

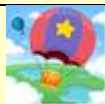
The themes we will be highlighting this month are ...

**Infants A & B – Dreamers ~ Theme: Dreamers in Never, Never Land**

Our rhyme of the month is Hey Diddle Diddle which will delight all. Grab your rattles, bears and dolls, we're going on a picnic and waiting for you! We'll delight in Father's Day while coming up with special ways to honor our daddies. With lots of imitating and pretending, we continue to guide the school-home learning connection. Outdoor play, projects, movement, it's all in there.

**Jr. Toddlers – Travelers ~ Theme: A Visit to Wonderland**

Grab your magic wand and get ready for a grand month! The children will explore fairy tale favorites. The children will learn to distinguish "me" from others and explore how some things are the same while others are different. These and so many other key experiences will support your child's early learning adventures in our Traveler's Classroom.

**Sr. Toddlers – Adventurers ~ Theme: A Visit to Mother Goose Land**

This is going to be great month in the Adventurers classroom. Key experiences will include early quantity and number, communication and language and of course plentiful movement and music. A focus on listening skills will ensure your little ones utilize those skills as best they can – an important concept that will carry them through their entire lives.

**3s – Discoverers ~ Theme: A Visit to the Hundred Acre Wood**

Characters will provide art, music, language and literacy along with games and super snacks. We'll make time for camping out and learning about woodland animals. Children will enjoy naptime in sleeping bags and snacks that typically go along with a camp out. What did you do in summertime when you were three? We hope it was half this fun.

**4s – Voyagers ~ Theme: Through the Looking Glass**

Your child's classroom is "buzzing" with summertime fun. Children will have plenty of opportunities to investigate the characteristics of ants, mosquitoes, and fireflies. Children will enjoy acting out fairy tales to perform in their "Little Theatre." Father's Day will be celebrated as we make a special surprise for dad or grandpa.

**School Age Explorers ~ Theme: Operation Exploration**

We're mapping out a great summer of exploration at Legacy Academy. We'll move off the beaten path as we dig into "Sensational Science," "Modern Marvels," and "Codes and Hieroglyphics." We'll unearth all kinds of fun on our field trips to local parks and museums and strengthen our bodies as well as our minds as we maneuver through our own obstacle courses to discover the power of teamwork with new friends.

~ Let's Explore Communication ~

Communication is one of the most important skills a child learns. It is a skill that comes naturally, but one which can be greatly enhanced by others. Our role is to talk and listen, and to listen and talk so that conversations become a part of their lives.

At this age

Children
Birth to
One:

- Look toward others talking to them and make eye contact
- React to sounds they hear, especially talking, singing, and reading
- Listen and respond to simple directions, poems, and rhymes
- Express their thoughts with gestures, babbling, cooing, and giggling

Talk slowly, clearly and use repetition when talking to your baby. Non-verbal communication and sign language are great ways to connect!

At this age...

Children
One to
Two:

- Understand more of what they see and hear
- Identify familiar faces, animals, and objects with words
- Reply to requests made of them with "yes" or "no"
- Learn the rules of communication by modeling adults around them

Provide plenty of opportunities for your little one to practice their developing communication skills by introducing rhymes, songs, and stories each day.

At this age

Children
Two to
Three

- Are ready to be part of the "chatter" around them
- Eagerly follow directions when stated in words they understand
- Listen to everything that is spoken around them
- Practice saying new words all day, every day

Remind children to "use their words" throughout the day, especially when they begin to cry out. Talk to them about everything that is going on around them.

At this age

Children
Three to
Four

- Are ready to start a conversation with other "talkers"
- Ask questions which start with "Why?", "Where?", "How?" and "What?"
- Enjoy answering questions about what they are learning
- Enjoy practicing many of the rules of speech

Repeat children's questions back to them and they will give you the answer. This exercise gives them numerous opportunities to practice talking.

At this age

Children
Four to
Five

- Are eager to be part of one-on-one conversations
- Listen with interest to what others are saying so they can respond
- Wait patiently until it is their time to share
- Enjoy listening to stories with plenty of details

Read new stories with children every day to broaden their vocabulary. Be part of the conversations they start. Introduce and define new words daily.

Communication is the foundation on which all relationships are built.
Our role is to model and promote meaningful communication.

Let's communicate as we play "I Say, You Say"

"I Say, You Say" is a great way to teach children the art of conversation. The key skill that requires plenty of practice is "turn-taking." This game begins with one individual saying a word and the other saying a word that goes with it. For instance, I say "chocolate" and the child says "ice cream." . As children's vocabulary develops, sentences can be used. Take time and take turns playing "I Say, You Say" with your little one. Play anywhere you are and play as often as you can. Keep in mind, that it is important to "teach" children how to use words as they communicate with others.

I Say...

- ◆ Chocolate
- ◆ books
- ◆ red
- ◆ I like to wear...
- ◆ Last night...
- ◆ My favorite food is...
- ◆ A tree is...

Wordless story books are another great way to encourage children to use their developing communication skills. This type of book promotes:

- ◆ creativity
- ◆ vocabulary
- ◆ comprehension
- ◆ storytelling skills
- ◆ attention to detail

