

The themes we will be highlighting this month are ...



Infants A & B – Dreamers ~ Theme: Water Babies

In July, we will enjoy water play and summer fun activities. Topics such as things that go on land and in the water, along with bookmaking, body painting, and outdoor fun. Our Fourth of July celebration will be kicking off when we make our red, white, and blue masterpieces. Our brain development will be enhanced with the repetition of Jack and Jill, our Rhyme of the Month. There is never a dull moment in our Dreamers classroom!



Jr. Toddlers – Travelers ~ Theme: Dip, Dive, and Dig

We are ready to dip, dive, and dig into new activities. We will enjoy Circle Time outside as the children experience reading, songs, rhymes, and finger plays. Painting and games in the patio shade will keep us cool. We will explore red, white, and blue as we celebrate the holiday.



Sr. Toddlers – Adventurers ~ Theme: Bubbles, Bears, and Blocks

We have a lot of great activities ready to go as we start to learn about one another and explore our very first friendships. As toddlers, we will experience creative representation through movement, dance, songs, and so much more.



3s – Discoverers ~ Theme: Birthdays, Booms, and Bangs

We will learn about birthday traditions, as well as simple drum beats and rhythms, to go with the Fourth of July celebration. We will learn our own birth dates while developing an awareness of loud and soft sounds. Making models, drawing, and exploration using the five senses are just a few of our fun experiences.



4s – Voyagers ~ Theme: Through the Looking Glass

We are going to learn about the different kinds of hot air balloons and pretend to ride in one. We will make up dialogue for characters that use “speech” balloons like those used in comics. Language and literacy experiences will help us learn to classify different objects, use creative representation, and so much more. Summer learning is so much fun!



School Age Explorers ~ Theme: #ThePerfectLegacySummer

The celebration begins in July with *Week #1 ~ Happy Birthday America*. Our artistic side will be on display during *Week #2 ~ Creative Explosion*. Our unpredictable nature will be tested as we explore *Week #3 ~ Mad Scientist*. The perfect opportunity to shine our light will be during *Week #4 ~ It's Showtime*. Our grand finale, as we wrap up #ThePerfectLegacySummer will be during *Week #5 ~ Leaving a Legacy*.

It's going to be a summer to remember!

~ Let's Explore Fine Motor Skills ~

Fine motor skills involve small movements of the wrists, hands, fingers, and the feet and toes. Children use these skills to feed and dress themselves, brush their teeth and hair, snap their fingers, draw and write, and especially to play. Picking up objects between the thumb and finger, require the strengthening of tiny muscles in a purposeful and accurate way. As these skills work together with the brain, coordination develops.

At this age

Children
Birth to
One:

- Begin to reach for items with one hand as they gain control of their arms
- Are able to grasp, squeeze and hold items as their tiny hand muscles get stronger
- Can pinch and hold items between their thumb and index finger at 12 months
- Will find an item with their eyes and reach for it with accuracy and intention

Babies need plenty of different types of rattles to grasp, hold and explore. Safe-size finger foods can be introduced when babies are able to pick them up on their own.

At this age...

Children
One to
Two:

- Are developing fine motor control using their arms, hands, and fingers in one motion
- Make daily advancements in eye-hand coordination as they connect seeing to doing
- Enjoy using their hands and fingers to pick up, move, push and pull different size items
- Can turn pages, roll a ball, use a spoon, make marks on paper and stack blocks

Provide plenty of opportunities for your little one to practice using their hands as they play. Poking at bubbles and tearing paper into little pieces make little ones smile.

At this age

Children
Two to
Three

- Are showing signs of coordination as they connect control of their palm to their fingers
- Use both hands with accuracy when playing with toys, musical instruments and balls
- Enjoy making marks on paper using a variety of drawing and writing tools
- Can combine eye-hand coordination and thinking skills to put together knob puzzles

Rotate books, puzzles, and toys on a weekly basis to give children the opportunity to strengthen hand and finger muscles. Play time is practice time as children grow.

At this age

Children
Three to
Four

- May begin to prefer using one hand over another
- Enjoy exploring many different types of arts and crafts materials in creative ways
- Like to practice drawing, tracing, coloring, cutting and gluing whenever they can
- Can put puzzles together that have small pieces and no knobs

Manipulatives like Legos, small blocks, and animals, along with play dough, beads for stringing, lacing and weaving are great for strengthening muscles as they grow.

At this age

Children
Four to
Five

- Have refined and coordinated the use of their wrist, hand and fingers for writing
- Can hold writing tools with three fingers to make tiny, precise marks
- Enjoy exploring the use of tools like a hole punch, stapler, roll of tape and paper clips
- Able to perform self-help skills such as buttoning, zipping, tying, and lacing

Opportunities to explore different writing tools should be plentiful. Molding materials such as clay and playdough can be used to make objects resembling people and animals.

Fine Motor Workout

Fine motor skills develop naturally as children’s small muscles strengthen. Hands and fingers, and feet and toes, all need a daily workout. A fine motor workout for children is all about fun and games paired with arts and crafts. You’ll make memories together as you play!

Choking can happen when you least expect it and when you are totally prepared. Be on the safe side and be ready by following the suggested guidelines below:

1. Do not leave your child alone while playing with small items.
2. Check play and craft items using a “choke test tube.”
3. Take CPR and First Aid classes offered in your community.
4. Play along-side your child to learn what they are developmentally capable of exploring.



WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD — Small parts not for children under 3 years or any individuals who have a tendency to place inedible objects in their mouths.

The list below includes a wide variety of small objects that children will eagerly explore and manipulate. As they explore each type of object, encourage them to be creative.

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| 1. Avery dots | 8. nuts and bolts | 15. stickers |
| 2. beads | 9. paint | 16. straws |
| 3. clothespins | 10. pipe cleaners | 17. tongs |
| 4. cotton swabs | 11. play dough | 18. turkey baster |
| 5. hole punch | 12. pom poms | 19. tweezers |
| 6. mini-sponges | 13. scissor | 20. weaving mat |
| 7. molding clay | 14. stamps | 21. yarn |



Make it fun by putting together a kit using one of the storage suggestions below. Remember, items need to be frequently rotated to spark children’s interest. Encourage children to play with items on a table in the kitchen or den where you will be able to watch them as they explore. Items they find fascinating will not only hold their interest, but strengthen their muscles as well.



lunch box



shoe box



plastic jars



suitcase



picnic basket



plastic bin