

March Preschool Press 2024



Partnering with the Hilliard Food Pantry

During this Lenten Season, we thought it would be amazing to partner with the Hilliard Food Pantry. By participating, it would give the children the chance to help those in need within our community. Items that are in need are listed below. We will be accepting donations starting tomorrow through March 28th. The children will also be making cards and pictures in class for the senior citizens that depend on the food pantry to meet their basic needs.

Current Pantry Needs

1. Personal Care Items such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant, sunscreen, body lotion...
2. Spaghetti Sauce
3. Mac and Cheese
4. Ramen
5. Canned Meats
6. Jelly
7. Canned Meals

Please drop off your donated items with the teachers during arrival or dismissal.

We appreciate you and all that you do to make HUMC Preschool such a special community!!!!

THE EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS OF PLAYING WITH BLOCKS

by Anne Marie Margaritondo

Are old fashioned blocks boring or beneficial? With all of the technology children have access to today, sometimes blocks can seem, well, *boring*. However, don't underestimate this age-old toy. Blocks remain one of the most important toys for children to use in order to develop critical skills for school and for life.

Through block play, children learn the following skills:

Science Concepts: Children learn science when they experience gravity as their constructions fall. They also learn the use of simple machines as they build ramps to their buildings.

Spatial Reasoning: Young designers learn to manipulate space and objects through block play. Will this fit here? Will this fall down? Will this make the shape I want? Block play allows children to explore navigation of space and direction.

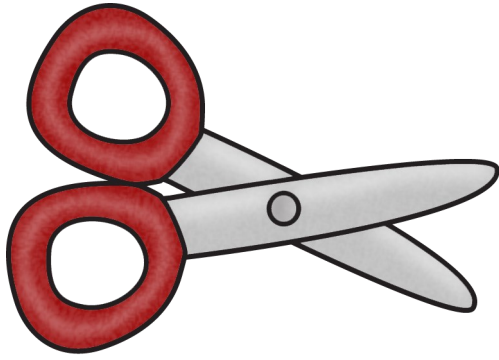
Math Concepts: Some of the math skills encountered through block play include counting, comparison of length and width, names of shapes and how to combine certain geometric shapes to make other shapes. Children are even learning the basics of addition when they discover that two short blocks will be the same size as another longer block.

Reading and Writing Skills: Through block play, children understand the importance of sequence, an important early reading skill, as they retell their experiences with the blocks. Both parents and teachers can help children write stories about what they are building.

Language Skills: Little builders learn language skills and vocabulary as they discuss what they are building.

Cooperation and Responsibility: Children learn cooperation and sharing as they work together with family members or other children during their play. In addition, they learn how to be responsible when they clean up after they are done with the blocks.

The next time you're in a quandary over what kind of gift to purchase for your child's next birthday party, don't forget to consider a quality set of building blocks.



Using Scissors at Home

Learning to use scissors can be a bit tricky. First and foremost, do not leave your child alone with scissors. You may come back to a new hair style if you are not careful.

Holding scissors can be difficult for preschoolers. We always tell them "thumb to the sun". They may need your help at first, but soon they will be able to grasp those scissors correctly. Increasing hand strength helps the kiddos to develop their fine motor skills.

A few ideas for increasing hand strength:

- Opportunities to play with playdough
- Peel and stick stickers
- String beads or cereal using a pipe cleaner or yarn
- Using small kitchen tongs allow your child to pick up cotton balls, marshmallows, straws, small rocks, small blocks...
- Allow your child to use a spray bottle in the bathtub
- Tear paper and make a collage

Tips for helping your child:

- You may need to hold the paper at first, so that they can concentrate on opening and closing the scissors.
- Hold the paper high enough that the child is not bent over trying to cut. Between the elbow and chest level would be the correct height of the paper.
- Remind them that their thumb should be facing upward. You may want to put a sticker on their thumbnail to help them remember.
- At first they will only be able to cut thin snips of paper, so use thinner sheets of paper.
- Allow them to simply fringe the paper as a beginning step.
- As they move to cutting on a line, make sure to make the lines wide to help guide them.
- As they progress, begin to draw simple shapes to be cut, such as a triangle. Make a shape collage with all the cut shapes.

Creative Items to Cut

Playdough

Coupons

Tissue Paper

Magazines

Ribbon

Wrapping Paper

Leaves

Grass

Straws

Shredded Paper

Cooked Spaghetti Noodles

Old Christmas Cards

Coloring Book Pages

Tax ID Number

31-064-3314



March Calendar

March 1: Tuition Due

March 14: Open House for New Families

March 14 & 15 St. Patrick's Day Celebrations

March 19: Inservice Day - No School

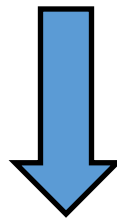
March 29: Spring Break Begins

March 29 - April 5: Spring Break

April 8: Solar Eclipse: No School

April 10: Inservice Day No School

Playdough is an excellent tool for building strength in little hands



Play Dough Recipe

5 tbsp of cream of tartar

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of salt

3 cups of flour

14 oz. pkg of unsweetened Kool-Aid

3 cups of water

3 tbsp vegetable oil

food coloring of choice (the Kool-Aid will color the mixture also)

- Stir all of the dry ingredients into a large pot. Slowly add the water and oil. Using a large wooden spoon. Blend the mixture until all of the lumps are gone. Stir in several drops of food coloring till you have the desired color (the dough will darken as it cooks). Cook the mixture over medium heat, stirring constantly with a large spoon until it forms a ball. While the mixture is still warm, knead it on a lightly floured board for several minutes or until the dough has a soft, satiny feel. Store the dough in a sealed container at room temperature for up to a month.