



PRESCHOOL NEWS

April
2010

Mrs. Houldsworth's Class

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1st - PTA Meeting at 6:30
- April 21st - Coffee with Carozza
- April 26th - 30th - **SPRING VACATION**

REMINDERS

- April 19th to the 25th is turn off the TV week.
- The school will be collecting canned goods for the food pantry each month

Children Who Just Watch

While many young children, when given the opportunity, will immediately engage in play with others, families and early childhood teachers often encounter children who want only to watch from the side. These children will watch others playing around them - without actually getting involved.

Family members and teachers may be anxious when preschoolers do not engage in play with other children, but this "onlooker stage of play" can be an important step in the social development of young children. It is an opportunity for young children to learn and mentally practice interacting with others. With adult guidance, they'll benefit from this thoughtful time.

In the onlooker stage, children don't physically interact, but their minds and feelings are fully engaged in the play of others. You can see it in their faces and body language. Their faces may break into smiles at the antics of other children pretending to be monkeys and gorillas.

This engagement offers children opportunities to mentally manipulate what they see and hear, organizing and integrating information and storing it away for future use. The children may actually be mentally placing themselves into a situation they are observing, and testing how they might respond if they were involved.

All young children do some watching; some young children do it a lot. We now know that this is a valuable experience for children. Perhaps we should allow them more time to watch and learn. When the time is right, they will be more comfortable and successful moving into the world of full social interaction.



Themes This Month

It's hard to believe that it is April already!

In April our focus will be on flowers and their many names. This will be a nice review of all the colors we have learned this year. Our new color this month will be green and our shape will be a square. We will read the book Planting A Rainbow by Lois Ehlert. Look for our classroom to begin to blossom!

PLEASE HELP US OUT

We are looking for the following items for our classroom:

- Newspaper
- Pails shovels and sand toys for our outdoor sand area