



# Cornerstone Preschool

APPLE Accredited/Florida Gold Seal Preschool ~ License #C860613

## Write Before Your Child's Eyes...

Young children learn more about writing by observing people who already know how to write than by handwriting instruction. Parents, teachers, and older siblings can serve as models for preschool children by showing them what writers do. By observing others engaged in writing activities, they learn that writing serves many purposes, such as communicating information, making lists, writing invitations, letters, or thank you notes. They learn that *they* can also use paper and pencil to communicate ideas and needs, and that their scribbles and marks on paper have meaning and are legitimate.

At Cornerstone we provide the opportunities and materials (crayons, markers, chalk, colored pencils, magnetic letters, and a variety of paper and envelopes) for children to engage in written expression on their own as well as in planned group experiences. The more children's "writing" is acknowledged and encouraged (even if it really just looks like scribble), the more they will want to write, and before you know it they will be asking how to spell words like *mom* or *dad*.



You can help develop early writing skills in your child by describing what you are writing as you are doing it, and also by asking your child to tell you about *his/her* "writing," scribbles, drawing, or random marks on paper. By asking "What does this say?" you are encouraging their writing and you may be surprised by the ideas and thoughts they had in their heads. Never tell a child that his/her writing is "wrong" or isn't good enough—even backwards letters are normal at this age. Keep encouraging them to color, draw, and "write" in a fun, meaningful way, and you'll have an eager author on your hands before you know it!

Don't forget to point out the letter-of-the-week when you see it at home, in books, on street signs, cereal boxes, or newspapers!

November 2009  
Newsletter

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### Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ November 23-27-VPK Vacation
- ◆ November 26 & 27-CLOSED
- ◆ December 18-Earthlings Holiday Music Show
- ◆ Dec. 21-Jan. 1-VPK Vacation
- ◆ December 24 & 25-CLOSED
- ◆ December 31 & Jan. 1-CLOSED
- ◆ January 18-CLOSED
- ◆ March 24-Picture Day
- ◆ March 29-April 2-VPK Spring Break (school remains open)
- ◆ May 7-Mother's Day Coffee
- ◆ May 31-CLOSED
- ◆ June 4-Last day of VPK



### VPK Updates/Reminders

- Thanksgiving week is a "VPK Vacation" week so attendance is not required or monitored by the State VPK office
- Children may attend school M-W of Thanksgiving week. Cornerstone will be closed Thursday & Friday (27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>). If your VPK child attends any day(s) during that week, your *regular tuition* amount is due. If your child is absent for the entire week,  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition is due.
- Tuition and vacation policies can be found in your VPK Contract and also on the Parent Info page of our website.

### Cold Weather Reminders

Now that the weather is turning colder, please remember to dress your child appropriately. You may want to leave a sweatshirt or jacket in their cubbie for unexpected cold days. We go outside for about 40 minutes twice a day unless it is raining. Also, you may want to replace your "extra clothes" with long pants and a warm top instead of summer clothes.



### Sign-In/Sign-Out Book

Parents: please remember to sign your child in and out and include the time everyday. This is a licensing requirement; our sign-in/out sheets will be reviewed by the license board and VPK auditors during inspections to ensure that they are complete. Thank you for your attention to this policy.

### Holidays & Vacations

Please notify us of vacation days and pay in advance to ensure that your child's slot will be held for his/her return.

As stated in the Parent Handbook, tuition is based on your child's program, not the number of days he/she actually attends school. Therefore, full tuition is due even when your child is absent and during holiday weeks.

- 3's & 4's Program Vacation Policy: If your child is absent for a full calendar week, you may reduce your tuition by 50% up to a maximum of four (4) weeks per school year. In the 3's & 4's program, there is no restriction on when you can take vacations
- VPK Program Vacation Policy: VPK children must attend school regularly for the entire VPK school year. There are no  $\frac{1}{2}$  tuition weeks when VPK is in session. Vacation days should be scheduled during "VPK Vacation weeks" and/or summer. Please refer to your VPK Contract for more details.

All of our policies can be found on the Parent Info page of our website and in the Parent Handbook.

### Book Drive

Thank you to all who have participated in our Book Drive this past year! Our classroom libraries are growing. Each time one of these "special" books is read to the class, the child who donated it is acknowledged and thanked. The children know that they have to take good care of our "special" books and they look forward to reading them at circle time. THANK YOU!



**Cornerstone will be closed 11/26 & 27**

*Happy Thanksgiving!*