



# Cornerstone Preschool

APPLE Accredited/Florida Gold Seal Preschool ~ License #C860613

## Write Before Your Child's Eyes...

Young children learn more about writing by observing people who already know how to write than through handwriting instruction. Parents, teachers, and older siblings can serve as models for preschool children by showing them what writers do. By observing others engaged in writing activities, they learn that writing serves many purposes, such as communicating information, making lists, writing invitations, letters, or thank you notes. They learn that *they* can also use paper and pencil to communicate ideas and needs, and that their scribbles and marks on paper have meaning and are legitimate.

At Cornerstone, we provide the opportunities and materials (crayons, markers, chalk, colored pencils, magnetic letters, and a variety of paper and envelopes) for children to engage in written expression on their own as well as in planned group experiences. The more children's "writing" is acknowledged and encouraged (even if it really just looks like scribble), the more they will be motivated to write, and before you know it they will start asking how to spell words like *mom*, *cat*, etc.



You can help develop early writing skills in your child by describing what you are writing as you are doing it, and also by asking your child to tell you about *his/her* "writing," scribbles, drawing, or random marks on paper. By asking "What does this say?" you are encouraging their writing and you may be surprised by the ideas and thoughts they had in their heads. Never tell a child that his/her writing is "wrong" or isn't good enough—at this age, backwards and disorganized letters are normal. Keep encouraging them to color, draw, and "write" in a fun, meaningful way, and you'll have an eager author on your hands before you know it!

Don't forget to point out the letter-of-the-week when you see it at home, in books, on street signs, cereal boxes, or newspapers!

## November 2019 Newsletter

### Inside this Issue:

- ☺ Writing in Preschool
- ☺ VPK Updates/Reminders
- ☺ Cold Weather Reminders
- ☺ Sign-In/Sign-Out Book
- ☺ Holidays & Vacations
- ☺ Book Drive
- ☺ Experiment at Cornerstone
- ☺ Mark Your Calendars



### Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ November 25-29 - non-VPK week (the school will remain open Mon-Wed)
- ◆ November 28 & 29 - CLOSED
- ◆ Dec. 23 - Jan. 5 - non-VPK weeks (the school will remain open Wed-Fri)
- ◆ December 24 & 25 - CLOSED
- ◆ Dec. 31 & January 1 - CLOSED
- ◆ January 20 - CLOSED
- ◆ February TBD - Firefighter visit
- ◆ March TBD - Police officer visit
- ◆ March 1-31 - Registration for fall
- ◆ March 14-22 - Optional spring break week (non-VPK week; school is open)



### VPK Updates/Reminders

- Please remember that your VPK child must be in his/her classroom *on time* each day (9:00 AM)
- Thanksgiving week is a "VPK Vacation" week - attendance is not required
- Cornerstone will be closed Thursday & Friday (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>). If your VPK child attends any day(s) during that week, your *regular VPK tuition* amount is due. If your child is absent for the entire week,  $\frac{1}{2}$  VPK tuition is due

### Cold Weather Reminders



Now that the weather is turning colder, please remember to dress your child appropriately. You may want to leave a sweat-shirt or jacket in their cubbie for unexpected cold days. We go outside for about 40 minutes twice a day unless it is raining. Also, you may want to replace your extra clothes with long pants and a warm top instead of summer clothes.

### Sign-In/Sign-Out Book

Parents: please remember to sign your child in and out and include the time everyday. This is a licensing requirement; our sign-in/out sheets will be reviewed by the license board and VPK auditors during inspections to ensure that they are complete. Thank you for your attention to this policy. (Children are not allowed to write in this book.)



Cornerstone will be closed Thurs. & Fri.  
Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### Holidays & Vacations

Please notify us of vacation days and pay in advance to ensure that your child's slot will be held for his/her return.

As stated in the Parent Handbook, tuition is based on your child's program, not the number of days he/she actually attends school. Therefore, full tuition is due even when your child is absent and during holiday weeks.

Four weeks per school year are designated as "vacation weeks" (Thanksgiving week, two weeks for winter break, and one week in the spring).

If your child is *absent* for an entire school "vacation" week, you may reduce your tuition payment by half. If your child *attends* school during a "vacation week," full tuition is due (see school year calendar on our website for exact dates each year).

All of our policies can be found under FAQs on our website and in the Parent Handbook.

### Parking Lot Safety

As with any school, drop off and pick times result in high-traffic in parking lots and we need everyone's cooperation in being alert and cautious during these busy times. Drivers, please check all mirrors and rear windshield before backing up and please use responsible speed limits in our parking lot. Additionally, we encourage all families to hold children's hands **at all times** and only use our designated sidewalk to bring children into or out of the school. For your safety, please do not cross through the center of our parking lot, especially when the parking lot is full. The safety of our children and families is of the utmost importance to us and we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in making sure our parking lot is a hazard-free zone.

