

A. Mac's "Kool Kids' News"

News from Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center

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How often do you 'chat' with your child?

Chatting with children helps them develop language skills. This benefits them throughout life, including when they learn to read. It also builds social skills and self-esteem. When you talk to your child-and listen to their responses-you show how important they are. For example, you can:

- **Talk with your child during everyday tasks.** Mention what you're doing – eating, washing dishes, measuring ingredients.
- **Point out colors, shapes, sizes and letters.** Once your child becomes familiar with items, give them an opportunity to name them.
- **Make comments and ask questions** as your child plays. "Wow! Those racecars go fast. Where are they going?"
- **Give your child plenty of time to think and answer.** You can even say, "That's great. Can you tell me more?"
- **Review past activities.** "That was a wonderful trip to the zoo. Which animal did you like best? Why?"

Source: "Helping your child become a reader," U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/reader/index.html.

Yvonne McQueen

Calling all Dads!

Fathers! Parenting is not easy, but you have a special place in your children's lives and your interest in them can make a significant difference. Children whose fathers take an active part in their daily lives tend to be well-adjusted and better equipped for success. Take pride in your responsibilities and efforts.

10 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL DADS

1. Spend time with your child. For children love is spelled T-I-M-E.
2. Play with your children. Through play, men teach self-control and perseverance to kids.
3. Be a good role model. Lasting values are "caught" by children more than "taught".
4. Respect you child's mother. A child's self concept is strongly linked to how their parents interact.
5. Discipline with love. Give clear guidelines and correct with kindness.
6. Be a good teacher. Take daily opportunities to help children develop a love for learning.
7. Eat meals together. Regular meals provide opportunity for healthy interactions.
8. Read to your children. Children read to daily have great advantages in their education.
9. Show physical affection. Children feel more secure with regular comfort from fathers.
10. Stick with it! Never quit! Be patient with your children and yourself.

Adapted from the Michigan Fatherhood Coalition

Brenda Moore



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE CORNER

Research tells us that children who have strong oral language skills often have strong reading and writing skills. Educators and parents should encourage oral language even at the earliest stages of a child's development. The following is a list of strategies to help promote oral language development in young children:

1. Talk with your children whenever possible. They love to talk about their friends, families and favorite activities.
2. Get close and listen to your children. The child should be able to see your lips and facial expressions, hear your voice clearly and make eye contact. It's also important to send a clear message to your child that you're listening by nodding or saying "mm-hmm" or "then what happened?"
3. Respond and expand. If your child says, "I like apples". You could say, "I like apples too. What color do you like best?" This helps keep the conversation going.
4. Talk about what you're doing. This type of talking exposes kids to language in general involves them in learning conversational skills and helps them acquire new vocabulary skills.
5. Tell stories. Tell stories everyday about events from the past and things that are going to happen.
6. Use appropriate levels of vocabulary. We need to be careful not to use too many new words and be sure the child is able to keep up and understand.
7. Provide prompts that promote oral language. Items such as microphones, old telephones, and even paper towel tubes can be great fun!

Adapted from Super Duper Handy Handouts

Vera Bartold & Dawn Wright

CLASSROOM NEWS

Mrs. Delargey, Mrs. Bommarito & Mrs. Smith's classroom:

What a busy month! Our first week back in the New Year, we read many versions of the gingerbread. Some were about a boy, some about a man, 1 about a girl & 1 even about a cowboy! Then we made some cookies where we were the fox and ate our gingerbread man after we decorated it.

Next, we heard stories about Martin Luther King. He wanted everyone to be friends. We also had a Beach Day. That was fun!!! We made sand to eat with our pudding. (Vanilla wafers pounded into little pieces to sprinkle on our pudding)

Finally, we started talking about winter. We read stories about mittens. Did you know that some animals went into mittens? One of our stories we read had the mitten stretching with 8 animals in it and the other had the mitten with 9 animals exploding!

Mrs. Labadie's and Ms. Meader's classroom:

The children are learning the days of the week and practicing counting to 10. I encourage you to talk to your children about the calendar by counting every day. We will also stress matching and naming the basic colors and shapes.

We've read stories about mittens, snow and snowmen and activities that occur during the winter. We will be doing a penguin unit in the next few weeks.

We are looking forward to our Valentine's Day party when the children will be handing out candy and cards as well as creating several art projects on the same theme. A note will be coming home with details in a week or two.

Mrs. Dumala and Ms. Finner's classroom:

January has been a very busy month for us. We completed our "Healthy You" unit. We spent a lot of time learning about the importance of exercise, selecting healthy foods, dental health and safety. Our dramatic play area was turned into a doctor's office where the children could play the roles of a receptionist, doctor, nurse and patient. We learned the letter and sounds for Nn, Aa, Dd, and Vv this month. The children really enjoyed the "Dog Chow" we made and ate for the letter D. If you are interested in making it at home I will provide you with an easy step by step recipe that the children were able to follow.

We also did a Gingerbread unit this month. We read many versions of the story, cut out and decorated construction paper gingerbread men or women, made headbands, made gingerbread men with play dough and even baked a large one ourselves and had to follow clues around the school to find him. He jumped right out of the oven. After going on a hunt throughout the school we did find him and we all enjoyed eating him. Yummy!!! We spent a few days learning about the importance of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Miyamoto's class joined us to make MLK and did they ever turn out cute. Be sure to look for them when they are sent home. After reading a book called "Young Martin Luther King Jr., I Have a Dream" we watched a movie called "My Friend Martin". This allowed the children to visualize what Mr. King went through and what he has done for our country.

This month we are beginning the "Finny, Feathery, Furry Friends" unit. We will explore pets, farm animals, wild animals and creepy crawlies. Children will continue with phonological awareness of beginning sounds and counting and discriminating syllables. We will continue with letters Ee, Cc, Hh, Yy this month.

Mrs. Langworthy & Ms. Houston's classroom:

Wow! We had a lot of fun in January! We started the month by learning nursery rhymes. Our class helped Little Bo Peep find her sheep, moved Little Boy Blue all around the haystack, jumped over "candlesticks" like Jack be Nimble, pushed Humpty Dumpty off a wall and made the Itsy Bitsy Spider go up the water spout!

Next, we learned about shapes. We learned to recognize and name circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, diamonds, ovals, hearts, and stars. Our class looked for items in our classroom that looked like each shape. We even made pictures using these shapes!

In order to give ourselves a break from all of the cold weather, our class took part in 'Beach Day.' Students were invited to wear beach clothes and we had a special snack. We had a blast!



Mrs. Miyamoto and Mrs. King's classroom:

We have started our new unit, Healthy You. Thank you to all the wonderful donations we have received to make this unit such a success. Dr. Chomper's Office is now up and running and has a reception area, a waiting room, and of course, the patient room. The children are enjoying taking turns being the Dentist, Doctor, Nurse, and patient. We have talked in detail about what goes on in both a Doctor's office and dentist office. We have been learning healthy ways to take care of our bodies such as: exercise, eating healthy foods such as fruits and vegetables, and getting sleep at night so our bodies can be rested and grow!!!

The children have been learning a lot about Martin Luther King this week.

With Mrs. Dumala's class, we each made our own MLK faces (and boy, are they adorable). They had to follow step by step directions and do the following: draw and cut out their own circle for a face, make a half circle for the shirt, put on triangles for the tie, circles for the eyes, a mouth, and finally cut string to make hair and a mustache. To end our project, we watched the movie "Our friend Martin". This is told in cartoon form and is taught in a fun and easy way for children to understand.

Beach day was a huge success. The children enjoyed coming to school in their beachwear. We read several beach stories, made a book about sand, danced to the Beach Boys, played Beach Volleyball, and played in the water and sand table. To end our day, we had Popsicle treat.



**Mrs. Noon and Mrs. Jackson's classroom:
Guest Teacher Mrs. Turner**

During the month of January our class has been learning about the letters "A" and "M". This week we read the book, *Give a Moose a Muffin* by Laura Numeroff. Following the story we made muffins as a group project. The students enjoyed eating the muffins for a snack.

Beach day was a big success! We ate popsicles on a beach blanket for snack, as we dreamed about warm weather and hot sand.

The children also played a game of beach volleyball in gym class.

The last week of January we learned the letter "P" and practiced writing our names.



**Ms. Pittiglio and Ms. Chervenak's
classroom:**

Well, our "Under Construction," unit has come to an end, but with that comes a new and exciting theme. Our newest theme is called, "Healthy You," and the students love it! We are learning about how to keep our bodies healthy. This unit encompasses the body, the senses, food and exercise, doing things all by yourself and personal safety.

Our classroom looks different as well. Our construction site is gone. There is no more caution tape sectioning off our room. The tools and construction vehicles are put away. In its place is Dr. Chomper's office. This doctor/dentist office has a reception desk and a waiting room. Inside the room, the students are wearing doctor's/nurse's outfits. They are checking pulses and heartbeats. They are placing band aids on scrapes, bandaging up limbs and performing major surgery if needed!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you to all of our parents who have donated to this center area. It looks great!

In preparation for Kindergarten we are practicing stating our full name, birthday, age and address. Please help to reinforce these things at home.

Stay tuned for our new theme in February; "Finny, Feathery, Furry Friends!"



Mrs. Schultz, Mrs. Brewington and Mrs. Nelson's classroom:

January has been a FUN month. The first week of class we read many stories that had to do with sleeping over and bedtime stories. The children had a blast wearing P.J.'s to school. We created a large bed with a blanket and the children rolled out of bed. Then we took off running with the Gingerbread man. We read a variety of stories and compared how they were different. The children cooked a large cookie who escaped from the oven. We followed clues to find him back in our classroom sleeping on our beanbag. The children then decided it was ok to eat him.

We learned about Dr. King through reading books and finding his picture. Finally, we finished off the month with a unit on snow and winter. We made a melting snowman out of shaving cream and glue.



Ms. VanEenoo and Mrs. Dullea's classroom:

January has been full of healthy me activities. During center time the students have been acting out a doctor/ dentist office. The students practiced how to brush their teeth using the baby dolls and using a calendar to make appointments. We also have been focusing on making healthy food choices and learning the difference between fruits and vegetables. At home please continue reviewing the names of the human body parts like chin, chest, jaw, knees, and ankles. The students should know where they are on their body.

February is going to be a quick month since we have our mid-winter break. We will be

working on the "Finny, Feathery, Furry Friends" theme and should have a lot of fun. I will be sending home a class note with information on our upcoming Valentine's Day activities. Our special center will become a Vet's office so we can use our imagination and be creative! The students are becoming smarter everyday and we can't do it without all of your wonderful parental support!

Li'l Sprouts – Mrs. Calhoun & Mrs. Rice

We are accepting applications for the next school year (2010-2011) which is approaching fast. You may pick up an enrollment package in the main office or in the Li'l Sprouts room. Secure your seat! Tuition Based Preschool. Hours are 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

We offer a researched based curriculum, breakfast, lunch, snacks, fieldtrips and extra curricular activities. See you soon.

February is here! We will celebrate Black History Month, President's Day and Valentines Day. Wow what a busy month! Don't forget Thursday, February 4th, is Red/Pink/Heart Day.



PARENT CORNER

My youngest just turned five last month and I feel like the time is just slipping by, so make sure you plan a family time every week. There are a lot of free or inexpensive things to do, such as story time at the library, board games, making dinner together, going for a walk or watching a movie. Tuesday at the Macomb Mall, movies are a \$1.00 per person or you can rent movies through the Red Box at stores for \$1.06 a night.



Sign Language Class

Alexander Macomb Early Learning Center would like to invite the Mt. Clemens Community to join in a 6 week Sign Language Course (Children over 12 may accompany their parent). Classes will be held Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m., starting February 25th. Cost: Book fee \$20.00 (optional). Call 586-461-3700 to register.

The media center is up and running. We are accepting anyone that would like to volunteer any of their time no matter how little or how much. Make sure you have a volunteer clearance form on file if you need one, ask in the office.

I would like to thank the Gibson family, Maniaci family, Casaceli family and the Niespolo family for donating books to our media center. We are always accepting gently used or new children's books.



If your child regularly rides a bus, and you have to pick them up from school, please call at least 15 minutes prior to allow time to let the teachers know.

Thank You.

Little Lions Playgroup

Join us for a wonderful and enriching parent & child experience. We will meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m. on the following Fridays:

February 19th, March 12th & 19th, April 23rd and May 7th. Please call Brenda Moore to register at 586-461-3707.

Fundraiser Info

Savory Sweets

Cookie Dough and Popcorn

The fundraiser forms have been sent home. The money and orders are due to Alexander Macomb by February 17th. The orders will be delivered March 18th.

What's Happening at AMELC February

Cookie Dough fundraiser

11th -16th –No School - Mid-Winter Break

17th -18th – No School for ECSE

17th – Cookie money due to school

18th – The Dental Hygienist visits our school

25th – Sign Language Class begins

Macomb County vision & hearing will conduct screenings

March

27th Annual P.O.H.I. dance (Adults Only)
(more info to come)

April

20th – Science Night for our families & community

27th – The farm comes to visit

May

4th – BeF.O.U.R., E.C.S.E., and Li'l Sprouts students will go bowling

P.O.H.I. students will go to the zoo

11th – Bridging to Kindergarten Ceremony