Characteristics of School Readiness

The National Education Goals Panel identifies 10 keys to schools being ready for children. Ready schools should:

1. Smooth the transition between home and school.
2. Strive for continuity between early care and education programs and elementary schools.
3. Help children learn and make sense of their world.
4. Make a commitment to every child’s success.
5. Show they are committed to every teachers’ success.
6. Introduce and expand on strategies that have been shown to improve achievement.
7. Function as learning organizations that change their practices if they do not help children.
9. Take responsibility for results
10. Maintain strong leadership.

Readiness of the Whole Child

As children move forward into their transition into kindergarten, schools and parents alike focus on an array of readiness skills which tend to fall under the umbrella of academic readiness. With that, it is also important to assess your child’s social and emotional development so that they can more easily deal with this sometime stressful transition. Be sure to check-in with your child to assess their emotional readiness and well-being before and during this transition. Giving them the support and tools necessary to navigate through this important transition will help to ensure they are equipped to meet the challenges of building new relationships with their teacher and new friends. In addition to academics, some other things to consider when checking for school readiness in children are:

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Children will recognize their own feelings and manage them appropriately.
2. Children will follow classroom rules, directions and routines.
3. Children will be able to adjust to new situations.
4. Children will exhibit appropriate emotional behaviors.
5. Children will demonstrate self awareness, direction and independence.
6. Children will establish positive relationships with peers and adults.

A Change of Scenery

Every month we as a staff, dedicate one of our staff meetings to a book discussion related to our work with children. This semester we chose the book entitled, Designs for Living and Learning, by Deb Curtis and Margie Carter. This book focuses on shaping welcoming spaces for children to live and learn. We have been inspired to re-look at our spaces for children in order to maximize the potential for learning and building relationships. Our outdoor spaces will continue to evolve as we continue to evaluate our environment.

Ideas for Summer Fun!

Natural History Museum
900 Exposition Park, Los Angeles
Free Admission on the first Tuesday of every month
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (213) 763-3466

California Science Center
700 State Drive, Los Angeles
Free Admission, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
There is a parking fee
(213) 744-7400

Santa Monica Aquarium & Pier
600 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica
(310) 393-6149
Call for Prices. This is a great trip!

Griffith Park Observatory
2800 East Observatory Road
Los Angeles, CA. 90027
General Information: 213-473-0800
Tuesday-Fri. 12:00 pm– 10 pm
Sat-Sun 10:00 am– 10 pm
Planetarium shows Tues-Sun. Check website for times: http://www.griffithobs.org/

Tips for Parents: Summer Safety

-When it is very warm or hot, the best prevention is to stay indoors in an air conditioned building. Consider malls and stores, movies, libraries, etc.
-Drink more fluids than usual, and enough to avoid feeling thirsty. If you or the kids are thirsty, you are already dehydrated. Water and sports drinks with natural sweeteners or juices are best.
-Exercise, work or play outdoors early in the morning or late in the evening when temperatures are cooler.
-Wear loose, lightweight clothing that allows sweat to evaporate.

If you or the kids experience any combination of these symptoms during hot weather, contact your health care provider immediately:

Heavy sweating
Cold, clammy skin
Headache
Thirst
Rapid heartbeat
Nausea or vomiting
Dizziness or fainting
Muscle cramps
Increased body temp.

http://www.thelearningcommunity.us/