

Parent *PAGE*

Serendipity Monrovia

January 2012

From the Director...

Welcome 2012! I would very much like to thank so many parents for your generosity to me and staff members this Christmas. We hope that we always provide the best care for your child.

Beginning a new year is, for many, like a new start. We have made many improvements on our campus and feel a lot of pride in our program. Our Staff is an amazing group of women. We will be continuing to pursue our accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Our Serendipity families make all of this possible.

We all strive to have the best of health, wealth, and luck. We have seen many people endure hard times. We have watched kindness in our communities support those in need. It is our sincere wish for the families in our care to have the very best that this year can bring.

We've reached the halfway point in our school year, and teachers are completing individual child assessments. It is so exciting to see so much growth, and to note one success after another as the children meet specific and general benchmarks.

We are committed to maintaining the high standards, including keeping parent communication lines open. Our next parent conferences are in March. If you have questions, we'll do our very best to provide answers.

Janet Beaulieu
Director



**Serendipity Tuition rates have increased for January 1.
Monthly and Semi-Monthly payments will be due on the 1st and 15th of
each month.**

Our school is closed January 16th, for the Holiday

PARENT CORNER

How do young children learn?

Young children learn through play, by observing role models and by doing activities repeatedly. While it is often said that PLAY is a child's work, the thin line between work and play becomes obscured when the passion, joy and fascination of solving a problem occur within the context of exploration, discovery and camaraderie.

Parents can reinforce learning by providing repetition of favorite activities, books, and songs. Performing the same tasks frequently helps to build confidence, and can be comforting to those children who rely on routine and predictability. Following are some ideas to support learning at home:

Language: Read to your child daily – set aside a time a bedtime, before dinner, or whatever fits into your schedule. Allow your child to see you reading newspapers, books, etc. Visit your local library. Sing with your children. Share favorites from your childhood. Chants, rhymes, and poetry are especially valuable in language development. Talk with your children. Take every possible opportunity to engage them in conversation with open-ended questions (questions that have many possible answers, not just yes/no)

Block building: Stacking blocks and knocking them down encourages problem solving, spatial awareness, and flexible thinking, in addition to math concepts such as sizes, shapes, & quantities. Blocks can be made of wood, plastic, cardboard, etc. Encourage block play, as it stimulates cognitive skills. Expand this play by adding simple props like toy people, cars, animals, traffic signs, and more. You can also visit a construction site with your child, to help them make the connection between a whole and its parts.

By paying close attention to your child's specific interests and being aware of his or her current abilities, you can find simple and inexpensive ways to extend their learning. Perhaps that bucket of rocks your child collected in the backyard would be fun to sort and count with, or to make simple patterns with. And the superhero who runs through your house with a blanket around his shoulders could surely use a damsel in distress who needs to be rescued...the possibilities are endless.

Have you played with your child today?

