

Genesis Early Childhood Program News

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Developmental Milestones

From the Directors Mary Davis and Melanie Gehrt:

Language Development is critical and one of the areas that really can be enhanced in a preschool setting like Genesis. The big takeaway for all of us is to talk to kids often and meaningfully. Don't "dumb down" your language for kids, because they catch more than you may think! Check out the free app from the CDC with developmental milestone tracking--search CDC's Milestone Tracker.

Most 18 month olds can:

- Says several words.
- Says or shakes head "no."
- Points to show others something interesting.



Most 2 year olds can:

- Says 2-4 word sentences.
- Repeats words overheard in conversation.

Most 3 year olds can:

- Can name most familiar things.
- Says words like "I," "me," "we," and some plurals (cars, dogs, cats).
- Talks well enough for strangers to understand most of the time.
- Carries on conversation using 2 to 3 sentences.

Most 4 year olds can:

- Knows some basic rules of grammar, such as correctly using "he" and "she."
- Sings a song or says a poem from memory.
- Tells stories.
- Can say first and last name.

Most 5 year olds can:

- Speaks very clearly.
- Tells a simple story using full sentences.
- Uses future tense. For example, "Grandma will be here."
- Says name and address.

Upcoming Events

PUMPKIN TASTING PARTIES: We would like to give a BIG THANK YOU to all the parents who helped with our Pumpkin Tasting Parties! This event would not be possible without all your donations and help!

SERVICE PROJECT: We will be collaborating with our "Sister Parish", Our Mother of Mercy on a toy drive for our Christmas Service Project this year. We will be collecting toys and gifts for the children and teens of families in the 5th ward. If you would like to help, please bring the requested items to our reception area by **Friday, Dec. 7.**

THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATIONS: Thank you for your generous donations of food for the needy. This year, Genesis was able to donate six 45 gallon tubs of food to Cypress Assistance Ministries!

HOLIDAY PARTIES: Classes will be celebrating the holidays with parties at 1:15 p.m. in their classrooms on **Wednesday, Dec. 19 or Thursday, Dec. 20.** More details from the teachers will be coming home at a later date.

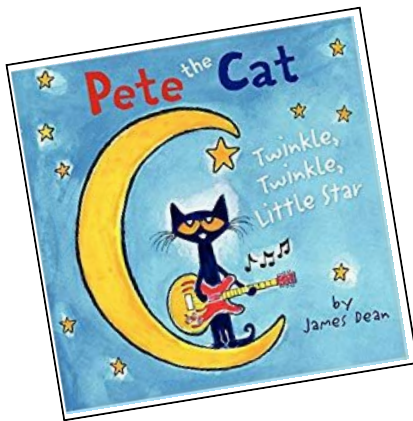
CHRISTMAS BREAK: There will be no classes for the Christmas Break starting on Monday, Dec. 24. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019.

GENESIS ECP wishes all of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas. HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!

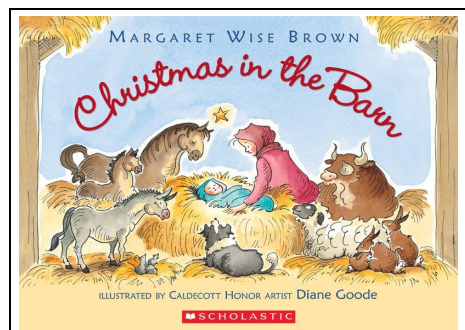
It's Not Just Play!

CURRICULUM CORNER

The Center for the Developing Child at Harvard University had the following insightful article on their website. "Executive and self-regulation skills are the mental processes that enable us to plan, focus attention, remember instructions, and juggle multiple tasks successfully. Just as an air traffic control system at a busy airport safely manages the arrivals and departures of many aircraft on multiple runways, the brain needs this skill set to filter distractions, prioritize tasks, set and achieve goals, and control impulses. When children have opportunities to develop executive function and self-regulation skills, individuals and society experience lifelong benefits. . . . Providing the support that children need to build these skills at home, in early care and education programs, and in other settings they experience regularly is one of society's most important responsibilities. . . . Adults can facilitate the development of a child's executive function skills by establishing routines, modeling social behavior, and creating and maintaining supportive, reliable relationships. It is also important for children to exercise their developing skills through activities that foster creative play and social connection, teach them how to cope with stress, involve vigorous exercise, and over time, provide opportunities for directing their own actions with decreasing adult supervision." <https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/executive-function/>
Enjoy an experiment used for many years to test executive function in children. Be prepared to laugh! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo4WF3cSd9Q>



Read Along With Us!



4 YEAR OLDS

In December, the 4s will focus on cognitive concepts like size ordering, patterning and discriminating shape and color. Activities like wrapping gifts will continue to work little finger muscles. This will also help build finger and hand strength and stability. That extra strength and stability will help with developing a better tripod pencil grasp for ease and comfort of future writing. Also helping future writing, we will be doing a dictation activity about what gift they would bring to baby Jesus.

3 YEAR OLDS

We are getting in the holiday spirit right away by having a gingerbread hunt! This will help with sequencing and deductive reasoning. We will be decorating Christmas trees and building nativity scenes in the block center. Look for our class Christmas trees that will be growing this month! These trees will help us to recognize our name.

2 YEAR OLDS

The 2s are learning about the colors red and green and the shiny yellow star that led us to baby Jesus. Painting and gluing will help our fingers get stronger. Also, we will be learning some Christmas songs that we will show off at the Christmas Party.

18 MONTH OLDS

Our 18 month olds continue to work on fine motor skills by transferring objects by hand and gross motor skills by pushing and pulling objects and climbing our foam play station.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

BIBLE: We will start the month celebrating Saint Nicholas and preparing for Advent. We will also learn about the birth of Jesus and get ready to celebrate His birthday.

MUSIC AND MOVEMENT: Jesus is coming! We will be learning, singing and dancing about Christmas and winter! We will travel in different ways (marching, tip-toeing, skipping, crawling) to follow the star to Jesus! We will also be barn animals to welcome Jesus into the world. Of course, we will be singing Christmas songs and playing jingle bells! We would also like to take this time to say goodbye and thank you to Katelyn, as she will be leaving Genesis for a full time opportunity to use her music therapy skills! Best wishes to you, Katelyn!

SCIENCE: Sink or float? We will find the answer to the question does this object sink or float using various liquids in Science this month.