



Kremmling Preschool Newsletter



February 15, 2023



VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES - We had the best time enjoying everyone for the Valentine's parties! Thank you to everyone that brought food, treats, and drinks. The kids loved all the treats and special day! Thank you!



PRESIDENT'S DAY - There will be no preschool this Monday, February 20th in observance of President's Day. Thank you and enjoy the day!



EXTRA CLOTHES - Throughout our day in preschool, we do a lot of activities that may make us dirty, wet and sometime we are having so much fun playing we have bathroom accidents. Please, please make sure your child has a change of clothing, shirt-pants-underwear-socks, in their cubbies so they may change in the event of an accident. Also, if we borrowed some clothing to your child, please make sure to wash and return them so that other children may use them also. Thank you for assisting your child in being prepared for all the events of the day!



BIRTH - 5 YEARS DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENINGS - On Friday, March 3rd, Kremmling Preschool will host the our annual FREE developmental screenings from 9am - 1230pm. The Kremmling Preschool facilitates these developmental screenings for children birth - 5 years. They are conducted as a means for families and staff to identify children that are possibly in need of extra family or individual support. They also serve as an opportunity for families to just "check in" with specialists and teachers and see where their child is developmentally. In other words, you don't have to have a concern to attend these screenings, they are open to anyone. If you're interested in having for your child screened or know of someone who you think might benefit, please register soon or contact Michele for more information. Children currently enrolled in preschool DO NOT need to schedule a screening as they have already been screened. Please call Michele at the preschool (970) 724-9483 for more information or to register your child. Space fills quickly!



CALENDAR of EVENTS:

Feb. 20	President's Day, Preschool Closed
Mar. 3	FREE Developmental Screenings, for children birth-5 years
Mar. 12	Daylight Saving Times Begins - "Spring" forward
Mar. 14/15	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar. 20-23	Spring Break, Preschool Closed
April 12	Picture Day
April 19/20	Kindergarten Roundup, TENTATIVE
May 24	Pre-K Graduation, 630pm TENTATIVE
May 25	Preschool last day

Please do not hesitate to call or stop by with any questions or concerns!
Michele DeSanti, Director. (970) 724-9483

PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO READ THE ARTICLE ON THE BACK OR GO TO [Early Literacy Tips to Support Language Development at Home \(theliteracynest.com\)](http://theliteracynest.com)

Early Literacy Tips to Support Language Development at Home

January 19, 2023

Language Development in the Early Years

Language follows a predictable developmental process and serves numerous functions. Most importantly, language is a means of communication. Language allows us to connect with other people and our environment. Language helps us make sense of the world around us.

- The development of language skills begins even **before birth**. **Infants** are learning to communicate through eye contact, babbling, crying, and touch.
- By about **a year**, babies are able to understand simple directions, look in the direction of a sound, copy sounds, and say a few words. Language skills grow quickly.
- By **18 months** most children know about 10 words and recognize familiar objects and people.
- By **24 months**, toddlers know over 50 words, use simple phrases, and ask short questions. Caregivers understand them about half the time.
- **Preschoolers** have a language explosion. 3 to 4-year-olds know 250-500 words. By 4-5 years old, their vocabulary has expanded into the thousands. 3 and 4-year-olds answer questions, tell stories, understand simple directions, and use complete sentences. Most 4-year-olds speak clearly enough to be understood.
- **By 5** children begin to understand other points of view, and take turns in conversation, and grammar is mostly in place with some overgeneralizations. Children at 5 speak in complex sentences and follow 2-3 step directions, understand time order words, and can use words to talk about emotions. Although they still mix up some speech sounds, by 5 most children are understood by most adults most of the time.

Oral language skills are innate, but literacy is not. However, there is a lot we can do as parents to encourage language development. Let's take a look at some early literacy tips to support language development at home.

Here are Three Early Literacy Tips for Supporting Language Development at Home:

1. It is never too early to talk to children.

I used to engage in conversations with my kids in the grocery store about what I was putting in the cart, what snacks they were interested in, or whether they thought the strawberries looked good today. Of course, they didn't answer when I first started doing this, but I kept talking anyway. Later they had play conversations by babbling back to me.

There is a viral video of a father sitting on a couch having an engaging conversation with his baby without the baby ever speaking an actual word. The father responds to the tone, and gestures and they take turns just as if it is a mature conversation. This video demonstrates so beautifully what

encouraging language development looks like. As children become more fluent speakers, asking why and how questions, or engaging their imagination is more likely to elicit conversation.

2. The Power of Play!

I sometimes worry as academic skills get pushed down to kindergarten and preschool, that the value of play on oral language development is lost. Play is the work of childhood and indeed helps build language.

Activities such as:

- Building a fort
- A walk in nature
- Playing dress up
- Cooking
- Running errands

are all excellent opportunities to build oral language skills in developmentally appropriate ways, while building gross motor skills.

Interactive activities such as:

- Board games
- Arts and crafts
- Finger plays
- Stringing beads
- Sensory play

encourage fine motor skills and conversation at the same time.

Dramatic play yields amazing opportunities for language use both with adults and peers. When children are playing house, store, or school, the resulting uses of language are spontaneous and purposeful, and genuine.

They are:

- forming questions
- trying to communicate clearly
- practicing conversational etiquette
- steering the play through their language.

3. Read Alouds

In addition to narrating your day, one of the best ways to build language skills is by reading aloud to your children. Picture books are full of interesting language usage, vocabulary, meter, and rhyme. Listening to audiobooks is another valuable way to increase language exposure.

The value of singing and music to the preschooler can't be overstated.

- Nursery rhymes
- Chants
- and songs

are effective ways to build phonological awareness.

Playing games with language such as:

- I spy
- Going on a scavenger hunt
- Hidden pictures
- Concentration

are also great ways to encourage language development.

Looking for support teaching phonological awareness with a special emphasis on phonemic awareness? **Check out our [Phonological Awareness Curriculum Multisensory Reading Intervention!](#)**

The Greatest Gift...

One of the greatest gifts we can give our children is to prepare them for learning to read by talking to them a lot. Early language skills are critical to the development of vocabulary and background knowledge. Children exposed to more words as preschoolers through singing, talking and listening had higher reading comprehension as 3rd graders. Strong receptive and expressive vocabulary in the preschool years is a predictor of reading comprehension in 3rd grade.

Download a printable version of our guide to [Supporting Early Language Development at Home.](#)

In short, children who have lots of experiences with both **speaking** and **listening** during their early years are more prepared for **reading** and **writing** when they start formal schooling. Hope you've found these early literacy tips helpful!

To learn more about how to support growing readers and writers at all stages, sign up for [Building Readers for Life Academy.](#) Both educators and families are welcome! www.buildingreadersforlife.com

