

January 2017 Preschool Press



COLUMBUS SPEECH AND HEARING

Columbus Speech and Hearing will be visiting our school on January 18 and 19. They will be conducting speech and hearing screenings per parents request during our regular school hours. The cost of the screenings will be \$10.00 for a speech screening and \$10.00 for a hearing screening. The cost of both a speech and hearing screening will be \$20.00. Checks should be made payable to Hilliard UMC Preschool. If you would like to have your child screened, but are unable to pay the cost of the screenings, please contact Robin Ozbolt at robin@hilliardumcpreschool.org or stop in the preschool office.

As always, if you have any questions prior to the screening or questions concerning your child's results, we would be more than willing to chat with you. Our doors are always open to our families

Registration for the 2017-2018 School Year

Registration for the 2017-2018 school year has begun. Current families have priority enrollment, but you will need to return your enrollment forms as soon as possible to ensure your child's space for the upcoming school year. Our teachers are an excellent source to discuss your child's placement for next year, please feel free to ask them any questions you might have.

January Calendar

January 4: Classes Resume

January 16: Martin Luther King Day No School

January 18 & 19: Speech and Hearing Screenings



"Good friends are like snowflakes... all different and all beautiful"



Winter Weather Policy

A reminder that if Hilliard City Schools would be closed due to the weather, we would also be closed. If Hilliard City Schools would be on a two hour delay, our morning preschool classes would be canceled. If they would have an early dismissal from school our afternoon classes would be canceled.



January Themes

Together Again

Snowy Day by Ezra Jack Keats

Snowmen are Circles

Penguins

Polar Bears

Our Five Senses

Purple, Green, & Yellow
by Robert Munsch

Igloos

The Science of Ice Cream

Healthy Teeth and the Dentist

Snowy Owls

Letters of the Week

C, G, I, N

Kindergarten Readiness Hilliard City Schools

The kindergarten classroom can typically consist of a range of 20-27 students and 1 teacher. The most difficult decision a parent will need to make is **Should I send my child to kindergarten or wait one more year?** While there is no perfect checklist to determine when your child is truly ready for kindergarten, the following list will give you an idea of the necessary skills a child should have in order to receive the greatest benefit from the kindergarten experience.

◇ **Can you child do the following:**

- ◇ **Independently** manage bathroom needs
- ◇ **Independently** dress himself/herself (button shirts, pants, coats and zip up zippers)
- ◇ Speak in complete sentences of 5-6 words
- ◇ Draw a picture of her/himself including head, body, arms, and legs
- ◇ Recognize groups of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 objects
- ◇ Understand the concept of more and less up to (5) objects
- ◇ Sort objects by color, size, and shape
- ◇ Rote count 1-10
- ◇ Recite/participate/join in repeating a familiar song/poem/finger play/nursery rhyme
- ◇ Identify some letters of the alphabet (lower and uppercase)
- ◇ Identify rhyming words (bat, cat, sat)
- ◇ Identify the beginning sounds of some words (i.e. top, tap, tiger all start with the same sound)
- ◇ Recognize environmental print or familiar signs in the child's environment
- ◇ Demonstrate book awareness (holds book correctly, orally retells a story)
- ◇ Understand vocabulary related position, direction, size, and comparison such as like/different, top/bottom, first/last, big/little, up/down
- ◇ Identify numerals 1-10
- ◇ Attempt to write and/or write his/her first name
- ◇ Able to copy or draw circle, cross, square, x, triangle, rectangle
- ◇ Able to cut with scissors on straight, curved lines and circles
- ◇ Able to retell a simple story after listening to a story with pictures
- ◇ Has the stamina to sit with a large group and listen to a story without interrupting for a minimum of 15 minutes
- ◇ Independently work at a non-teacher directed center for a minimum of 20 minutes
- ◇ Independently able to retrieve needed items such as scissors, glue, and markers for a project
- ◇ Independently able to put items away
- ◇ Independently able to follow the written classroom schedule
- ◇ Independently able to follow at least a 2 step direction
- ◇ Able to share and wait his turn
- ◇ Able to stay with an activity until completion
- ◇ Able to comply with rules, limits, and routines
- ◇ Independently able to initiate and sustain appropriate play with other children
- ◇ Able to use words instead of being physical when angry or frustrated
- ◇ Able to separate from parents without being upset
- ◇ Recognize authority
- ◇ Show understanding of general times of day (morning, noon, night)
- ◇ Speak understandably
- ◇ Understand actions have both cause and effect
- ◇ Demonstrate gross motor skills (hop, jump, skip, run, catch and bounce a ball)

What is Happening in Storytime & Play with Ms. J.

I think many of you might agree with me, December seemed to come and go in a wink of an eye. The children in all of their excitement still managed to easily cover all three letters of the month with giggles and smiles. Your child's enthusiasm certainly brightened my Holidays.

All the children loved the book "Santa Stuck." Poor Santa could not go back up the chimney because he ate too many treats left for him on Christmas Eve. We problem solved throughout the book. A few of the comments were "maybe the reindeer could push Santa back down the chimney," "we should leave the front door unlocked for Santa," or "what if Santa just came and went by the front door." When Santa was finally free from his dilemma all the children clapped and cheered. We all agreed that too many desserts were not a good idea.

The letter "Mm" brought a mystery to our classroom. We read "The Three Bear Christmas" by Kathy Duval. We noticed similarities and differences between our new book and "Goldie Locks and the Three Bears, which we read earlier in the school year. As we started the book, I introduced the word "mystery" to the children, as someone went inside the bears home again, but it is not the same person as before. Who went into the house in the first story? Who went into the house this time? Ideas and conversation abounded. There was incredible recall and language comprehension. Expressive language was heard from beginning to end.

Our last letter for the month of December was Rr. The children really rocked around the Christmas tree after listening to the story "Rock Star Santa." The children wore antlers and danced and pranced like Santa's reindeer team.

January brings letters Cc, Gg, Ii, and Nn to our classroom. We will have lots of fun with topics like penguins, snow and ice. January will be great fun for all. See you soon!

Love,

Ms. J.



Shannon Upton a previous HUM preschool parent, Christian speaker, author and blogger has created a free resource for families. It's called *Your Free Guide to a Vibrant Family Faith*, and it's all about encouraging parents to bring Jesus alive in their homes. She has twelve adaptable ideas to help families have fun together praying, reading the Bible, and living a faith-filled life—perfect for the New Year!

This is a free download which can be found on her website, OrganizingJesusMoms.com. If you are interested, please feel free to check it out.