



October 2017



Message from the Director

Dear MCCA Jones Lane families,

We welcome October along with the cooler temperatures and our changing outdoor environment. Children are already noticing the changes and we continue to incorporate these changes into our curriculum. Teachers are providing interesting and inviting activities to all children to spark conversations and create interest.

Please make sure that you are labeling jackets and sweaters with your child's name. You would be surprised of the number of similar clothing items that end up in our lost and found. If your child is missing an item please look through the lost and found basket in the front entry of the APR room.

Have a great October!!

What's New

DEVELOPING RULES FOR A CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

As this school year begins, one exercise the classroom will partake in is developing classroom rules. Children need clear, consistent and realistic expectations in order for them to learn how to interact with other children and to further develop their social skills. Setting limits and explaining the consequences of behavior helps children understand why rules are needed. Involving children in the deciding of rules is a powerful way to encourage them to share responsibility for communal life in the classroom and studies have shown that children are more likely to understand and follow the rules that they helped create. In the classroom the children and teachers will gather and discuss what the rules should be. Rules are developed around issues to ensure the safety of all the children in a classroom. Since children understand the concept of staying safe, it is one of the most important topics the teachers use to develop other classroom rules. The children usually come up with simple ideas for the classroom rules and the teachers help them to expand on the rules and further verbalize them. Children will develop rules such as, "No throwing toys," and "No yelling at your friends." The teachers restate the rule for the children in positive terms so the children will know what they CAN do instead of focusing on what they CAN'T do. For examples, "No throwing toys" can be phrased as "take care of and clean up our classroom toys." Classroom rules are posted in the classroom meeting area so they can remind children and revisit the rules when needed. When a child needs a reminder of the classroom rules, the teacher guides that child into locating the rule that was not being following and brainstorm some ideas about how to keep themselves and others safe.

Taken from the Creative Curriculum © Volume 1: The Foundation. Chapter 4—Caring and Teaching



Important Reminders

OUTSIDE PLAY

As the weather begins to turn cooler, it is a good time to review our policies regarding daily outdoor time. We schedule outdoor play each morning and afternoon. Times and duration of outdoor time are adjusted throughout the year according to weather conditions. When the weather conditions do not allow us to take the children outside, outdoor time will be replaced with appropriate indoor active play activities. Children attending the program are expected to be able to participate fully in the center programming including being well enough to play outdoors and having the appropriate clothing for the weather.

CLOTHING GUIDELINES

Your child will be actively engaged in activities throughout the day including painting, playing on the floor and playing outdoors. Children should wear comfortable, washable clothes that are appropriate for active play. Open-toed shoes and flip flops are not appropriate daily footwear and may only be worn during designated water play periods. All clothing should be marked with your child's name. Please be sure that your child has appropriate clothing (example: warm jacket, mittens and hat in the winter) for outdoor play in every season.

Upcoming Dates

October 6th, 2017 -Early Release Day for MCPS

October 9th, 2017 -MCCA Closed for a Professional Day

Suggested Resources and Reading

http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/family_rules.html#how

<http://psychcentral.com/lib/the-5-cs-of-effective-discipline-setting-rules-for-children/>

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES ON MCCA'S WEBSITE

If you have not done so already, please check out the family resource section on MCCA's website. There you can find frequently used forms, our school calendar, MCCA's health guidelines and our family handbook.