

Genesis Early Childhood Program News

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Developmental Milestones

From the Directors Mary Davis and Melanie Gehrt:

Parents often ask us, "Will you teach my child to read?" We always explain that in the preschool environment that those are not the skills that need to be developed, rather we teach all the skills necessary to be ready to read by the end of kindergarten. **Here is the breakdown of strategies by age:**

Most 18 month olds can:

- Look at and touch books
- Focus attention during familiar songs and rhymes
- Point to and names familiar characters, pictures in books

Most 2 year olds can:

- Explore books on own
- Sing along and play with sounds/words
- Recognize some print or symbols

Most 3 year olds can:

- Pretend to read using pictures to make up a story
- Can recognize some rhyming words
- Identify some letters and knows some letter sounds, especially in their own name

Most 4 year olds can:

- Make up rhymes
- With adult support, blend and separate compound words and isolate initial sounds
- Name 20 or more letters and 10 or more letter sounds
- Retells story after hearing it

So the bottom line is...read to your kids!

Upcoming Events

PETTING ZOO: The Petting Zoo will be visiting our school on **Wednesday, Jan. 23 and Thursday, Jan. 24**. In addition to the zoo animals, there will be pony and train rides. Permission slips and more info will go home later in January. All children must have signed permission slips to participate.

NO SCHOOL REMINDER: In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, there will be no school on **Monday, January 21**. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 22.

Early Registration Packets for 2019-20 will be sent via email on **Monday, Jan. 28 at 9:00 a.m.** and are due back no later than Friday, Feb. 8. Early registration will be available **ONLY** for the families currently enrolled in Genesis and their siblings. The other registrations will be at 8 a.m. in the Parish Life Center as follows:

Parishioner Priority Reg. Feb. 12

Open Registration Feb. 19

Registration operates on a first come, first serve basis. PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME CLASSES WILL FILL UP QUICKLY!

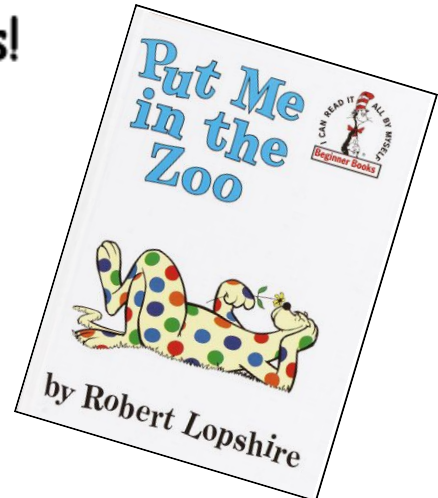
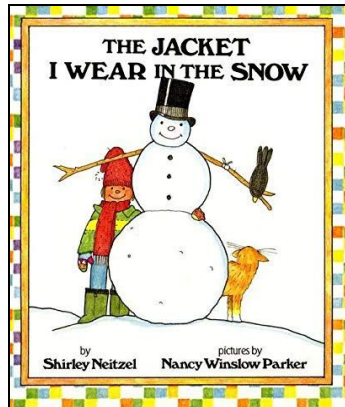
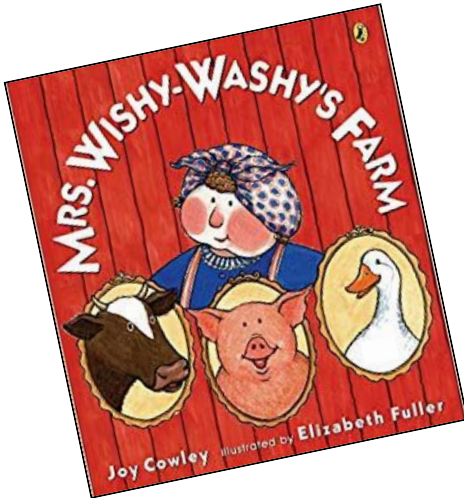
Be sure to return your completed paperwork and registration fee without delay to reserve a spot before Parishioner Registration.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU! We would like to give a special thanks to Jeannie Bergmann, who so graciously donated her time and equipment to take the Christmas Nativity pictures of all the Genesis children, and thanks to all the parent volunteers who helped. The pictures look amazing!

CURRICULUM CORNER

As we make personal resolutions in the new year, let us not forget that all children can benefit from some resolutions as well. As we reflect on the objectives we have for your children's development, many of these milestones could not be met without loving, consistent care and support from home. As a parent, we can never underestimate the benefit of good night's sleep, a healthy diet and a consistent schedule. These may translate to school by bringing a healthy snack and lunch, being on time each day, and getting a good night's sleep to give the brain enough rest to fully absorb all that the school environment has to offer. And again, reading to your child each day is a huge factor in their language and literacy development. The steps you take as parents in the home environment will have a tremendous impact on your child's growth and development.

Read Along With Us!



4 YEAR OLDS

Winter fun with math concepts will start in the new year for the 4s. We will work on size ordering, number correspondence and shape recognition. We will use Jan Brett's book, "The Mitten," to work on sequencing and fine motor skills. At the end of the month, we will enjoy a focus on recognition of letters and phonemic awareness as we work through our mid-year assessments.

3 YEAR OLDS

Brrr... It's cold outside! This month we are celebrating winter with ice experiments like instant snow in our sensory tub. We are continuing our scissor practice by cutting straws and yarn. We will be busy with our letter recognition by continuing to create our ABC process art book.

2 YEAR OLDS

We will be exploring the season of winter with sorting jumbo blue and white pom poms, writing in "ice" (really salt) and building igloos with real ice cubes in our sensory tubs. We will work on matching after reading the book "Mrs. Wishy Washy" by Joy Cowley. Farm toys and animals will be added to blocks to expand our vocabularies as we prepare for the Petting Zoo coming on Jan. 23 and 24. Playing in play dough will help the 2s continue to strengthen their tiny hand muscles for cutting and writing.

18 MONTH OLDS

The 18 month olds will begin the new year by working on gross motor skills like riding a tricycle and walking on a beam. For fine motor skills, we will paint. Finally, we will be sorting by color and shape to work our cognitive and fine motor skills.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: This month, we will be singing about arctic animals while working on our fine motor skills! We will be dancing, singing, jumping, moving and grooving to music from all around the world! We will be listening to music from Cuba, countries in Africa and Russia! An exciting month is ahead of us!

BIBLE: Happy New Year! We will begin the month learning of Jesus' life as a child and the beginning of his ministry. We will also learn about the sacrament of Baptism.

SCIENCE: In Science this month, we will explore the Five Senses! Our experiments will navigate through sight, touch, sound, smell and taste!