



April 28, 2014

April – National Poetry Month



Welcome to Spring! It felt like the winter weather would never leave us! April is National Poetry Month. Now that the winter days are past us and we are able to go outside more and more, it's a great time of the year to enjoy nature and read some poetry with your child. The older ones can even help you write a poem as well! Poetry is widely used in the classrooms, but why? Here are a few benefits of poetry in your young child's life:

1. Poetry is first and foremost a language tool. Rhyming words help emergent reader recognize patterns in written English. It helps them understand that even though "play" and "sleigh" do not have the same ending letters, they still rhyme because they sound the same. Simple repetitive words in a poem can also reinforce word recognition. Poems can even help ELL (English Language Learners) make connections from picture to text.
2. Poetry is a communication tool. Children who have trouble expressing themselves (especially older children) are able to use poetry to open up his or her world to a wide variety of feelings and emotions. Using punctuation marks, beats and expressive connotations within a poem, a child who struggles to communicate has one more outlet within their repertoire.
3. Poetry enriches speaking and listening skills. Poetry slams and open mic nights are starting to pop up in more and more schools. Despite not being able to understand the words younger children – even as young as Pre-School, will feel the rhythms and beats of the poetry and try to mimic the sounds. This is an integral part of the development of their emergent reading skills

So how can you bring poetry in your child's life? There are plenty of poetry books available for young children. Pick a poem each night and add it to your daily bedtime routine. Be sure to point out the rhyming words (if any) and go over the beats and sounds your child might hear. Also look up your local listings for Poetry Slams and Open Mic Nights – FOR CHILDREN. These are excellent venues to first introduce poetry into your child's life.

Important Notes from the Center:



- We appreciate and thank you for taking the time to support our delicious **Spring Fundraiser** – Gertrude Hawk Chocolates!



- **Safety first!** Our parking lot is extremely busy during drop off and pick up. In an effort to keep all of the children and their families safe, we ask that you drive slowly and use caution when entering and leaving the child care facility.



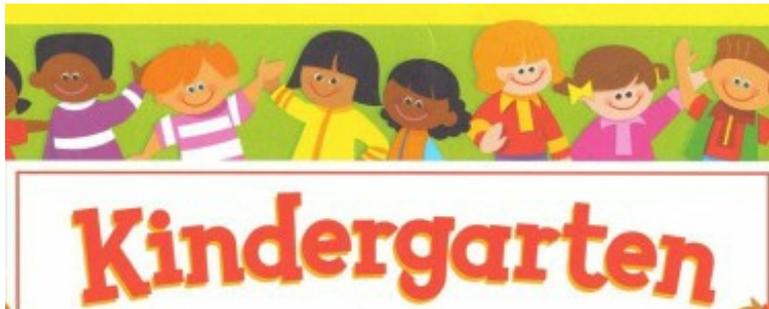
- Parents, take a moment to visit our **Toy Lending Library**. Browse through our selection of toys your child could borrow for a week and enjoy at home. A variety of toys and games are available! The Toy Lending Library is open to children ages 2 ½ and up on Tuesday's and Thursday's from 3:30 to 6:00 pm.



- Did you know that April is **Month of the Young Child**? Check out your child's classroom curriculum to see the special activities your child will be participating in this month. The teachers in the Preschool, Pre K, and Kindergarten classrooms are busy preparing fun and exciting activities for your child!

CAMP KALEIDOSCOPE

- We are accepting summer camp applications for **Camp Kaleidoscope for children ages 5-9 years**. Join us for a “Cinematic Adventure” this summer where children learn how their favorite films come to life. Children will explore various film genres such as animation, science fiction, musicals, and documentaries. Registration materials are available at the front desk and please feel free to share with your friends and co-workers. Don't Wait – Sign Up for Summer Today!



- It's not too late to sign up for our September 2014 **Full-Day Kindergarten** program. There are a few spots left for this full day, state-certified program. See Sheryl for registration materials.



- Mark your calendar! **School pictures** will be taken on Monday, April 28th and Tuesday, April 29th.



- Please be sure to pick your child up promptly from their classroom to avoid unexpected late fees.



- The children celebrated St. Patrick's Day with cupcakes from Zoe's Cupcake Café in Teaneck. Zoe's Cupcake Café provides support to Zoe's Place, a program of Children's Aid and Family Services that provides safe, supervised housing and support services for pregnant teens and teenage mothers and their babies. Having a party or event? Why not "cupcater?" Please visit www.zoescupcakecafe.com or call 201-357-8828.
- Be sure to tell your friends about Turrell! If you refer a family to us, **you'll receive one weeks' free tuition** after they're enrolled for three months!

Turrell Child Care & Early Learning Center is affiliated with Children's Aid and Family Services. Children's Aid and Family Services has a 110-year history of helping vulnerable children and families. Our services include adoption, foster care, child care, and early education, alcohol and drug abuse education and prevention, eldercare and community educational programs and workshops. There are so many ways for you to get involved and make a difference.

Adopt.
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Volunteer.

For more information, call 201.261.2800 or visit www.cafsnj.org.

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