

Children of Hope Child Development Center

December 2017

Hope Happenings: News from Mrs. H's Office

Lynn Hockenberger
Preschool Director

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This is a crazy, wonderful time of year, isn't it? I always enjoy this time here at preschool...so many joyful things...from Polar Express Days, to Breakfast with Santa, to that rascally Gingerbread Man and the most excited preschoolers who hunt for him when he jumps out of the oven, to the Christmas Program and the gingerbread houses...whew! We love every single minute of it with your children.

But, if we weren't already busy enough around here, we recently found out that we scored well enough on our initial Quality First assessment to qualify for CLASS assessments (December 13, 14 & 19). This time around we will be assessed on our relationships and conversations with the children, going deeper than our original assessment on our classroom environments. Research shows that children who have positive relationships with the adults in their lives, do better in school. "Building positive relationships with young children is an essential task and a foundational component of good teaching. All children grow and thrive in the context of close and dependable relationships that provide love and nurturance, security, and responsive interactions. A positive adult-child relationship built on trust, understanding, and caring will foster children's cooperation and motivation and increase their positive outcomes at school (Webster-Stratton, 1999)." We look forward to sharing our school with a CLASS assessor and receiving valuable feedback on how to further foster an atmosphere where children can thrive.

So buckle in...we look forward to this holiday ride with you! And, from all of us at Children of Hope, we wish you a most blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year!

Mrs. H

November Events

- ◆ **CLASS ASSESSMENT DAYS**
December 13, 14 & 19
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**
December 12
- ◆ **CHAPEL**
December 13 & 14
- ◆ **LAST DAYS OF SCHOOL**
December 20 & 21
- ◆ **CHRISTMAS BREAK**
Dec 22 - January 7

School Resumes
January 8, 2018



A few good ELVES NEEDED!

**Monday, December 18th
8:30am – 9:30am**

**In the Garage behind Mrs. H's
office**

**Please help to assemble our
Gingerbread Houses (wrap
cardboard bases and hot glue
graham crackers to milk
cartons)**

Snowy Night at Foothills

Come play in the snow

Foothills Baptist Church
December 9
5-8pm

See **Amy Gladdue**, Delaney's mom, in Mrs.
K's Toddler Class, for more information

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

To Bethlehem!



**Tuesday, December 12
5:00pm**

Please bring your child to the
classroom at 4:30pm

Toddlers & 3's:
Wear your favorite Christmas outfit

Pre-K: Arrive in costume

You may find a seat in the
sanctuary once you drop your child
off in their classroom.

Please do not block the center aisle
as our students will be processing
down that aisle.

Don't forget your cameras!



Make the gift buying experience for young kids easy, by keeping it simple

Every year there's a hot new toy that sells out and drives parents to race from store to store in search of the latest gadget or stuffed animal.

This year, make the gift buying experience for the youngest kids in your life easier.

When it comes to promoting learning for children 5 and younger, basic toys and quality time with adults are the best gifts an infant, toddler or preschooler can receive.

First Things First has compiled some suggested toys by age and stage that promote learning and language development.

Books are one of the best gifts for all ages. Daily reading has been shown to help young children develop language skills and increase vocabulary - both crucial if they are going to be good readers in the future.

Other good choices for different age groups include:

For babies under 1 year old, focus on toys that stimulate curiosity. Babies are fascinated by their surroundings, especially faces and bright colors. They enjoy playing hide-and-seek with different objects. Look for things such as:

- board books
- safe, chewable toys
- toys with mirrors

For toddlers between 1 and 3 years old look for toys that encourage imagination and problem-solving such as:

- pretend versions of everyday objects
- balls to roll or catch
- building-type toys, including fill and dump varieties.
- matching and sorting toys
- large crayons or markers with plain paper
- simple puzzles

For preschoolers, which covers ages 3 to 5, look for toys that help them relate to each other and the world around them include:

- dress-up clothes
- simple board games
- counting and letter games
- sports equipment suitable to their size
- musical instruments
- art supplies such as play dough, safety scissors, glue, etc.

Another thing to keep in mind is that parents and family members talk the most to babies when they are engaging their child with books and traditional toys, rather than electronic toys that claim to promote language development. Young children learn through play, through experimenting with the world around them and through interaction with other kids and adults. The best toys are those that appeal to the way their minds work. Those toys will get used most and will help children develop skills they will need to be successful once they enter school.



About First Things First - First Things First is a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten. Decisions about how those funds are spent are made by local councils staffed by community volunteers (Mrs. H serves on the East Maricopa Regional Council). To learn more, visit FirstThingsFirst.org.

Volunteers recognized for contributing to national award

Scottsdale Independent Nov 3rd, 2017



First Things First East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council at the First Things First Early Childhood Summit 2017. From left to right: Council Member Trinity Donovan, Council Member Dr. Lisa Bautista, Council Member Lynn Hockenberger, Chair Marie Raymond, East Maricopa Regional Director Conrad Lindo, Vice Chair Dr. Bill Myhr, Council Member Emily Rajakovich, Council Member Cheryl Foster. Not pictured: Council Member Sandra Marken, Council Member Dr. Michelle Taylor, Council Member Marin Velarde, Council Member Zeus Rodriguez. (submitted photo)

Community volunteers on the **First Things First East Maricopa Regional Partnership Council** were recently commended by the state board for their leadership and work on behalf of Arizona's youngest children.

Earlier this year, First Things First was named among Harvard University's Top 25 Innovations in American Government. The awards are presented by Harvard's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government.

As a Top 25 program, First Things First represents the top 2 percent of all initial applications for the Innovations Award, according to a press release. The unique governance structure of FTF, which engages citizens from a variety of areas to study the needs of children within 28 different regions in Arizona and help set priorities for their community, was specifically mentioned.

Created by Arizona voters, First Things First works to expand and enhance early childhood education, health, and parenting programs that ensure more children arrive at kindergarten prepared to be successful.

Through a tiered governance structure, First Things First has engaged hundreds of volunteers to serve on its board and regional councils and make decisions about how early childhood funds are spent. To date, those volunteers have donated more than 288,000 hours of their expertise, insight and commitment in service to children birth to age 5 across the state.

"Through this model, citizens from all walks of life are engaged in creating what Arizona and America's voters want most: government that works efficiently and effectively to improve outcomes for our communities, our state and our country," said First Things First Board Chair Nadine Basha in her commendation letter to the local regional council.

"First Things First volunteers on the board and regional partnership councils share a solemn responsibility: ensuring that early childhood funds entrusted to us by Arizonans are helping more children arrive at kindergarten prepared to be successful."

Through its innovative structure, First Things First decisions reflect the perspectives of the array of Arizonans who have a stake in helping young children be ready for school, including parents, tribal representatives, educators, health professionals, and leaders in business, philanthropy and faith.

The structure balances statewide impact with local flexibility, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability. The board is responsible for ensuring that strategies funded by First Things First improve outcomes for young children, the press release stated. The regional councils are responsible for ensuring that those strategies meet local needs and address community nuances, such as cultural considerations and service to families in rural areas.

“Thank you to the FTF Board for acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the East Maricopa Regional Council,” Marie Raymond, chair of the East Maricopa Regional Council, said in a prepared statement. “It is an honor to serve alongside each passionate council member who volunteers to help our community’s young children be successful once they enter kindergarten.”

The East Maricopa Regional Council received recognition at its East Maricopa October meeting.

The 2017 East Maricopa Regional Council members are:

- Emily Rajakovich, Scottsdale
- Marie Raymond, Tempe
- Dr. Bill Myhr, Fountain Hills
- Dr. Lisa Bautista, Chandler
- Trinity Donovan, Chandler
- Cheryl Foster, Tempe
- Lynn Hockenberger, Ahwatukee
- Sandra Marken, Tempe
- Dr. Michelle Taylor, Chandler
- Marin Velarde, Scottsdale
- Zues Rodriguez, Chandler



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Ready for School. Set for Life.



Call or Click

The Birth to Five Helpline is a free service available to all Arizona families with young children, as well as parents-to-be, with questions or concerns about their infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Call the Helpline to speak with an early childhood specialist, on duty Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. You can also leave a voicemail or submit your question online anytime.

The Helpline is staffed by early childhood development specialists, registered nurses, disabilities specialists, early literacy specialists and mental health counselors.

You can ask about anything, including:

- Sleep
- Feeding/Eating
- Fussiness
- Tantrums/Challenging Behaviors
- Potty Training
- Child Development
- Health and Nutrition
- Parenting

The Birth to Five Helpline is operated by Southwest Human Development, Inc., with support from First Things First.

Advent and Christmas Services



Advent

Wednesdays, December 6 and 13 at 7 p.m.

Holden Evening Prayer

Wednesday, December 20 at 7 p.m.

DARK: An interfaith service for those in sorrow and loss.

Christmas Eve

4 p.m. Children's message

7 p.m. Contemporary with carols and candlelight

8:30 p.m. Traditional carols and candlelight

Christmas Day

Service at 10:00am

ALL ARE WELCOME

ALL

at

CHAPEL

With Pastor Steve and Ms. Kathy

Wednesday, 12/13 Thursday, 12/14

Lesson: Birth of Baby Jesus

Song: Pastor Steve sings Silent Night

Chapel offerings will be donated this year to
Kyrene Family Resource Center and **Arizona Needy Newborns**.

Donations: Toothpaste, soap, pasta, cereal, rice, canned fruits & vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, skeins of yarn, beanie babies (new or used), newborn diapers, etc.

Any monetary offerings this month will be given to Feed My Starving Children.



I JUST LIKE
TO SMILE.
SMILING'S
MY FAVORITE!

-BUDDY THE ELF



Children's Christmas Musical at Esperanza!

AHWATUKEE COMPOSER WILL TAKE ON REWRITE OF THE NUTCRACKER

Composer David Kruse Coste ("Dirk Danger and the Lady in White", "The Dogs Must Be Crazy") will debut a new musical in December, based on The Nutcracker.

The Thingy That Cracks Nuts will premiere on Friday, December 15th at Esperanza Lutheran Church in Phoenix. Other shows will be on Saturday December 16th and Sunday December 17th.



Coffee Social

Thursday, December 7 at 8:45AM
Tuk Urban Kafe,
15815 S 50th St, Phoenix, AZ 85048.

Come get a coffee or a bite to eat and meet some parents from Children of Hope!



Park Playdate

Friday, December 15 at 9AM
Thunderhill Park
2578 E Thunderhill Place, Phoenix
85048.

Contact **Lisa Hansen**, Ava's mom, in Mrs. K's Toddler Class, who is happy to meet

3's and Pre-K LUNCH BUNCH!



Available Daily

Sign up at the Office

Pick Up at 12:30pm: \$10

Pick Up at 1:30pm: \$15

Pick Up at 2:00pm: \$20

Great way for kids to foster friendships.

Plan a day with some friends!

***No Lunch Bunch on Friday,
December 8th
due to staff Christmas luncheon**

UPCOMING ENRICHMENT CLASSES



COME TO STORYBOOK FOREST

With Mrs. H and Mrs. Luken

Mondays

\$110

1/8, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/12, 2/26 and 3/5/18

This class is currently full but I am considering opening a few more spots.



ALL ABOUT ART

Thursdays with Mrs. Palomaa and Mrs. A

\$110

1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/15 and 2/22/18



HANDWRITING AND MATH WITHOUT TEARS

Fridays with Mrs. Palomaa (and Mrs. Luken PM Class)

AM CLASS: 8:30 – 11:30am
February – April
\$70 per month

PM CLASS: 11:30am – 2:00pm
February – April - \$175 or
February – March - \$110



Please make drop off and pick up times with your child
Cell Phone Free Zones 😊



find us on
Facebook



Like our Page to stay informed!

Also, join our Private Group to see photos and info
Children of Hope Preschool/
Child Development Center of Ahwatukee

