

# Genesis Early Childhood Program News

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## Developmental Milestones

*From the Directors Mary Davis and Melanie Gehrt:*

Generally, fine motor development occurs naturally as children explore the world around them. At Genesis, we work the tiny muscles needed for a proficient grasp throughout the age groups and focus on the pencil grasp more intentionally in the 2nd half of the 3's year and all year in our 4 year old classrooms. Below shows the developmental continuum for the fine motor domain.

### Most 18 month olds & 2 year olds:

- Try different ways to hold and use writing/painting tools
- Scribbles on own
- Drinks from a cup/eats with spoon
- Helps dress themselves

### Most 2 year olds can:

- Make or copy straight lines and circles.

### Most 3 year olds can:

- Use writing and drawing tools to pretend to write
- Attempts to copy letters or symbols

### Most 4 year olds can:

- Write or pretend to write to convey meanings
- Write some alphabet letters
- Write his or her name.

Please provide children opportunities at home to do things themselves. If they don't have the chance or expectation that they can be competent in many ways, they will not come to believe that they are competent. We always joke that the beginning of a good pencil grasp begins as a baby eating Cheerios off a high chair tray! That is hours of simple enjoyment!

## Upcoming Events

Pizza and PJ Day will be on **Wednesday, Feb. 6** and **Thursday, Feb. 7**. Your child will not need to bring a lunch on that day. If you have allergy concerns, please speak with your child's teacher. Please keep in mind that your children will still be playing outside and will need appropriate shoes for outdoor play. We are asking for \$3 from each child to cover the costs.

**VALENTINE'S EXCHANGE:** All classes will have a Valentine's Exchange during center time on **Wednesday, Feb. 13** or **Thursday, Feb 14**. The classes will **not** be having specific Valentine's parties.

**CFISD HOLIDAY:** **Monday, Feb. 18** is President's Day. There will be no classes in observance of this holiday. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

**PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES:** We will be holding Parent Teacher Conferences with the parents of our **4 year old classes only** on **Monday, Feb. 18th**. Please watch for the sign-up sheets in the classroom in the coming weeks.

**RODEO DAYS** will be **Wednesday, Feb. 27** and **Thursday, Feb. 28**. The schedule for Rodeo Days will be sent home later in the month.

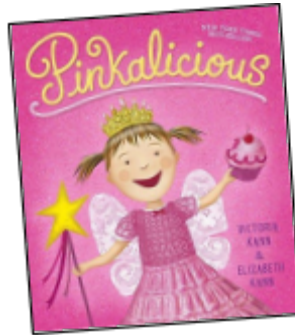
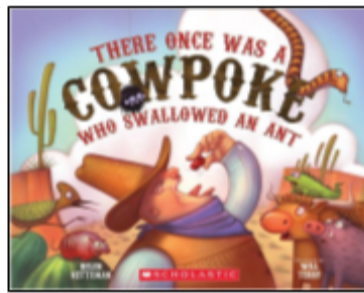
### Genesis Early Registration for 2019-20:

Registration information with a link to the forms has been sent home with your child. Limited spaces remain in several of our programs. The registration package (with the exception of the Immunization Records and Child Statement of Health), in addition to the registration fee of \$125, will be due back no later than **Feb. 8** to insure your spot. Registration for parishioners will be Feb. 12 at 8:00 am and Open Registration is on Feb. 19 at 8:00 am in the Genesis Reception area.

## CURRICULUM CORNER

Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do as a parent to help them grow in so many developmental areas. Please read to your children every day to help build their vocabularies, explore the world beyond them and familiarize them with early print concepts. Each of our teachers has a favorite children's book or author. Feel free to ask your child's teacher her favorites if you are looking for your child's next favorite book!

## Read Along With Us!



### 4 YEAR OLDS

This month, our 4s will use dramatic play to explore complex concepts. This will help expand their knowledge of parts vs. whole (pizza), spatial awareness (cowboy art) and sequencing of events (following a treasure map!). Using the book "Lunch" by Denise Fleming, the 4s will learn to use descriptive words (adjectives) for fruits and vegetables and about nutritious foods.

### 3 YEAR OLDS

Who wants some pizza pie? The 3s are going to use their social skills in the Dramatic Play center by dressing up in a pizzeria with chef hats and aprons. We will trade our playdough this month for real pizza dough! For a class snack, we will create Pete's jacket with his four groovy buttons, from the book "Pete the Cat and his 4 Groovy Buttons."

### 2 YEAR OLDS

The 2s continue to build fine motor skills, especially cutting. We will be moving from cutting play dough to paper strips. We will also be using many different colors, shapes and textures of hearts for sorting and counting. They will learn about the state of Texas through process art.

### 18 MONTH OLDS

The 18 month olds will work on jumping and kicking a ball for gross motor skills. Also, we will be playing with play dough to exercise our tiny hands which works on our fine motor skills. Additionally, we will be painting and coloring focusing on the same stroke motion used in writing.

### ENRICHMENT CLASSES

**BIBLE:** We will start the month learning about some of Jesus' wonderful miracles. We will also learn about love and kindness and celebrate Saint Valentine.

**MUSIC AND MOVEMENT:** This month, we will make a big pizza using our parachute. We will also play pirates and walk the plank. For Valentine week, we will "love one another" with songs and fingerplays.

**SCIENCE:** February Science is all about magnets and the Scientific Process. Our classes will discover items that are magnetic versus items that are not. We will close out the month using balance scales: how many teddy bears do you need to equal the weight of a rock?