

# K-Prep January in Review And What's Coming Up in February!

I want to thank everyone for attending the parent -teacher conferences. I am so thankful to work in a community with such wonderful and caring parents! I enjoyed meeting with each of you.

We will soon begin our formal letter studies. The children will be learning recognition, the sound each letter makes, how to properly write each letter, and words that start and end with the letter sounds.

We spent all of January learning about Dinosaurs! The students seemed to really be enjoying this topic and we will continue into February with this theme. Once we are finished with dinosaurs we will brainstorm once again, vote, and begin learning about something else in addition to our formal letter studies.

We will be celebrating **Valentine's Day** on February 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no need to send any treats for this day - I like to bring special treats for the children on that day from me to them! You can send Valentine's for your child to give to their friends and if you'd like to attach a treat to the Valentine that would be fine. Please remember that all the Valentine's/treats will need to fit in a small container for each child to take home! If you feel your child is able to read all the names of his or her friends in the class then feel free to write their names in the "To" section of the valentines. I will have each child pass out each valentine. If you know your child would not be able to read the names please just write "My friend" in the "To" section of the valentines. They will still be able to pass out their valentines, but will have an easier time doing so. **Please** have your child write his/her name in the "from" section - what great practice that would be! There will be a family homework assignment coming home soon asking each family to help their child decorate a small container to hold their Valentine's.

Some news about **Kindergarten Registration**: Our school office will be sending home special packets for students that are in K-Prep and will be attending kindergarten here at Benson. Since you've filled out much paper work for K-Prep you do not have as many things to complete for kindergarten.

On **The Flip Side** of this you'll find ideas for getting involved in your child's play. Most of the time it's best to let your child play at his or her own level, but every once in awhile you'll notice times when you can "push" their play into something a little more.

# The Flip Side

## Getting Involved in Your Child's Play

The following ideas are taken from:

Ladders to Literacy by Angela Notari-Syverson

### **Let's Draw The Building You Made**

Children often build things that need to be torn apart during cleanup time. Encourage your child to make a record of his or her accomplishments before the construction is torn apart. You can say something like, "I can see you put lots of effort into making your castle so high. Let's draw a picture of it before you put the blocks away. That way we'll always remember what it looks like." You might start out by showing your child how to sketch and talk about what you are doing. Encourage your child to join in. "First, I'm drawing the blocks that make up the bottom layer. Now I'm making it higher. See how the color changes to yellow for the top row? Where's a yellow pen?" After your child has drawn a picture, ask your child to label the picture. "What shall we call it?" Help your child label the picture with meaningful letters or a few words to help him or her remember the construction.

### **Making Signs**

Children learn about words and how sounds and symbols go together as they make signs to use in their play. Help your child make signs he or she can use as part of construction activities (For example, Stop!, Go around, Open, Closed, Exit). As your child finds a need for new signs, help him or her create meaningful signs that can be placed around the house (for example, a picture of a crayon to label the drawer or box in which your child keeps coloring materials).

### **Measuring**

Science requires the use of reading and writing skills. For example, writing records of observations and taking measurements are important scientific activities. Have a long jump competition. Mark the starting point of the jump with tape or another object. Use a measuring tape with easy-to-read numbers to measure the jumps. Help your child read the numbers on the tape and record the length of the jumps along with the names of the competitors. OR Use blocks to measure different objects. Have your child stack blocks next to different objects until the tower reaches the same height as the objects. Help your child count the blocks, record numbers, or draw lines that correspond to the different heights. Compare the differences.

### **Writing Messages**

In school, your child is learning that print is a tool for communication. Your child is learning how spoken words can be captured on paper and preserved for others to read. You can encourage your child to use written messages at home. Ask your child to dictate a short message to give to an older sibling or mail to relatives. You can also leave written messages for your child. For example, you can write a short note or draw a picture of an upcoming event or a weekend outing.