



Happy Holidays

Forevermore

Thanksgiving is over and most of us are busily preparing for the rest of the holiday season. We want to buy the perfect gifts for those we love. Knowing our goal, we devote many, many hours looking for just the right items. As we become more frazzled, often we become less patient with our children. We want to give them so much and they want us to give them our time. For just a moment remember one very spe-

cial gift you received as a child. What made that gift stand out in your mind? Probably it wasn't the most expensive gift you ever received. Maybe it didn't last forever. Whatever your gift, can you remember lots of other presents or do you remember spending time with family and friends? Maybe you remember cutting down a tree in the forest or singing songs around the piano. For most of us the special glow of the holidays was the

gift of extra time with our loved ones.

So as you strive to "shop til you drop", remember what your children will reflect on years from now. They will undoubtedly remember baking cookies, trimming the tree, family games and stories and all the other things that bring families to the magic of the holidays. Slow down, wrap those kids in a family hug and enjoy the season. Create the memories your children will carry in

Shadow Rock Preschool

December 2017

Special points of interest:

- ☺ School closes for Winter Break at 3:30 on 12/21.
- ☺ School resumes on Monday, January 8, 2018
- ☺ Annual Dinner/Auction February 24, 2017

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Update on Clothing Recycle

Thank you to all who donated to our clothing and small items sale. I watched two men load up a huge travel rack at least six feet in the air and then carefully roll it

down the hill to their truck. Luckily they were very big, strong and skillful. We received a check for \$228.70 yesterday for giving away things we didn't want

anyway. Now that it is a great way to make money. Thanks to all who donated. We appreciate it,



Choosing a Preschool: What to Consider

Danielle Wood gives some good advice in this article. If children attend a higher quality preschool they have a greater chance of being successful later in life. Children are more social, have longer attention spans and better language and math skills than children not attending preschool.

The hard part is trying to choose a good "high quality" preschool for your child. When making a choice for your child check their credentials. Are they supported by First Things-First, they must be DHS licensed, the lead teachers should have an Early Childhood Degree

or a CDA.

Preschool hours are shorter than day care hours. Ask how the school handles conflict. Ask if the school provides a snack or a lunch and the quality of the



snacks. Ask about what they do if your child has allergies.

You can tell a lot about what the children are doing in class by the art. Is it all in the lines, "this is the way it's supposed to look" or do the children use their imagination?

Is there an open door policy or scheduled visits? Look for open door.

How do they keep track of pickups? What do they do to keep the children safe?

Find out what the school's learning style is, if they are "play based" or more academically focused. Let your child come with you to visit.

Heard in the Halls

From the Rainbows at snack time. "I'm not eating that," said one of the boys. A little girl sitting next to him said, "Just try a no thank you bite."

While the Unicorns were listening to a spooky story one little girl finally called

out, "Don't open any more doors."

A young man in Unicorns told his teacher, "My Grandma gave me compost for breakfast." Hope not!

A Unicorn was undressing one of the baby dolls. She told Mrs. C. she knew it was

a boy. Asked how she knew, she pointed and said, "See the balloons down there."

Young children learn through play. In fact, the right game can boost a child's cognitive, physical and emotional skills.

The Auction is Coming

Our favorite event of the preschool year is approaching. Casino Night will be Saturday, February 24, 2018 at The Newton from 6-10.

Ticket sales will start in December and you won't want to miss it.

Invite other preschool parents to join your table for a

night of great food and casino tables.

The Newton is at Central and Camelback and it will be a night to remember.

Children Love Science

Science and children go together so well. They love to experiment. Here are a few things to try at home.

SAND EXPERIMENT

Sprinkle sand on black paper. Spread to see individual grains. Study the grains through a magnifying glass. Are they all the same color? Now add just a little vinegar to your sand. What happens?

QUICK SAND

Stir 1/4 c. maize corn flour and 1/4 c. water together in a bowl. Stir slowly and drip the mix into the bowl to show it is a liquid.

Stir quickly and the mixture becomes so hard you can poke holes in it. Why does that happen?

FLOATING PING PONG BALLS

Your help will be needed but this will amaze the children. Turn your hair dryer on the highest setting and point it straight up. Place a ping pong ball above the hair dryer and let go. What happens? Can you do two?

SAND PAPER PRINTING

Again this needs parent help. Press down hard with a crayon to draw whatever you like on a piece of sandpaper. When done

put a piece of brown paper (like a grocery bag) down on the ironing area. Put the sandpaper art on the paper, design side up. Cover with a plain piece of fabric and then another piece of brown paper. Using medium heat, iron for 20-30 seconds. Now look. Is the design on the fabric?

Always ask open-ended questions after the experiment.



Nikki is a Notary!

We are excited to announce that our very own Miss Nikki is now a notary. She will be available for your notary needs M-Th from 9-1:30.

Bring in your paperwork and ID and she will take

care of the rest. Thanks Miss Nikki for adding to the list of all you do for us.



Making the decision to have a child-it's momentous. It is to decide forever to have your heart go walking outside your body.

Elizabeth Stone

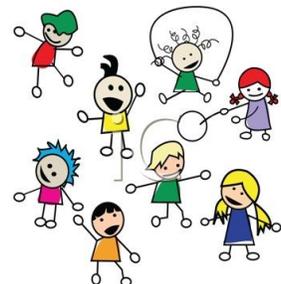
Thank you so much Quality First

Quality First is wrapping up our 3 year assessment. It keeps the teachers and the office staff very busy but the benefits are great.

Scholarships are available through them, coaching for teachers is available and assessment of children is a great offering. When a

teacher has concerns about children, they can get help through the program. They provide sensory items for the child who wiggles so much during circle time. They provide charts for the child who never knows what comes next. They give us money each year for improvements. This year

after the holidays there will be something new on our playground.



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We are unique and unrepeatabe!



Some of our favorite December books.

My First Kwanzaa Book-Deborah Chocolate

The Eight Nights of Hanukkah-Judy Nayer

Latkes and Applesauce-Fran Manushkin

The Christmas Cookie Sprinkle
Snitcher-Robert Kraus

When is Art Not Art?

It is easy to get excited about an adorable cotton ball sheep art project while skimming through Pinterest looking for classroom activities. But is it really art if at the end of the activity all of the children have made some variation of that same cotton ball sheep? As early childhood professionals we need to think about the difference between a craft (when everybody's project looks similar) and art.

Crafts are generally close ended and can be fun when used intentionally for special occasions such as Mother's

Day or the holidays. However, art is open-ended and involves children exploring materials freely and creatively. Young children learn best through exploration and the creative manipulation of materials.

Art is a wonderful way to support young children in learning about the world. With art, you provide the materials and

mediums you want the children to create with and then the children use their individual creativity, curiosity and thoughts to create unique

masterpieces. It is truly about the process. Showcase their work at their eye level so they can admire, discuss and appreciate their creations.



Spiral Ornament at Newgrange,

Quality First