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# Legacy Lines

*A Newsletter for Families*

*September 2022*



## Thoughts from your Legacy Team...

August has flown by and we say good bye to the start of a new school year. As we prepare to welcome fall we wanted to send out a few reminders for everyone.

- We are closed September 5<sup>th</sup> for Labor Day. We hope everyone had a safe and happy weekend.
- Fall Pictures will be September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Siblings, Infants, Toddlers and 3's will be on the 27<sup>th</sup> and all Pre-K classes will be on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Scholastic Book Fair is back. Please check it out September 6<sup>th</sup>- September 16<sup>th</sup>!
- With cooler weather on the horizon, we would like to remind parents to please label all jackets with your child's first and last name so we can be sure each child has the correct jacket.
- Please remember to check all book bags or diaper bags you bring in. Anything labeled "Keep out of Reach of Children" should be removed. If you need to give creams to the teachers, please be sure to do so before hanging up a book bag. Any medication should be left at the front desk. Thank you for your help in keeping the classrooms safe.
- Friendly reminder on our sick policy, fevers need to remain home for 24 hours fever free before returning. If you suspect your child is sick, please keep them home or take them to the doctor. We want to do our best to keep illnesses at a minimum.

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## Let's Celebrate



## September Class Themes of the Month



### **Dreamers ~ Theme: Babies, Babies Everywhere**

Dreamers will be immersed in exploring objects in their indoor and outdoor environments during the month. They will explore communicating verbally and non-verbally, participating in give-and-take, and responding to and identifying pictures and photographs. Our babies will also get the opportunity to explore objects with their hands, feet, ears, nose, and mouth.



### **Travelers ~ Theme: Families First**

In September our Travelers will be busy learning classroom rules, making placemats, learning about fall, and becoming accustomed to daily routines. With a focus on families, Travelers will create family murals from magazine cut-outs. These experiences allow students the opportunity to see how diversity plays a role in various family units.



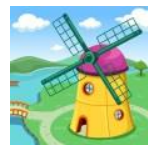
### **Adventurers ~ Theme: My Family and Me**

Our Adventurers will be busy learning about themselves and their families so lots of family photos and magazine pictures are a must for the month! They'll also be busy celebrating their Grandparents for Grandparent Day on September 11, 2022. Not only that, they'll reach out to the local community by sending cards to an assisted living center. These experiences help children to learn about the world around them as they explore the community in which they live.



### **Discoverers ~ Theme: Home, Sweet Home**

Throughout September, Discoverers will be engaged in discussions about fall, learning their addresses, phone numbers and reinforcing their knowledge of body part names, colors, and numbers. Discoverers will begin to foster a love for language as they listen to stories and poems, and then put their creative minds to work by designing their own stories and rhymes.



### **Voyagers ~ Theme: Families, Friends, and Four**

Families and friends are an important element of every child's life. This month we'll be focused on fostering a positive self-image as we celebrate the different experiences and varying abilities of our friends. Voyagers will explore the importance of friends and the attributes of good friends that will remain with them as they continue to grow and develop.



### **Explorers ~ Theme: Dream Homes**

Our Explorers will be diving into activities based around homes! They'll have opportunities to draw a picture of their homes and then post them on their bulletin board titled, 'There's No Place Like Home.' They'll also kick off the season of fall by exploring their outdoor environment, collecting leaves, and then imprinting them with our very own Play-Doh that we'll create together.

## September

### Dreamers



**Math-** This month children are provided with opportunities to increase their numerical awareness through reading books that include counting and shapes.

**Science-** Children will have the opportunity to use their senses as they explore the materials in their environment and discover that they can make things happen.

**Social Studies-** Dreamers will be provided various learning opportunities that foster positive identity along with an emerging sense of self and others.

### Travelers

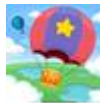


**Math-** This month, our math lessons focus on learning to categorize materials by one or two attributes such as shape, size, and color.

**Science-** Travelers will deepen their understanding of their senses as they explore objects in their environment and discover that they can make things happen and solve simple problems.

**Social Studies-** Travelers will be busy immersing themselves in their classroom community so that they may feel accepted and gain a sense of belonging in their environment.

### Adventurers



**Math-** Adventurers will be busy learning about numbers! They'll be learning and building an understanding of numerical concepts and their relationship to object quantities and symbols.

**Science-** This month, children will have multiple opportunities that will encourage critical thinking, reasoning, and questioning.

**Social Studies-** This month our activities will provide children with materials to explore social roles in the family and workplace as they engage in play throughout their center choice time.

### Discoverers



**Math-** This month, children will be provided with various opportunities and materials to build an understanding of geometry. This will include learning about two-and-three dimensional shapes and recognizing their figures.

**Science-** Discoverers will begin exploring the world around them as they learn about scientific principles such as seasons, weather, and geological features.

**Social Studies-** Discoverers will be provided with opportunities to explore the community in which they live. They'll do this by learning about various jobs within the community such as firefighters and mailmen.

### Voyagers



**Math-** Math lessons this month include engaging math in our student's everyday activities. Teachers will create opportunities to integrate mathematical terms in everyday conversations.

**Science-** Children will be provided opportunities and materials that will help them learn and use scientific terminology and vocabulary associated with specific content areas.

**Social Studies-** Clean Earth! That's the title for activities our Voyagers will be focused on this month. They'll learn about the positive and negative ways in which people affect our environment and they'll learn what they can do to create a healthy earth for you and me! What could you do this month to create a positive impact on the Earth?

## The Power of Playful Learning in the Early Childhood Setting

How we educate children has evolved over the years and new research studies show that play and learning mutually support one another. Playful learning can be defined as a rich curriculum paired with a playful pedagogy. Simply, playful learning describes a learning context where children learn educational standards while playing freely, alongside teacher guidance.

By harnessing a child's natural curiosity and their tendency to explore, experiment and problem solve, teachers can maximize learning while tailoring their lessons to the individual needs of the child. Central to this concept is the idea that teachers act more as the Socratic "guide at the side" than a "sage on the stage" (e.g., King 1993, 30; Smith 1993, 35).

Playful learning pedagogies leverage the power of active (minds-on), engaging (not distracting), meaningful, socially interactive, and iterative thinking and learning in a powerful way that leads to increased learning.

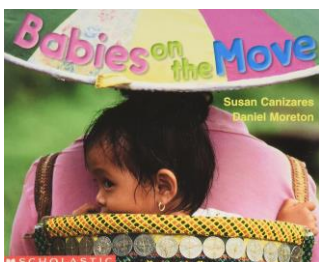
Free play lets children explore and express themselves. In other words, they get to be the captains of their own ships. Imagine an everyday block center at your child's Legacy Academy. The children are immersed in play with each other- while some are trying to build towers others are creating a tunnel for toy cars to go through on a nearby shelf. But what if there were a few photos of models on the wall that the children could strive to build? Would their curiosity peek? Might they rotate specific pieces purposefully? Perhaps they would be participating in active collaboration with one another that the rectangle piece needs to go on top of the square? A simple insertion of a design that children could try turns a play scenario into one rich in spatial learning (Zosh et al, 2022).

Did you know that Legacy Academy's **Framework for Their Future Curriculum** does just that? With play-based centers in each age group, children have opportunities to explore the areas of their choosing. Each week materials are added and rotated based on key learning objectives for that week. Key experiences highlight the specific skills that planned activities are designed to develop. So that when a child is in the Science area, the materials are directly aligned with the key experience for that week. In August, in our Voyagers classroom, mirrors were added to their science area. As children explored the science center, they were able to engage in learning play with the mirrors. Teachers guided the students in their learning by asking questions such as, "What do we call what you can see in the mirror?" (reflection). "Where else might you see a reflection?"

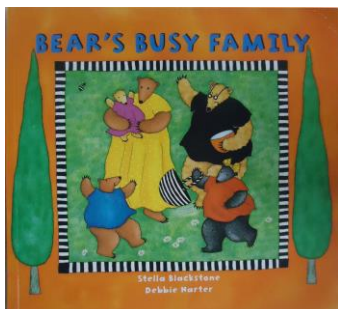
The play-based centers you find throughout Legacy Academy are the focus of the classrooms and the main tool for developing social and emotional as well as academic skills; they reflect and support what the children are learning through whole-group discussions, lessons, and skills-focused stations.

Zosh, J. M., Gaudreau, C., Michnick Golkinoff, R., & Hirsh-Pasek, K. (2022). *The power of playful learning in the early childhood setting*. NAEYC. Retrieved August 3, 2022, from

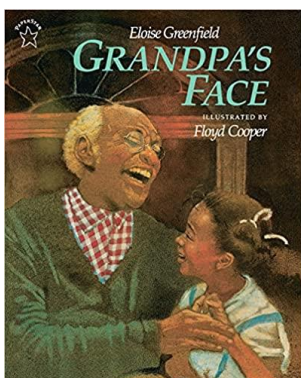
## September Books



**Babies on the Move**  
By: Susan Canizares



**Bear's Busy Family**  
By: Stella Blackstone



**Grandpa's Face**  
By: Eloise Greenfield

## Recycling 101

### Supplies

Empty carton  
Bird Seed  
Stick  
Paint/ Markers  
String



### Purpose

Recycling isn't just for adults; children can begin learning about the benefits of recycling from an early age. Educating children about the importance of recycling and protecting the environment is the first step in a life-long commitment to preserving the environment. This will help children foster a love for the world in which they live while also giving them hands-on activities they can do in the early stages of life. In this activity, we will teach children one eco-friendly practice they can do today to produce less waste.

### Directions:

Obtain an empty carton. With adult supervision, cut a hole in the carton large enough for a bird to get to the seeds. With an adult's help, cut a small hole at the bottom of the feeder and place a stick through it. This will act as the bird's perch while they eat. Then, decorate the carton! Lastly, ask your parents to help you hang the bird feeder up outside and keep an eye out for the birds that may be arriving soon!