

St. Peter's Preschool Newsletter

October 2019



From the Director's Chair – by Rita Dai Wang

What a great beginning to the school year we have had! It is hard to believe that we are already in the second month of school. The children are doing a great job getting used to the routine of school. They are all so sweet, and I love when I have the chance to play with them and lead Chapel time!

Pizza & Ice Cream Social: Thank you so much for joining us Friday evening for our first major family event! It was so nice to get a chance to hang out and chat. Special thanks to the following businesses for donating gift cards towards our raffle: La Palapa Grill, The Wine Bin, Play it Again Sports, The Pottery Stop, and The Canopy. Stay tuned for more gift cards to be raffled off at our next event!

Playground Update: The playground is getting resealed this Thursday and Friday after school hours. We will still be able to use it Thursday during school, but not Thursday afternoon or Friday. Thank you for your flexibility!

St. Peter's T-Shirt Sale: Flyers about St. Peter's Preschool T-shirt Sale are coming home this week. You are invited to purchase short sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, or sweatshirts. Get ready to show off your St. Peter's spirit!

2's Lunch Bunch: We are starting Lunch Bunch this month! Your child can stay for lunch once or twice a week. You can sign up for the entire year, one month at a time, or if you aren't sure of your schedule, you can even sign up for one day at a time whenever you need it. Let me know if you are interested!

Extra Clothing: In theory, the onset of October should bring cooler weather. If your child's extra set of clothes in the classroom are for the summer, please send in a warmer set of clothes to keep at school. We do go outside every day when weather allows, so please remember to send your child to school with appropriate outerwear.

Harvest Parties: Information about our Harvest Parties coming home soon. We invite you to join us for a small celebration. Don't forget your camera!

Dates to Remember

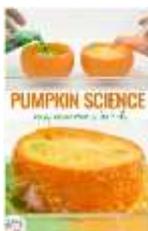
- 10/4** Yoga – 3's/4's
- 10/11** T-shirt orders due
- 10/16** Mary's Land Farm field trip 9:45am – all classes
- 10/18** No School - Teacher Work Day (rescheduled)
- 10/25** School WILL be in session
- 10/30** Harvest Party – 3's
- 10/31** Harvest Party – 2's/4's

Private Facebook Pages

We hope you are enjoying our Facebook posts! In addition to our general St. Peter's page, each class has a private page where we share tidbits about our day and fun photos/videos showing your children in action.

These private pages are intended for St. Peter's families, so feel free to share with grandparents and close friends, but please respect the privacy of our children and do not share with the general public.

I sent out invites a few weeks ago, but if you are having trouble joining, let me know, and I can invite you again.



Try this at home: Pumpkin Science....

<https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/pumpkin-science-experiments-pumpkin-volcano/>

Can Young Children Learn From Screen-time?

As parents, we know how useful (and sometimes addictive!) our phones can be. Have you ever wondered about the effects of screen-time on your children? Some people swear that toddlers can learn from screens, hence the plethora of available apps targeted towards young children. Unfortunately, the latest research from Vanderbilt University suggests that while young children are intrigued by screens, they do not seem to learn from them. Read the full article from The Hechinger Report below.

Even if an adult is interactive on a screen, toddlers can't learn from them

By Jackie Mader

There's bad news for parents who hope their toddler may learn something from a screen while also being entertained for just a few minutes: it's unlikely to happen. New research shows young children may be fascinated by screens, but they are unable to learn from them even if someone on the screen actively engages with them.



The **recent research** from Vanderbilt University's Georgene Troseth, an associate professor of psychology, specifically looked at whether toddlers can learn from a video chat. Troseth and a team of researchers presented 176 children ages 24 months and 30 months with an object that they called a "modi" and set up four different conditions for the children to learn the name of the object and place the object in a bin. The team found that children in both age groups were able to learn the name of the object and complete the task if someone was in-person and actively responding to the child. The 30 month olds were also able to learn the name even if the in-person adult did not engage with them. But all of the toddlers failed to learn the name or complete the task when, you guessed it, even the most engaging of speakers interacted with them in real time—but from behind a screen. They were also unable to learn from a video chat where the speaker did not engage with them.

Troseth said toddlers often can't learn from screens, even from an interactive video, because they are unable to understand that the person on the screen is real, relevant and represents an actual adult. Around age three is when children can make this connection, Troseth said. "They have figured out a picture can represent something real or an idea in your head...That's part of this idea of looking at a screen and realizing there's a person there who's teaching you."

This work reinforces widely accepted research that young children learn best through in-person experiences. But what does this mean for parents who want to introduce their toddlers to

television shows, games or apps, especially those that are marketed as educational? “We just don’t have good evidence for very young children that you should put your money and attention toward buying the app because somehow it’s going to make them get into the Harvard of preschool,” Troseth said. Although parents may find apps useful for keeping toddlers calm in cars, for example, it’s unlikely they will learn much from screens between birth and age three. “The learning will happen more with the kid while driving and talking to the kid,” Troseth said.

That doesn’t mean it’s pointless to use video chat with toddlers, Troseth says, especially to see grandma or connect with a parent who is out of town. That contributes to the emotional aspect of a child’s relationship with other people. Young children can recognize and identify people on screens and the American Academy of Pediatrics even **mentions video chatting** as the exception to its no screen guidelines for kids younger than 18 to 24 months. But in order for a child that age to learn from a screen, they need someone in the room “making that connection for them,” Troseth said. That means sitting with the child, talking about what they see on the screen and reinforcing the idea in person by relating it to their own life. “That’s when we see a bump up in learning,” she said.

 *Hit reply to this email to send a message directly to Jackie Mader.*

*Add **mader@hechingerreport.org** to your address book. Tweet at **@JackieMader**. Read high-quality news about innovation and inequality in education at **The Hechinger Report**.*