



Serra Preschool

*A Parent Participation Nursery School
Where Kids and Parents Learn Together.*

September 2017 Newsletter

Director's Message

~ *Stages of Play* ~

How Children Learn To Relate To Others

The best way to learn anything is through play. Children can not only learn about science, math and engineering through play, but they can also learn important social skills while playing.

Children can learn about problem solving, advocating for themselves, decision-making skills, working in groups, sharing and resolving conflicts.

As children grow and develop, so does their way of playing. The different ways that your child plays and the people your child plays with can give you insight on how he or she is growing.

Below is a list of "play stages." As you work in the classroom I invite you to become more aware of how children are playing. Having a better understanding of where children are in their development of social play will help us

guide them in the stage they are in and as they are moving towards the next stage of play.

Play Stages:

Unoccupied play, age 0 to 6

The child is not playing, just observing. The child is relatively stationary and appears to be performing random movements with no apparent purpose. This is an infrequent style of play.

Solitary play, age 0 to 2

The child plays alone, focused on their own activity, unaware and uninterested in what others are doing. There is limited interaction with other children. The child is totally engrossed in their own play.

Example: A child is in a room full of other children, but is playing alone and not paying attention to anyone. A child is playing with blocks alone in a corner.

Spectator play, age 2 to 2.5

The child watches others at play but does not engage in it. They may talk about the play or ask questions, but they do not join in.

Parallel play, age 2.5 to 3.5

The child plays separately but close to others often mimicking their actions. The child plays along side others. Often seen as the beginning of more complex social play.

Example: Children are playing the same game or activity. They are playing next to each other, but they are not talking or doing the same activity. Two or more children are playing blocks near each other but not talking with each other.

Associative play, age 3 to 4.5

The child is interested in playing with others and interacts with others during the play, but the activity is not organized or coordinated. It is the beginning of in-



Serra Preschool Director
Mrs. Nowicki

teracting with others during play with fleeting moments of cooperation. There is some interaction but if one child moves elsewhere the other child can still continue with the activity. Develops friends and preferences for playing with some children but not all other children. Play is normally in mixed sex groups. At this stage there is more interest in each other than the toys they are using.

Example: Two or more children are playing with blocks building the same thing, talking with each other but not necessarily working together to create something.

Director's Message Continued ...

Cooperative play, age 4.5 to 6

The child is interested in both the people playing and in the activity. The activity is organized and participants have assigned roles. This is the beginning of team work. There are shared aims of play with others. Each child depends on the other children's cooperation for this type of play to continue. If one child leaves the play comes to a halt or is altered. Oftentimes children adopt rules to the play. Entering primary school age the play is normally in same sex groups.

Example: Two or more children are playing with blocks building the same thing, talking with each other and working together to create something.

I think its fair to say that before children go to Kindergarten we would like to see them engaging in more cooperative versus parallel or even associative play.

The way we talk to the kids, helping them to give and receive a message, learning to wait for a turn and to ask for what they need are all important skills that help them develop more mature styles of play. I think it helps to know how most kids play at what age and if their play is not appropriate for their age then we need to find out why and help them move along.

3 day parents often wonder what happened to the kids over the summer. It all seemed so easy the year before. It is true that in many ways that kids who are all engaged in parallel play have less conflicts as long as everyone has what they need. As children mature and move towards more cooperative styles of play there will be more conflicts over who is in charge, who gets to decide what to do and who makes the rules.

There will be followers and leaders and friendships will change based on the interests of the kids.

It can all feel very messy and unruly at times. But I think if we can look at it through the lens of what skills the kids are developing and where they are at in their stage of play it might all feel a little bit better and make more sense.

I will again invite you to notice how the kids are playing and what stage they are in.

Does it change the way you think about your child or any other child as they play?

Happy noticing!!!!

Mrs. Nowicki



Dates to Know:

- **Sept 28** | *Street Sweeping*
- **Sept 30** | **6 Week Clean Up**
- **Sept 30** | Family Movie Night
- **Oct 11** | Street Sweeping
- **Oct 11** | Board Meeting
- **Oct 12** | Street Sweeping
- **Oct 19** | Harvest Day
- **Oct 25** | Street weeping
- **Oct 25** | Pumpkin Patch
- **Oct 25** | General Meeting
- **Oct 26** | Street Sweeping
- **Oct 30** | Halloween Parade (3 Day)
- **Oct 31** | Halloween Parade (2 Day)
- **Nov 1** | No School

President's Message

Goodbye, summer! Hello, fall!

Hello sweet September when life seems to change pace just a bit. For many of you, your precious little babies just started here at Serra Preschool! Can you believe how time went by so quickly? You remember the day they were born as if it were yesterday, yet this month a whole new world opened for them. It's a new world for you, too. Was the first day of preschool more difficult for your child or for you? If you are a returning parent in 3day, I think we've all commented on how the kids seem to have picked up right where they left off. All the patient work of learning how to give and receive messages, learning how to ask for a turn (and then waiting for a turn), learning how to show Mrs. Nowicki that you have something to say during rug time, and the most important learning of all in the playing and playing and playing that they did... well, it's all seeming to pay off. Of course, there is so much growing to do, and it's all cool that we get to do it together?!

Three cheers for a fantastic start of school, and oh boy!, there is so much more fun to come. October is full of apples and farms, of our harvest market, and naturally, of ghosts and pumpkins galore! Children will enjoy practicing and performing their "5 Little Pumpkins" poem, they'll be buying and selling at our harvest market, and to top it all off, they get to march in our Halloween parade.

Get ready for a super fun month ahead, and get ready to play!

Sending Serra Love,

Cori, Luke's mom

Hello Book Lovers!

What a great start to the school year here at Serra! September will begin our Scholastic Book orders, and the last book order will be in May 2018. Please keep your eye out for an email blast reminder every month to check your Family Folder to pick up the Scholastic Book Flyers. You can order online (process outlined below) or complete the paper order forms and insert them in Cora Velarde's Family Folder on or before the due date.

September Due Date for Ordering: Thursday, September 28
School Code: MFML4

Getting Started: For the first month of book orders, parents need to go online and register their student for Mrs. Nowicki's class.

How to Register Online:

1. Go to SCHOLASTIC.COM
2. Click on "REGISTER" in the top Right corner
3. Under Parents & Families, Click Register NOW
4. Register yourself (parent) and then your child. PLEASE WRITE DOWN YOUR LOG IN / PASSWORD FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!
5. It will ask you to add the Class Activation Code. Serra Preschool is: MFML4
6. Click Submit, and Shop!

Tip: You can click on the center of the Homepage once you are logged in that says "Scholastic Reading Club - Shop by Flyer" and the flyers that come home with your child will be readily available here. Click on the picture of the book that you wish to buy, then add it to your "cart."

*Did you know... that every book that you order for your child earns "points" for Serra Preschool to receive FREE books? It's a win-win and allows Mrs. Nowicki the opportunity to shop for books to enrich the classroom library.

Feel free to email, call, or text me with any questions and I will gladly help! We are so jazzed to be a part of such an awesome community at Serra!

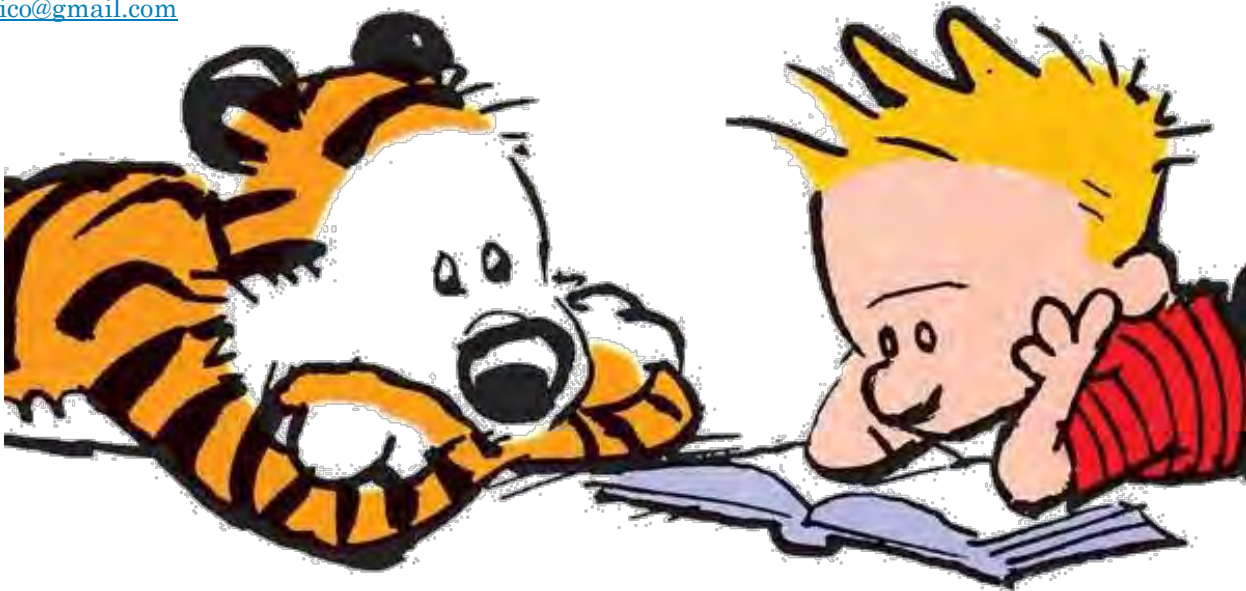
Warmly,

Tawny Dovico

Mom to Cora Velarde, 2 -Day

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Classroom Songs

Bubble Bubble Pop!

1 little red fish swimming in the ocean
1 little red fish swimming in the ocean
1 little red fish swimming in the ocean
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, pop!

2 little blue fish swimming in the ocean
2 little blue fish swimming in the ocean
2 little blue fish swimming in the ocean
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble pop!

3 little orange fish swimming in the ocean
3 little orange fish swimming in the ocean
3 little orange fish swimming in the ocean
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble , pop!

A Hunting We Will Go

A hunting we will go, a hunting we will go
We will catch a bear and cut his hair and
then we will let him go.
Catch a fish, put him in a dish
Catch a fox, put him in a box
Catch a snake, bake him in a cake
Catch a dog, put him on a log

Zoom, Zoom, Zoom

Zoom, zoom, zoom we are hunting for
dablumes

Zoom, zoom, zoom we are hunting for
dablumes

If you want to take a trip, climb aboard my
pirate ship

Zoom, zoom zoom, we are hunting for
dablumes

In 5,4,3,2,1, Ahoy!

Zoom, zoom, zoom we are hunting for
dablumes!

Harvest Market Donations

Silk flowers and
foliage
Scarecrows
Mini pumpkins
and gourds
Plastic/rubber
Fruit

Harvest corn
Straw hats
Bandanas
Feathers
Cornucopia
baskets
Autumn décor

Serra Preschool Board of Directors

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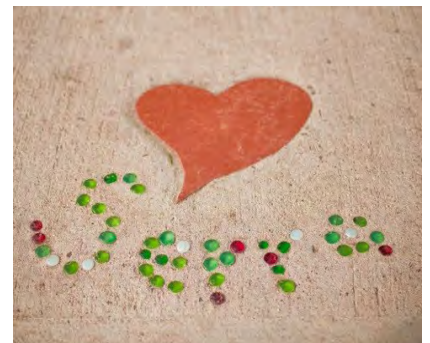
September and October Birthdays

- **Sept 28** | Ryder Wills
- **Sept 29** | Adelin Moag
- **Oct 12** | Cadance Howell
- **Oct 14** | Sylas Thomas

Serra Preschool

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2 Day Images



September 2017
Newsletter

3 Day Images

