



Parent Pioneer Newsletter

Tacoma Public Schools Head Start

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Tips for Parents: Children's Reading Voyage

Preschoolers and kindergartners like to have fun with language. They like silly rhymes and verses, singing a song, dancing, and sharing a story through finger play. These are ways they develop language and literacy skills.



Children at this age are learning more about letters, print and books. They know many letters of the alphabet. They begin to match letters to their sounds, which is important for learning to read.

Many preschool children will pretend to read books, telling the story as they turn the pages, look at the pictures and identify some print on the page. They learn that print in books moves from left to right. Kindergarten children are getting better at matching letters to sounds and know many words from sight.

Dates to Remember

Nov 23-25

Thanksgiving Break No School

Nov 30

Early Release 12:15pm

Dec 1

Early Release 12:15pm

Dec 14

Policy Council Meeting
5:00pm-7:30pm
(dinner at 4:30pm)

Dec 21—Jan 1

Winter Break No School

Head Start Child Outcomes

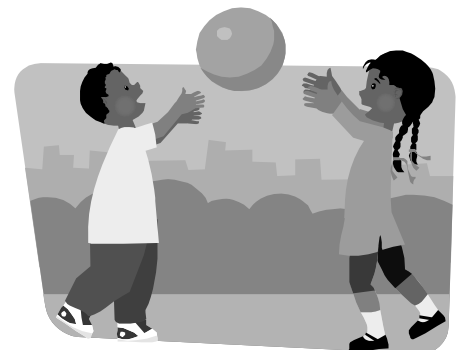
Each month, the Parent Pioneer will share different outcomes for your children. Outcomes are the goals and objectives that reflect the Federal requirements for what children should learn while in Head Start. The goals and objectives are designed to help prepare your child for kindergarten. We need you to help support the growth and development of your child at home.

This month's focus: Physical Development

Support and encourage your child to work on the following at home:

- **Demonstrates traveling skills; uses complex movements in play & games**
- **Demonstrates balancing skills**
- **Demonstrates gross-motor manipulative skills**
- **Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination; such as uses fingers and hands and uses writing and drawing tools.**

Source: *Creative Curriculum GOLD: Objectives for Development & Learning*



Call the School if Your Child will be Absent!

- ◆ You must call the classroom and tell the teachers if your child will be absent.
- ◆ When you call in, tell the staff if your child is sick.
- ◆ Tell the staff what kind of symptoms your child has if he/she is sick.
- ◆ All illnesses should be reported to teachers.



7 Super Things Parents and Caregivers Can Do

Source: "Teaching our Youngest - A Guide for Preschool Teachers and Child Care and Family Providers" ED/HHS 2002 English

There are a number of things that parents and caregivers can do to help motivate young children to learn. These activities offer parents and caregivers tips on getting children involved in reading and learning.

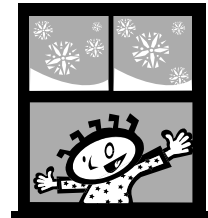


Here is what you can do to motivate:

1. Talk often with your children from the day they are born.
2. Hug them, hold them, and respond to their needs and interests.
3. Listen carefully as your children communicate with you.
4. Read aloud to your children every day, even when they are babies. Play and sing with them often.
5. Say "yes" and "I love you" as much as you say "no" and "don't"
6. Ensure a safe, orderly, and predictable environment, wherever they are.
7. Set limits on their behavior and discipline them calmly, not harshly.

Snow Policy & School Closures

The decision to close schools due to inclement weather or bad road conditions will be announced on www.schoolreport.org and most television and radio stations. You may also call the district information line at 253-571-1000, beginning at 6 a.m. for school closure information. The decision to close schools is made by the superintendent as early as possible, usually around 5:30 a.m. The district also will send a recorded telephone message to families as soon as a decision is made to close schools. Please contact the main office at your child's school to ensure the school has your most current contact information.



- If school is cancelled there will be **no** Head Start classes. Your child stays home.
- If schools have a 2-hour delay, there will be **no** Head Start classes. Your child stays home.

Holiday Assistance

United Way 2-1-1 (taken from www.uwpc.org/FindHelp.htm)

United Way works to create opportunities for a better life for all Pierce County residents. Calling South Sound 2-1-1, a comprehensive information and referral service, can be a first step toward real, lasting change. This free service connects people with essential health and human resources. In 2008, 2-1-1 helped 62,517 callers receive assistance with counseling, health care, housing and shelter and much more. Information and referral specialists offer compassion, understanding and advocacy to United Way of Pierce County callers.

The South Sound 2-1-1 call center is open **Monday through Friday** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** with 24-hour voice mail.

Toy Rescue Mission (taken from www.toyrescuemission.org)

Toy Rescue Mission (TRM) is an all-volunteer run, grass-roots organization. It was organized in 1991 with the purpose of providing toys to children who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances, either due to family hardship or an immediate disaster. TRM programs center upon recycling used but still useable toys. Call (253) 460-6711 for more information.