

VPK Orientation Event

FRIDAY AUGUST 10TH 9:00AM-11:00AM

The year before kindergarten is an important preschool experience with many new experiences for our four year-olds. Parents are invited to come to this “orientation” event, not only get to know their child’s new teacher, but also to become familiar with the upcoming expectations and routines in the VPK program. This will be a time to gather information, explore the classroom, complete paperwork, and ask questions. The academic school year will begin the following Monday. **Parents and children are welcome to stop in for a few minutes anytime during the 9-11am orientation hours.**



Problem Solving

Managing the day to day interactions with classmates in a preschool classroom can be a daunting task for little ones. There are several problems each child encounters throughout the day that can lead to anger, frustration, sadness, and other strong emotions. For children to grow into independent people, they must learn how to problem solve. This is a large component of the social-emotional curriculum at Playtime. Children learn the main steps to solving a problem which are 1) identifying the problem, 2) thinking of solutions, 3) brainstorming possible outcomes of trying a specific solution, and 4) trying it out.

There are many solutions to problems. The goal is for children to begin understanding that they can solve many of them on their own. A problem children encounter almost daily is wanting an item that someone else is using. Two of the Playtime favorite solutions for this dilemma are trading and taking turns. Trading is a solution children can choose as a way to get an object from someone else in a positive way. Unlike sharing that leaves one child empty handed, trading allows both children to be happy with the outcome right away. Taking turns can be hard, even for adults! Taking turns is a skill that must be taught and given many opportunities to practice. Children use timers at Playtime to help them understand how long they must wait until it is their turn and how to delay gratification by finding something to do while waiting. A child who knows how to take turns has learned valuable skills about how to make friends, empathy, waiting, negotiating, and patience.

Ask your child how he or she solves common problems at school? You may be amazed at the problem-solving skills they have already developed.

School Calendar

1st Semester Dates

August 13th—First Day of full day academic classes

August 14th—First Day of Tues/Thurs classes

September 3rd—Closed for Labor Day

October 31st—Halloween Costume Party

October 23rd—Fall Picture Day

November 22nd-23rd—Closed for Thanksgiving

December 24th-25th—Closed for Christmas



**PLAYTIME CLOSED
WEDNESDAY
JULY 4TH**



July Lunch Menu

Mondays: Chicken and rice served with carrots, peas, and mixed fruit

Tuesdays: Lunchables made with turkey, cheese, sliced cucumbers, and raisins

Wednesdays: Hot dogs served with beans and apple sauce

Thursdays: Chicken salad on tossed greens served with apples

Fridays: Mac n'cheese served with broccoli and sliced peaches

RAINY DAY ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AT HOME

This summer has been another rainy Florida summer. Rainy days that keep kids indoors can create restlessness and boredom. But don't turn to the TV or video games just yet. Here's some ideas shared by Playtime teachers and parents to have creative fun on rainy days.

1. **ABSTRACT PAINTING**—Use an 8x11 canvas or cardboard. Choose 4 or 5 paint colors. Gather sponges, toothpicks, Q-tips, string, and paintbrushes for tools. Look online or around the house for inspiration and encourage your child to cover the canvas using imagination. Nothing is wrong in abstract painting and you never know what you are creating until it's done. Be sure to frame your work of art and display it proudly.
2. **INDOOR TREASURE HUNT**—Create a clue to lead children to a specific place in the house where they can find the next clue. Continue creating clues that will each lead children around the house from clue to clue until they discover the final treasure. (Ex. "There's no **time** to waste. Let's **get cooking!**" This clue leads to a stove top clock or timer. Or for smaller kids: "Rub a dub, dub. Let's go look in the **tub!**" This clue leads to bathroom tub.)
3. **CLEANING PENNIES**—It's fun to see the bubbling science that baking soda creates when it gets mixed with vinegar. Plus it will shine up even the dullest of pennies.
4. **INDOOR CAMPING**—Our kids at Playtime love the "Owl's Nest" room where they can create forts with sheets and blankets. Use furniture, clothespins, and sheets to create your own indoor tents or forts. Then grab a comfy pillow and read books by flashlight. You could even make S'mores snacks with chocolate frosting, marshmallow fluff, and graham crackers. (No fire needed.)
5. **BOARD GAMES**—With all the modern electronic games we have on our phones and tablets, sometimes we forget about just pulling out a deck of cards and playing "Go Fish" or dusting off the old classic board games in the closet for some great interactive fun.
6. **FIND A RAINBOW**—Challenge your kids to see how quickly they can find an item around the house (in order) for each of the colors of the rainbow... Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Purple.
7. **BALLOON ROCKETS**— There are many fun science activities to do with a balloon and a few household items. (Google "balloon science for kids" to see more ideas.) Put a piece of yarn through a straw. Attach one end of the yarn to a chair and the other end to another chair a few feet away. Blow up the balloon and tape it to the straw on the string. When you let go of the balloon, the air will be released and the straw, with propulsion from the air, will carry the balloon down the string.



Kindness Matters

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."



www.PlaytimeLearningAcademy.com

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A link can be found on our website homepage. Also, on our website, parents can find monthly newsletters, menus, and downloadable forms.