



Kremmling Preschool Newsletter



January 29-February 4, 2020



ANIMAL OF THE WEEK - Beginning in February we will be doing *Animal of the Week* posters. Your child will be sent home with poster board for them to create a display of his/her FAVORITE animal. It may be domestic or wild, their pet, a pet they would like to have, etc....let them use their imagination! Your child will tell his/her class about their animal poster and it will be displayed for the week. Please help your child to know what that animal likes to eat, where they live and anything else they would like to share about this animal.



READY for KINDERGARTEN - READY is a free parent workshop offered in a three-part class for parents of children 3-4 years of age. Classes will be held in the West Grand School Districts boardroom. Childcare is provided and you'll come away with fun, toys and ideas to help your child be READY for Kindergarten. All classes will be on Thursdays on the following are the dates:

January 30 - 4:45pm to 6:45pm; February 13 - 4:45pm to 6:15pm; February 20 -4:45pm to 6:15pm

Please go to www.ReadyForKindergarten.org to sign up. If you have any questions, please email families@grandbeginnings.org or call (970) 627-7889.



VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES - They will be on Thursday, February 13th. The morning class will begin their party at 10am, the afternoon and full day class will begin their parties at 2:30pm. If you send valentines for your child to give out, please bring enough cards for everyone in his/her class. The morning class will need to bring 18 valentines, the afternoon class will need to bring 13 valentines, and the full day class will need 18 valentines for their classmates & teachers. **Please have your child write their name by the "from" line on their valentines. Please leave the "to" line BLANK. This way your child may walk around and put one card in each classmates bag and not have to ask who to whom that card belongs.** If you would like to bring snacks/treats or help, there is a sign-up sheet in your child's classroom. Parents are welcome to attend! If your child does not normally attend school on Thursday's, an adult may bring that child to the party and stay with them through the festivities!



BIRTH - 5 YEARS DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS - Friday, March 6th, Kremmling Preschool will host the annual developmental screenings. Children birth - 2 years/10 months will be screened from 9am-1130am. Children 2 years/11 months will be screened from 12pm-230pm. Children currently enrolled in preschool DO NOT need to schedule a screening as they have already been screened. Call Michele at the preschool (970) 724-9483.



CALENDAR of EVENTS:

- Feb. 13 Valentine's Day Parties
- Feb. 17 President's Day, Preschool Closed
- Mar. 6 Preschool Screenings (more information to come)
- Mar. 8 Daylight Saving Times Begins - "Spring" forward
- Mar. 16-22 Spring Break, Preschool Closed
- Mar. 25/26 Parent Teacher Conferences
- April 14 Picture Day
- April 13 Early registration for morning preschoolers currently enrolled
- April 20 Preschool open enrollment
- May 20 Pre-K Graduation
- May 21 Students last day

Please do not hesitate to call or stop by with any questions or concerns!

Michele DeSanti, Director (970) 724-9483. **OVER -->-->-->**

Kids have an endless supply of questions, but answering might not help them learn



By Mary Widdicks

“Curiosity killed the cat ... but satisfaction brought it back.” — English proverb

The dawn sun peeked through my kitchen window as I scrambled eggs, ground coffee, poured cereal, packed lunches and shook the 4-year-old off my leg. The cacophony of a typical school morning with three kids hummed in my ears as my children launched into their usual game of 20 (million) questions.

Why do boys have nipples?

How come heavy people float but tiny rocks sink?

Is there a difference between cookies and cake?

Can we eat cake for breakfast?

Each new question throbbed at my temples as I repeated in my head: *Questions mean they're engaged. Curiosity is good. Education is important. Don't burn the eggs!*

It is logical to assume that positive parent involvement leads to academic success in children, but that doesn't necessarily mean parents have to accept the burden of providing kids with all the answers. This distinction — between supporting and enabling — is only just now being discussed among experts in psychology and education.

“Parents don't need to know all the answers to kids' questions. In fact, when we enable kids to follow their curiosities and interests, they learn much more,” says Diane Tavenner, author of [“Prepared: What Kids Need for a Fulfilled Life.”](#) “As they learn more, they get better at learning and this becomes a virtuous cycle.

“As parents, our role is to take their questions about the world seriously and get curious with our kids,” Tavenner adds. “By modeling the process of independent learning —

whether that's going to the library or searching online — we demonstrate how to discover information and ideas that may spark a lifelong passion.”

But this idea of educating by withholding certain information is counterintuitive for a lot of parents. Even as my eggs blackened in the pan and my pajama pants sagged to the floor along with my crying preschooler, I felt certain that not answering every question would somehow damage my kids' developing sense of wonder and intellect.

It turns out, though, that my guilt might have had more to do with contemporary parental expectations than actual academic outcomes.

A 2011 [article](#) published in the Atlantic argues that modern parents feel an intense pressure to be able to do “everything” for their kids, and it is this focus on perfection that drives the increasing epidemic of parental guilt and anxiety. More importantly, the article makes the case that being a super-parent doesn't actually lead to having happier, healthier children.

Learning requires some amount of struggle and self-motivation. Tavenner makes a similar argument in a recent [article](#) published by the Character Lab, a nonprofit organization that promotes character development. “Only when students have a reason for learning,” she writes, “do they bring their full attention and energy to their work.”

Kids are naturally curious creatures, especially at a young age. Their brains have millions more neurons than an adult's, all poised to form connections and associations about the world. Even if parents possess the knowledge to impart to their children, without the reward of first struggling and then seeking the answers, kids may end up losing their curiosity rather than nurturing it.

Curiosity killed the cat ... Maybe, if what you're curious about is what happens when you stick a paper clip into a light socket. But not usually.

[Angela Duckworth](#), a psychology professor at the University of Pennsylvania and founder of the Character Lab, says, “If we answer all the questions that confront our children, we steal from them the opportunity to think, struggle, and learn.” And it is precisely that grit that children develop through trial and error that prepares them for future challenges.

Take my kids' silly question about the difference between cakes and cookies. It's not exactly rocket science, but sweets are something my kids were already interested in, and the question has a simple, testable answer. My kids are curious about the classification of sweets. So, the first step to piquing curiosity is to validate the question.

“Great question!”

While I easily could have regurgitated the answer while juggling my morning routine, that wouldn't have encouraged exploration on their part. Instead, I offered a follow-up question.

“And what about biscotti? Cake or cookie?”

At this point, they were practically bouncing in their seats. The next step is to motivate them enough to seek the answer for themselves. Psychologist George Loewenstein suggests [curiosity is a need that drives behavior much like hunger](#), and it results from a perceived gap in knowledge. Especially if someone else already knows the answer. Ever notice how kids love hints? Loewenstein and his colleagues argue that curiosity is piqued most when learners have some knowledge of a subject, but not enough to confidently answer the question.

“I’ll give you a hint: Cookies and cakes react differently when you leave them out overnight. What do you suppose happens?”

At this point, I had nurtured the seeds of their curiosity, and hopefully they would immerse themselves in discovering the answer. They expressed an interest in a topic; I validated that question for them, implied I knew the answer and provided a starting point for further exploration. Now all that was left was for them to set up the experiment.

So, back to the rest of our proverb.

Curiosity killed the cat ... but satisfaction brought him back.

Discovering answers to difficult questions is highly [rewarding](#). Even if children initially feel frustrated or uncomfortable by a parent refusing to spoon-feed them knowledge, they will probably develop greater [self-esteem](#), confidence and desire to learn by seeking their own knowledge. Even more importantly, they will learn which questions are worth asking, and which ones only waste their time.

Of course, kids won’t successfully find the answers to all questions simply because they’re curious. But if nothing else, encouraging kids to remain inquisitive could give them the experience of experimentation and research. Sometimes even the questions that remain unanswered can drive us to keep learning, and lead to more questions and future opportunities.

Not to mention, parents will get a break from the inquisition. Even if, in the case of the baked goods, it means cleaning up a few crumbs.

The next time your kids are sitting around the breakfast table, peppering you with questions faster than you can pepper their eggs, remember that you don’t have to answer every inquiry. Take a deep breath, soak the charred frying pan, let go of the guilt and remember:

Curiosity may have killed the cat ... but it could save your sanity.