



# COLE HARRINGTON'S PRESCHOOL POST

Issue 66

Spring 2017

Dear Families,

In this addition of the Preschool Post, I would like to talk to you about how we support your child with transitions. Since this question is often asked in our Annual Parent Survey, I wanted to share with you our definition as well as what we do to make transitions successful. A transition is when we ask your child to end one routine of the day and start a new one. For instance when you arrive at school and your child has an established good-bye routine; the good-bye routine is the transition before free-play. Transitions are the techniques we use to connect our daily activities and help keep children focused as they move through the events of the day. Some of the transitions include; clean-up time, getting ready for large group, going to snack, getting ready for small group, bathroom time, going outside, coming in from outside, before lunch, after lunch, before rest and after rest. To have a successful transition teachers have to take into account the various developmental levels of the group and their interests. They have to prepare the children for stopping one activity and starting another. They do this by giving a five minute, three minute and one minute warning. The teachers also have to have a bag of tricks that they can call upon throughout the day. Here are some of the activities we do during transitions.

- \* Singing favorite songs
- \* Reading stories. Making up stories. Acting out stories.
- \* Pictionary-Drawing parts of an object and having children figure out the picture with the least amount of visual cues.
- \* I Spy- Describing parts of an object and having the children figure out what the object is.
- \* Naming Stories-Giving children clues to familiar stories and have them guess the story's name.
- \* Introducing new vocabulary words.
- \* Following one step, two step, three step directions.
- \* Copying movements or following movement directions in songs.
- \* Identifying names by beginning sounds or letters or having the child's name spelled.
- \* The Color and Shape Game-Finding objects that are the same color or shape named.
- \* Sharing events from home.
- \* Creating rhyming words
- \* Stating opposites

By having children involved in transitional activities we eliminate waiting time. We all know how restless children are when they have to wait. Yikes! We also are providing children with opportunities for learning.

We want you to know you too can use our bag of tricks for home transitions. For example; when you are leaving our program at the end of the day, you can give your child the five minute, three minute, one minute count down. You can then have your child pick;

- \* What movement they want to do to get to the car
- \* What animal they want to be
- \* What size steps they want to use
- \* What super hero they want to turn into

By engaging children in fun yet educational activities we pave the way to a smooth transition to the next routine of the day.

Sincerely,  
Linda Feller  
Program Coordinator

## UPCOMING EVENTS



- 22 Family End of the Year Event
- 23 Houghton's Pond Field Trip



## SPOTLIGHT ON ERIN GENDY

Eren Gendy, Assistant Teacher, in the Front Room and Back Room, joined Cole-Harrington's Preschool Enrichment Center in September 2016.

Eren came to our program with a two year certificate in Social Work and four years' experience working in the International Sabis School for Preschoolers in Saudi Arabia. Currently she is working on her teacher certificate from Early Education and Care. She also just completed an online course in child development.

Eren is originally from Egypt. She has been in the United States for almost three years. She is married and has one daughter. Her daughter is a first grader in the Foxboro School System.

When Eren is not at Cole-Harrington she involves herself in her church. She also enjoys arts and crafts, cooking, reading, music and playing with children.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHILDREN ABOUT EREN

Luke "She teaches us."

Hannah "She plays on the playground with me."



Sophie L. "She sits next to me and helps me open things."

Emily C. "She plays 'Red Rover' with us."



Sofia "She plays with us in the kitchen area."

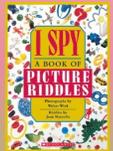
## STAFF NOTES

On April 11<sup>th</sup> all Cole-Harrington Preschool Enrichment Center staff went to the training; "How to Handle Children with No 'Off' Button". The facilitator and presenter was Tracy Cheney. We learned about a variety of strategies to make our classroom successful for all.

## COLE-HARRINGTON EXTENSIONS Activities that Extend Cole-Harrington's Curriculum Content in the Home

### Literacy Activities

- Read a favorite story with your child. Have your child dictate to you a different ending and then have him/her draw a picture of their new story.
- Go on a letter scavenger hunt when you're traveling in your car.
- Play "Alphabet I Spy" when you're out on a walk.



### Math Activities

- Find objects in your home of different shapes and sizes; circle, rectangle, square, large, medium, small. Sort, categorize, and classify the objects by one or more attribute. i.e. "Find the small ball" or "Find the large rectangle pan".
- Have your child find his/her favorite rest toy and demonstrate positional words such as over, under, behind, and beside by placing the rest toy in these positions. "Can you put your bear under the chair?"
- Use items such as toy cars to measure other items in the house. i.e. the rug is six cars long, the teddy bear is four cars long, etc... Estimate the length of larger objects and then test your estimations.
- Read numerals on houses in your neighborhood.
- Ask your child measurement questions: "Which is longer; shorter? Can you find something shorter than... Can you put these objects in order from shorter to longer?"



- Count how many bites it takes to eat an apple, banana...

**"Our challenge is not to prepare children for school, but to prepare schools for children."**

**--Docia Zavitkovsky**