with the tablets, which is our preferred way to provide access to learning games. Tablets have password-protected internet access for teacher use.

How much screen time should my child have each day?

There's no easy answer. Parents must balance the fact that screens are a prevalent part of life, providing access to everything from games and videos to books and art canvases, with children's need for hands-on play, social interaction, and exercise.

Try It At Home!

Simple Stir-Together Cupcakes

- 1 1/2 c. flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tbsp. vinegar
- 5 tbsp. oil
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 1 c. water

Whisk together the dry ingredients. Add the wet ingredients and stir until just mixed (it may still look a bit lumpy). Pour into greased, paper-lined muffin tins. Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes. Makes 12.

Make chocolate cupcakes by adding 3 tbsp. cocoa to the dry ingredients.

Kid-Friendly Egg Salad

The potato masher is key to making this cooking project easy and fun for kids! Egg salad is pretty forgiving, so let the kids measure with spoonfuls and pinches.

- Hard-cooked eggs
- Mayonnaise
- Salt

Place peeled hard-cooked eggs in a large bowl. Add a spoonful of mayonnaise and a hefty pinch of salt. Smash everything up using a potato masher and serve on bread or lettuce.

Community Resources

Judy Centers Boost Early Learning

Judith P. Hoyer Early Child Care and Family Education Centers (earlychildhood.marylandpublicschools.org/families/judy-centers), also known as Judy Centers, work to support school readiness. They follow a big-picture approach to achieving their goal by supporting parents, child care providers, and schools in addition to directly working with children birth to five.

Judy Centers are located in or near Title I schools and serve families within those schools' attendance areas. In Montgomery County, the local Judy Center has two branches: the Silver Spring Judy Center, which serves the Rolling Terrace Elementary School community, and the Gaithersburg Judy Center, which serves the Washington Grove Elementary School and Summit Hall Elementary School community.

The Gaithersburg Judy Center offers a number of programs for young children, including Literacy Play and Learn sessions, field trips, and Jump Bunch. During these activities, children gain exposure to early learning skills and build a solid background of knowledge that aids in understanding lessons in school down the road.

Judy Centers also serve parents. The Gaithersburg Judy Center offers Learning Parties, where parents can try out methods of promoting early learning at home. Judy Centers also often offer classes in nutrition, CPR, and English as a second language to parents.

In addition to partnering with families, the Judy Centers also work with teachers to improve the quality of instruction offered to students. Judy Centers also help the pre-school programs at their schools go through the Maryland Accreditation process and support local pre-school and child care partners in pursuing accreditation and in participating in Maryland EXCELS.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool is proud to serve as a partner of the Montgomery County Judy Center's Gaithersburg branch. As partners, we work throughout the year to support the Judy Center's mission through projects such as our Creativity Bags collection and our annual **Teacher Appreciation Week Book Drive**, which begins May 7. Please bring in new or gently used books for us to share with members of the Judy Center community.

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As To Students

Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. (4-18-2018)



Book Nook

April's Picture Book Picks Build Springtime Fun

By Lori Forcey, GSLP Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

For our April Book Nook, we're offering up a basketful of goodies — a little selection that touches on Pre-K's Nature theme, and another choice that covers the EPK 2 and EPK 3's construction-related themes. And finally, we finish up with an adorable Easter book, starring a favorite preschool character, from local author Janet Morgan Stoeke.

The Koala Who Could, by Jim Field: Alliteration and rhymes abound in this catchy story about Kevin the Koala. Kevin enjoys hanging out in his tree and minding his own business, even though his friends encourage him to come down and play. Then one day, Kevin is forced out of his tree and down to the ground, but what will happen when he gets there? Filled with cute illustrations and featuring native Australian animals that local preschoolers may not be familiar with, this audiobook is available in our lending library.

Goodnight, Goodnight Construction Site, by Sherri Dudley Rinker and Tom Lichtenheld: This modern classic visits each of the construction site vehicles — crane truck, cement mixer, dump truck, bulldozer and excavator — as they finish their work for the day and snuggle down to sleep for the night. The rhyming words are so cozy and soft, you'll feel yourself stifling yawns while reading it. Fair warning — save this little gem, which can be found at your local library, for bedtime!

Minerva Louise and the Colorful Eggs, by Janet Morgan Stoeke: Oh Minerva Louise! We check in on our favorite easily confused hen and find it's springtime at the farm and Minerva Louise has a brand new hat (that looks suspiciously like an Easter basket). As she explores the farm she finds colorful eggs dotting the landscape — but where are the eggs' mothers? The answer to this mystery can be found at your local library.

Spring Has Sprung at School

During April, Good Shepherd students will have many opportunities to celebrate spring.

In the classroom, students will learn about plants and animals, from their varieties to their life cycles. Our classroom curriculum integrates music, art, and science activities throughout the month based on nature themes, with Early Pre-K 3 kicking off its Sand study and Pre-K taking a look at Nature All Around Us.

Students are planting a variety of seeds and caring for them. This year, students are planting carrot seeds in our garden boxes with an eye toward a late May harvest.

Consider checking out a copy of *The Carrot Seed* or *The Tiny Seed* from your local library to extend your child's learning at home. Dig up some bulbs to show your children how some plants grow. Try to provide your child an opportunity to plant some seeds, such as flowers in a garden or herbs for cooking in a window pot.

With teacher guidance, students will learn what it takes to make a plant grow and thrive. When studying insects, classes will focus on butterflies. Each class will have its own butterfly habitat stocked with live caterpillars. The students will observe as the caterpillars as they grow, enter their chrysalises, and finally emerge as butterflies.

Take this opportunity to enjoy the beauties of springtime with your children. Take walks around your neighborhood and talk with your child about the signs of the season. Look for baby animals and for birds returning from the south and trees sprouting new flowers and leaves.





April Songs and Finger Plays

We Are Little Airplanes

We are little airplanes flying, flying,
We are little airplanes, zoom, zoom,
zoom.

We are flying low, we are flying high,
We are little airplanes flying in the sky.

Engine Number Nine

Engine, engine, number nine,
Running on Chicago line,
Running east and running west,
Running through the cuckoo's nest.
Engine one, engine two, engine three,
Engine four, engine five, engine six,
Engine seven, engine eight,
Oh, engine, engine number nine
Running on Chicago line,
Running east and running west,
Running through the cuckoo's nest.
Engine one, engine two, engine three,
Engine four, engine five, engine six,
Engine seven, engine eight,
Engine nine! (whoo-whoo!)

Down by the Station

Down by the station, early in the
morning,
See the little pufferbellies all in a row,
See the station master turn the little
handle,
Puff, puff, toot, toot, off they go!

Take Me for a Ride

Take me for a ride in your car, car
Take me for a ride in your car, car
Take me for a ride, take me for a ride
Take me for a ride in your car, car
(substitute other vehicles)

He's Got the Whole World

He's got the whole world in His hands,
(repeat 3 times)
vs. 2: He's got the boys and the girls
vs. 3: He's got the mommies and the
daddies

She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain

She'll be coming around the mountain
when she comes. *Toot, toot!*

vs. 2 - She'll be driving six white
horses when she comes. *Whoa back!*

vs. 3 - Oh, we'll all go out to greet her
when she comes. *Hi there!*

vs. 4 - And we'll all have chicken and
dumplings when she comes. *Yum,
yum!*

vs. 5 - Oh, she'll wear her red pajamas
when she comes. *Scratch, scratch.*

vs. 6 - Oh, she'll have to sleep with
grandma when she comes. **Snore**

Here's a Little Alligator

Here's a little alligator sitting on a log,
In a little pond, he sees a little frog.
Down goes the alligator, 'round goes
the log,
Splash! Goes the water and away
swims the frog!

Oats, Peas, Beans, and Barley

Oats, peas, beans and barley grow
Oats, peas, beans and barley grow,
Do you or I or anyone know
How oats, peas, beans and barley
grow?
First the farmer sows the seed.
Then he stands and takes his ease:
Stamps his foot and claps his hand,
And turns around to view the land.
Oats, peas, beans (repeat first verse)

The Old Gray Cat

The old gray cat is sleeping, sleeping,
sleeping,
The old gray cat is sleeping in the
house.
vs. 2 - The little mice are creeping
vs. 3 - The little mice are nibbling
vs. 4 - The old gray cat comes
creeping
vs. 5 - The little mice are scurrying

Pussy Willow

I know a little pussy,
Her coat is soft and grey,
She lives down in the meadow,
Not very far away.
She'll always be a pussy,
She'll never be a cat,
For she's a pussy willow,
Now what do you think of that?
Meow, meow, meow, meow,
Meow, meow, meow, meow,
SKAT!

I Want Someone to Buy Me a Pony

I want someone to buy me a pony,
Jig jog jig jog jig a jog gee
Not too fat and not too bony,
Jig jog jig jog jig a jog gee
For I want to go for a ride
Far out in the countryside
With a jig jog jig jog jig jog
jig jog jig jog jig a jog gee!

Dropped My Eyebrow

Dropped my eyebrow,
Pick it up, pick it up,
Dropped my eyebrow,
Pick it up, pick it up,
Dropped my eyebrow,
Pick it up, pick it up,
And put it back on my face.

The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching one by one.
Hoorah! Hoorah!
The ants go marching one by one.
Hoorah! Hoorah!
The ants go marching one by one;
The little one stops to suck his thumb,
And they all go marching down into the
ground
To get out of the rain.
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

