



CREATIVE ACADEMY  
EARLY LEARNING CENTER

July-September 2022

# FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Literacy Corner

### Infants

- ◇ Make time for songs as part of your baby's daily routine. Try playing recordings of soothing songs during quiet play. Sing lively songs—including made up songs—while playing together. Offer your baby rattles or other simple rhythm instruments to tap along with the song. At first you may need to help your baby hold an shake a rattle or other music maker.
- ◇ Talk during diaper changes with your baby. Name and describe the items you are using and what you're doing. When possible, let your baby hold things such as a diaper and then ask for them. "We are all done with wiping your bottom. Now we need the diaper. Can you give daddy the diaper? Thank you! You gave me the diaper. Now we are all done!"
- ◇ Together with your child provide a bowl or bucket of water along with sponges. Encourage your baby to squeeze, shake, and toss the wet sponges. Describe to your baby what is happening. "The sponge is wet. Ooh, it's cold! Cold water!" This type of activity helps strengthen the same muscles that your child will later use for writing.
- ◇ During summer outings point to the words on signs. Tell your baby what those signs and words mean. This early exposure helps your child begin to notice print in his/her environment and its purpose.



### Toddlers

- ◇ If you are taking a family vacation, prepare your toddler by sharing books and brochures about how you will travel and talk about your destination. Engage your child in talk about how long the trip will take, what you will see along the way, and what you will do when you get there.
- ◇ Encourage your toddler to talk about summer clothes as you help with dressing each morning. Make it a game by asking your toddler "Can you find your sandals? Which are your favorite shorts to wear?" If you are taking a trip, invite your toddler to help you pack a bag by asking your child to put in his/her favorite shoes, pajamas, etc.
- ◇ Let your toddler explore blue and yellow non toxic finger paint on a cookie sheet or waxed paper. Help him/her to finger draw shapes, lines and squiggles. Point out how a new color magically appears.
- ◇ Ask your toddler to choose a paint color from a set of water-based paints. Take him/her outdoors to paint a picture with that color on paper using a large brush. Ask him/her about the picture and write out your child's words describing it.

### Pre-school/Pre-K

- ◇ Help your child start a simple "collection" of interesting "finds" from nature walks around the backyard or in parks. Ask him/her to arrange them in order from most favorite treasure to the least favorite. Ask your child to describe the objects by shape, color, size, etc. "Why is this one your favorite rock? Where did you find it?"
- ◇ Have a picnic outside with your child. Invite your preschooler to help you create a menu. Begin by asking "What would you like to eat for our picnic? What will we drink?" Let your child help with some of the meal preparation and packing.
- ◇ Create a treasure hunt by hiding one of your favorite toys in the sandbox or in the backyard. Write clues for finding it using pictures and words. Help you child find the clues until the treasure is discovered. Encourage your child to draw clues and play again.
- ◇ Before taking a trip, prepare your child by reading books and brochures together about where you are traveling. Explore the materials together, reading while pointing to the words that describe each picture.

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## July-September 2022 CLOSINGS

Labor Day  
Monday September 5

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## Annual Calendar

Annual calendar for 2022-2023 has been posted to the Creative Academy website.

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## EPR Plan

The updated Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan has been posted to the website as of July 11, 2022.

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# Question of the Quarter

## What can I do at home to improve my child's social skills?

3 Basic Strategies to help your child at home are:

  Identify and talk about your child's feelings – Help your child to identify feelings by providing pictures of children and read books about feelings/emotions. Discuss your child's feelings as they are exhibiting them. Let him/her know it is ok to feel the way they feel. "I see you are angry. I know you are mad because you wanted to play with that toy. It's ok to be mad, but it is not ok to hit."  ??

2. Give your child ways to calm himself/herself down—Your child may have a special toy or soothing technique (thumb sucking) to use to calm down. Give your child a squeeze ball when he/she is feeling angry and tell him/her to squeeze the ball as hard they can to get the "mads" out. When your child is upset, use a calming voice and gentle touch and acknowledge how he/she feels.

  Give your child a set a 3-5 rules based on his/her age—simple rules such as clean up toys when finished, quiet voices inside, etc. will help your child to use appropriate behavior between both school and home. Children need expectations and consequences. Make sure that when rules are broken that there are reasonable consequences and that you follow through. Remember to praise your child when following rules and exhibiting appropriate behavior.

## Parent Handbook Policy Highlight

### Illness Policy



According to NC Division of Child Development and Early Education in conjunction with the Health Department regulations, children will not be allowed to attend the center if they exhibit the following symptoms. Please make arrangements to keep your child home if they have a (n):

**Fahrenheit temperature of 101 degrees or over, until 24 hours fever free (even with doctors note).**

Two or more episodes of vomiting within a 12 hour period, for 24 hours from time of last episode.

Sudden onset of diarrhea characterized by an increased number of bowel movements (**2 loose bowel movements**) compared to the child's normal pattern and with increased stool water, for 24 hours after last episode.

Please refer to the Parent Handbook for other symptoms that require a child to be excluded from care.

If your child exhibits any of these symptoms, they must be symptom free for 24 hours before they can return to care. If your child has a fever, he/she may not return until they have been fever free for a full 24 hours without the aid of medication. If your child has been prescribed medication due to a contagious illness/virus, they may not return to childcare until 24 hours after their first dose.

No child shall be permitted to attend Creative Academy if there is evidence of an infectious or contagious illness. Refer to **Appendix A from Caring for Our Children** that was provided at enrollment.

Please refer to the Child Care Strong Handbook located on the Creative Academy website for information concerning exclusion for COVID related illness.

