

# COLE HARRINGTON'S PRESCHOOL POST



Issue 75

Fall 2019

Dear Families,

The fall issue of Cole-Harrington's Preschool Post will focus on play, a very important component of our curriculum. Did you know that play supports all areas of development including social, emotional and cognitive development? It also supports academic learning too. According to Diane Levin, Wheelock College Professor, "Play is one of the most powerful vehicles children have for trying out and mastering new skills, concepts and experiences." She says that; "Play helps children develop the knowledge they need to connect in meaningful ways to challenges they encounter in school such as learning math, literacy, science and most important how to interact with each other in a positive way."

One of my concerns is that we are seeing some children at school who do not know how to play. They often sit passively watching their peers or they rely on a script they have seen on TV, DVD's, or movies. They often replay these scripts over and over again. Some of the children imitate our scripts when we create play scenarios for them but as soon as we step out of their scene their play stops.

Since play is one of the most valuable tools for learning I will include some ideas on how you can stimulate play at home and offer ideas that foster valuable learning experiences.

- Choose materials that are open-ended and invite further exploration.
- Allow your child to use a toy, material, game in a way different from what's expected.
- Make sure your child has opportunity for unstructured play.
- Let your child know you value their play.
- Allow fantasy play.
- Support your child's creative ideas.

Be a play partner and pretend with your child. Allow them to direct the play and your role.

So, when your child brings you their doll, truck, ball, and asks, "Will you play with me?" Keep in mind; this is an opportunity for valuable learning and jump right in!

I've also included the poem Just Playing to illustrate for you how valuable play is for young children. I hope you enjoy it.



Sincerely,

Linda Feller  
Program Coordinator

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October

- 1 Family Annual Meeting
- 4 Wards Berry Farm Pumpkin Picking
- 14 Columbus Day **C-H Closed**
- 17 Family Pizza Night
- 31 Halloween Party

### November

- All Month All Families Invited to Read at School
- 1-22 Canton Food Drive
- 11 Veteran's Day **C-H Closed**  
Staff Training Day
- 13 Canton Librarian Visits
- 27 Children's Thanksgiving Luncheon
- 28 & 29 Thanksgiving Holiday **C-H Closed**

### December

- 2-6 Cookie Making
- 4 All Hands Drumming
- TBA Gifts for Kids
- 24 PJ, Movies, Warm Cocoa Day
- 25 & 26 Christmas Break **C-H Closed**



## SPOTLIGHT ON EREN GENDY

Eren Gendy, Assistant Teacher, in the 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. During her first year with us she completed an online course in child development and also received her teaching certificate from Early Education and Care.

Eren is originally from Egypt. She has been in the United States for almost five years. She is married and has one daughter. Her daughter is a fourth grader in the Mansfield 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.

## STAFF NOTES

Jen Anzivino and Linda Feller will be attending the training "Beyond Remote Controlled Childhood, Creating and Finding Balance in the Media Age."

Jen Anzivino recently presented her own training; "Technology in the Classroom: Creating a Classroom of Producers" for Home Health and Childcare.

All Cole-Harrington Preschool Enrichment Center Staff will be getting re-certified in First Aid and CPR on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Linda Feller will also be presenting a training to staff that day on "Childhood Stress." We will be looking at some of the causes, the symptoms, and strategies to support children in the classroom.

## COLE-HARRINGTON EXTENSIONS Activities that Extend Cole-Harrington's Curriculum and 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...

## COMMENTS FROM THE CHILDREN ABOUT EREN

Sebastian	"She checks on all the people."
Francisco	"She does teacher work and plays in the block area sometimes."
Max F.	"She helps people clean up."
Connor	"She helps open containers at lunch."
Kash	"She plays in playdough with me."



*Happy Thanksgiving!  
To You And Your Family*

## Just Playing

By: Anita Wadley

When I'm building in the block room, please don't say I'm "Just Playing."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play, about balance and shapes.

Who knows, I may be an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, setting the table, caring for the babies,

Don't get the idea I'm "Just Playing,"

For, you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a mother or father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint, or standing at an easel, or molding and shaping clay, Please don't let me hear you say, "He is 'Just Playing'."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm expressing myself and being creative.

I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me sitting in a chair "reading" to an imaginary audience,

Please don't laugh and think I'm "Just Playing."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, or packing my pockets with choice things I find, don't pass it off as "Just Play."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play.

I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle or some "plaything" at my school,

Please don't feel the time is wasted in "Play."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate.

I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,

Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is "Just Play."

I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.

I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run, and move my body, please don't say I'm "Just Playing."

For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning how my body works.

I may be a doctor, nurse, or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I've done at school today and I say, "I Just Played,"

Please don't misunderstand me. For, you see, I'm learning as I play.

I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in my work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.

*Today, I am a child and my work is play.*

Anita Wadley has been the owner/director of Gate to Learning Preschool in Edmond, Oklahoma since 1974. She holds a Bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a Master's degree in gifted education. This poem was written during her first year of teaching in response to questions to parents.

©1974 From: Early Childhood News, Volume 11 Issue 1, January/February 1999, page 50