

Upcoming Events

Crooksville Exempted Village Sites

February 13-14, 2020—Valentine's Day activities

March 13, 2020—NO SCHOOL

March 17, 2020—2 hr. early out

April 9-14, 2020—NO SCHOOL

New Lexington Sites

February 13-14, 2020—Lunch with a Loved One at Junction City Preschool—11 am

February 13-14, 2020—Valentine's Day activities at New Lexington Preschool

February 14, 2020—Zoo animals at Junction City Elementary

February 15, 2020—Mother/Son Night 6-8 pm at New Lexington Elementary

February 17, 2020—NO SCHOOL

March 20, 2020—NO SCHOOL-Teacher Professional Development

April 9, 2020—2 hr. early out ALL STUDENTS and STAFF

April 10, 2020—NO SCHOOL

April 13, 2020—NO SCHOOL

Northern Local Sites

February 12-13, 2020—Valentine's Day exchange at Somerset Elementary Preschool

February 14, 2020—NO SCHOOL

April 9-13, 2020—NO SCHOOL

Contact Information

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Message from the Coordinator

Happy 2020! As this new year begins, I stop to reflect on where our preschoolers have been and where they are going. The growth I am seeing in our children is amazing! Our teachers could not do this without you.

In this newsletter, you will find useful information and tips on how to continue to support your child's learning at home. By doing some of the suggested activities on the following pages, your child will have loads of fun while gaining many important skills. Together we can ensure our preschoolers are prepared and ready for kindergarten.

Be on the lookout for information about preschool and kindergarten registration for school year 2020-21.

Best regards,

Lisa Gormley, MVESC Preschool Supervisor
Perry County Programs

Supporting Writing At Home

Preschoolers begin to write long before they learn to read. They scribble, make marks that look like letters, and play with writing, just like they pretend to be the mommy or daddy when they dress up. Here are some ways to help your child learn about and practice writing.

Display children’s writing in a special place—the refrigerator, a bedroom door, on a cork board, or taped to a tile in the bathroom. This tells children that their writing is important and worthy of being shown.

Model writing—whether writing a shopping list, letter, or email, explain what you are doing. Let your child join the fun.

Invite your child to dictate stories to you—at play time, ask your child to tell you a story about where the cars and trucks are going or who lives in the Lego house. Write down exactly what the child says, and read it aloud afterward.

Create greeting cards for special occasions—provide paper and crayons or markers so children can make cards and then “sign” their names when finished. Show them phrases like “Happy Birthday,” “I Love You,” and “Season’s Greetings” to copy on their cards.

Create an “office” for your child—include things like different kinds of paper, envelopes, pencils and

pens, crayons, stickers, and labels on a shelf near a desk or table or in a basket your child can carry to a comfortable place for writing. Add interesting and exciting materials, like address and date books, calendars, and an old computer keyboard.

Give writing tasks while running errands—have your child write a “reverse shopping list.” Provide a pad and pencil so he/she can make a list of things you’ve bought. These tasks let children write and keep busy!

Put writing materials in several places around the house—provide pencils, crayons, and/or markers in coffee cans or baskets and small unlined pads, notebooks, or clipboards with paper attached in the bathroom, kitchen, or in the car. Make sure you discuss that the only place in the room where the child should be writing is on the paper.

Take it outside—let your child write or draw with chalk or old paintbrushes on the sidewalks or fences.

...Teaching Young Children/TYC.NAEYC.ORG

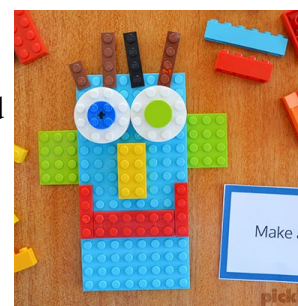
Fun Fine Motor Activities

Fine motor control is all about the movements of the small muscles in the fingers, hands, and arms. Hand-eye coordination also plays a big role in fine motor control, and together, these skills are super important when it comes to writing and self help tasks.

Scooping, Grabbing, and Sorting—Scoops (save them from your laundry powder), tweezers, and tongs are all great tools for working on fine motor skills. Use them with a simple water play set up, a tub of bubbles, or a tub of beans, seeds, or chick peas, or set up a simple sorting activity with pom poms, beads, and an egg carton.



Fine Motor Toys—From basic wooden blocks to Legos, construction sets are a great way to develop fine motor skills and coordination. Other great toys are puzzles, tap-tap set, peg boards, and threading and lacing sets.



Muskingum Valley Preschool Mission

Muskingum Valley Preschool connects with children and families to create high quality, affordable programs that contribute to kindergarten readiness for all students.



Muskingum Valley Preschool - Crooksville Exempted Village Sites

Miss Wilson's classroom



Miss Wilson's preschoolers are learning letter sounds and formations through *Heidi Songs*. The students are learning through dance, then applying it to paper by singing the song and following the motions to write the letter.

Mrs. Daniels' classroom



As part of the math curriculum, Mrs. Daniels' preschoolers were on the hunt for 3-D shapes (spheres, cones, and cylinders).

Mrs. Holland's classroom

To promote wellness, Mrs. Holland's preschoolers created a workout room in the dramatic play area with yoga-pose pictures on the wall, floor mats, cardboard dumbbells, and a barbell. They also made a treadmill from a garbage bag, paper, and lots of tape! The children are learning the letter "E" for exercise. They've also been learning ways to keep themselves happy and healthy.



Mrs. Blosser's Leaps and Bounds classroom

We've been playing *Duck, Duck, Goose* in the gym with our friends from the other preschool class. This fun activity focuses on taking turns, following directions, and social skills.



Cold Weather Fun!

GET MOVING OUTDOORS:

- Go sledding
- Build a snowman
- Make snow angels
- Create snow creatures (dinosaurs, monkeys, elephants and more)
- Take a nature walk



GET MOVING INDOORS:

- **Treasure Hunt**—Hide an item and place clues around the house (use picture cues for little ones, harder phrases for older children).
- **Put on a play**—Play basketball with a soft foam or sponge ball. Hoop can be any basket (hung on the wall or resting on the floor). Have kids shoot from different parts of the room or in different ways.
- **Little Helpers**—Allow your child to help with chores like vacuuming, dusting, or sweeping, even if it takes longer than doing it by yourself.
- **Freeze Dance**—Play music and stop it without warning. The person who stops first or stops holding the funniest position wins that round.

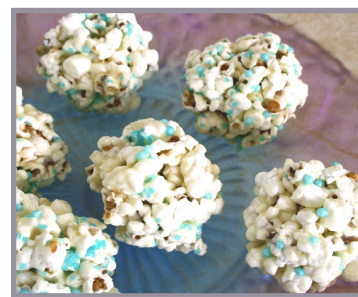
...Developed by Healthy Children Healthy Weights at Columbus Public Health

Winter Snack Recipe—Popcorn Snowballs

These treats are easy to make, and they look like magical blue snowballs. Adults can take care of the prep, while your little ones help with forming each snowball and decorating it.

What You Need:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| ◆ 1 pkg. Microwave popcorn | ◆ Cookie sheet |
| ◆ 1 pkg. mini marshmallows | ◆ Parchment paper |
| ◆ 2 tbs. butter | ◆ Large mixing bowl |
| | ◆ Blue/white sprinkles |



What You Do:

1. Pop the popcorn in the microwave according to the package directions. Once it is cooled, place it in a large mixing bowl.
2. On the stove, melt butter over medium heat. Once it is melted, stir in $\frac{3}{4}$ of the mini marshmallows. Save some for later. Stir until all marshmallows are melted.
3. Pour the marshmallow mixture over the popcorn and stir until it is well integrated. Be careful, the mixture will be hot at first.
4. Once the popcorn and marshmallows are cool, mix in the rest of the mini marshmallows and the sprinkles.
5. Once the mixture is fully cooled, take a handful and form it into a snowball, just as you would when making a real snowball. You can add more candy and sprinkles to the fully formed snowballs to make them look extra magical.
6. Place finished snowballs on parchment paper to keep them from sticking. Enjoy!