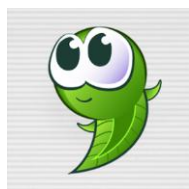




## May Excitement...

Here we are in May already and "boy" are we busy! Please make sure to read May's entire newsletter to make sure you mark all the events that we have planned on your calendars.

### Tadpoles/Links 2 Home...



**As of Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Tadpoles application will go live. What does that mean for you the parent...You will begin to receive pictures and daily information from your child's teacher.**

**For those of you who have not turned your Tadpole application only one parent will get the information. Please stop by the office to complete this process.**

**Thank you for your help in this new way of communication and we are looking forward to sharing more of your child's day with you.**

## fyi,

**Pre-K Celebrations** will be held on Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The celebrations will be held in the morning...More information will follow at the end of May.

**Kindergarten Graduation** will be held on Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>...Time will be announced later in the month of May.

**2016/17 School Year** classroom moves will begin the last week of June and or 1<sup>st</sup> week of July. It takes 3 to 4 scheduled weeks during the summer to complete the transition to one age group to another. We will be putting out a more detailed update in June.



May 9<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>

We will be celebrating "Teacher Appreciation Week!" You as the parent are invited to show your appreciation throughout the week in any style you want. Examples from previous years include children bringing in homemade cards, flowers and or treats for the teachers to enjoy during the week. We have up in the front an information sheet on your child's teacher that will let you know what their favorites are (candy, flower, color etc...) Please let us know if you would like a copy.

## Sun Block



Our sunny warm weather has returned...As a reminder you need to have a permission slip filled out monthly and a bottle of sunblock on file for us to apply sunscreen on your child. Please apply sun block in the morning before arriving and we will reapply sun block before going outside in the afternoon after 2:30pm. Keep in mind that sunscreen needs to be replaced yearly, so it might be time for a new bottle...check with your child's teachers

Mother's Day is Sunday,  
May 8<sup>th</sup>...

We would like to invite all of our Moms to come and enjoy a morning "Coffee" on us, Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> in honor of Mother's Day. We will be serving "yummy" coffee and tea from 7am to 9:30am to go...Take a moment to stop by your child's room to pick up your Mother's Day gift.

**HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**



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# Building Your Child's Sense of Family Belonging

Relationships with family members play an important role as children begin to develop a sense of self. When they feel a sense of identity and belonging within their own families, children are better able to grow emotionally, make friends, and appreciate and accept the diversity of others.

With Mother's Day right around the corner, it's a great time to share activities that celebrate the importance of family.

Below are age appropriate activities that we implement in the classroom, as well as activities you can do with your child at home.



## **INFANTS/TODDLERS:**

**In the classroom:** Teachers use baby sign language to help children identify and eventually verbalize names for their family members. When parents enter the classroom, teachers say, "Look! Here's Sophia's mommy," while also signing "mommy." They work with parents to learn specific names used at home, and then use those names in the classroom.

**At home:** Use baby sign language as you come across names of family members in books and songs. To sign "mommy," tap your thumb on your chin repeatedly. To sign "daddy," tap your thumb on your forehead repeatedly. Remember to say the word aloud as you sign.

**Recommended reading:** *Spot Loves His Mommy* by Eric Hill, *Are You my Mother?* by PD Eastman

## **BEGINNERS (ages 2-3):**

**In the classroom:** By age two, children begin to learn the names of extended family members, such as grandmother, uncle and cousin. They practice using these words as they talk about their families. After sorting stuffed animals by type, teachers might say, "This is the horse's family. He has a big family. Who's in your family?"

**At home:** Give your child play dough and encourage him to create the members of his family. Afterward, ask him to count and name them. This activity helps him conceptualize that multiple people make up his entire family and gives you insight into what family means to your child at his particular point in development.

**Recommended reading:** *On Mother's Lap* by Ann Herbert Scott, *Oonga Boonga* by Frieda Wishinsky

### INTERMEDIATES (ages 3-4):

**In the classroom:** As children read stories about diverse families, teachers encourage them to share unique details about their own families. For example, teachers might ask, "Who has a sister?" or "Who has a pet?" Afterward, students create charts with the information.

**At home:** Have each member of your family make a thumbprint using finger paint on a piece of paper side by side. Then, ask your child to compare the various sizes, and guess which thumbprint belongs to each person. As they talk about their family members, they begin to appreciate what makes their family unique.

**Recommended reading:** *Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell, *What Mommies Do Best* and *What Daddies Do Best* by Laura Numeroff

### PRE-K/PRE-K 2 (ages 4-5):

**In the classroom:** Our older preschoolers begin to understand that their parents have more than one role. Family members are invited to visit and talk to the class about their roles inside and outside of the home. Students are encouraged to write and draw their family members in the different roles they serve. For example, "Mommy is a doctor."

**At home:** Go on an uninterrupted family outing with your child. Try to avoid checking work emails or answering unimportant phone calls. Afterward, ask your child to write about his favorite parts of the day in his journal.

**Recommended reading:** *Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother Too?* by Eric Carle, *The Napping House* by Audrey Wood

All of our schools will be celebrating families in really fun ways this Mother's Day season, and we hope that you do too!

- Lauren Starnes, PhD – Director of Early Childhood Education

**Mother's Day word search**

S	R	C	G	E	L	D	I	O	D
P	M	M	F	L	O	W	E	R	S
O	U	T	S	D	N	I	E	B	K
L	M	P	L	S	O	T	D	N	I
C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	S
G	R	A	N	D	M	A	T	G	S
I	W	O	N	D	E	R	F	U	L
C	A	R	I	N	G	I	F	T	M
E	L	O	V	E	L	Y	R	X	R
K	I	N	D	N	C	E	I	K	N

Can you find these onomatopoeic words in the word search?

- MUM
- GRANDMA
- LOVE
- GIFT
- FLOWERS
- CHOCOLATES
- KISS
- CARING
- LOVELY
- KIND
- WONDERFUL

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