

SCHOOL NEWS

July 2008
Volume 1, Issue 9

College Park UMC Primary School & CDC
Mary Massey, M.S., Principal



MASSEY'S MESSAGE

I am devoting a good bit of this page to Potty Training. We want to be partners with parents when it comes to potty training, as we know it will go much smoother at home and at school, if we work together. It is important for parents to discuss with us their plans for a potty training schedule so that we can continue their efforts at school, providing continuity for the child. As children move into the two-year-old classrooms, we make a deliberate effort to potty train the entire class, together. It's a great use of "positive peer pressure", those classrooms are set up for such training and those teachers are the "experts" in potty training. Together, we will help get both you and your child through this very important stage in your child's developmental process.

PARENTING TIPS

When do I begin thinking about potty training?

Your child may be physically ready if he/she is:

- Waking up with a dry diaper (overnight and nap)
- Showing an interest in toileting
- Pulling at his/her diaper
- Verbalizing a desire to use the potty
- Watching mommy and daddy in the bathroom

You are ready if you are:

- Committed to temporary schedule changes
- Willing to clean, clean, clean
- In it for the "long haul"

If both you and your child are ready, it is best to make a plan by setting a date and agreeing on execution of your plan by all involved. You want to decide on specific verbiage to be used and you may even want to design visuals for incentives. It's a good idea to take your child shopping for a potty or step stool, underwear, and other supplies and materials. This makes the child feel a part of the process.

When the time comes, you will want to be sure your child is given plenty of liquids throughout the day. You will want to stop those liquids by early evening. Your child will need to be dressed for "easy access". It is important to instruct, discuss, and model proper self-cleaning, flushing, and hand washing. Once you switch to "big girl/boy pants", do not go back to diapers and do not use pull-ups. Your child needs to feel uncomfortable when he/she wets the underwear. Diapers and Pull-ups keep the bottom dry and the child has no incentive to make it to the toilet. It is confusing to your child to alternate between diapers and underwear, even for bed time. If he/she is ready to potty train, there is no need to revert back to diapers.

Contents

Massey's Message	1
Parenting Tips	1
Tuition Checks	2
Sign-in Book	2
Cell Phone Usage	2
Contact Information	2
Teaching Tips	2

HAPPY
JULY 4TH!



We're on the Web!
www.cpumc.org

**CPUMC Primary School
& CDC**
644 W. Princeton Street
Orlando, FL 32804
Phone:
(407) 841-6020
Fax:
(407) 841-6070
E-mail:
mary@cpumc.org

TUITION CHECKS

This is just a reminder to parents to please be diligent about dropping your checks off by 6 p.m. on Monday evenings. This avoids a late charge for you and, it allows our staff to prepare bank deposits and complete bookkeeping paperwork on schedule, which is essential for daily operations to run smoothly. We truly appreciate your help with this!

SIGN-IN BOOK

In regards to the Sign-in Book, in the Front Office, please note:

- Parents need to sign in and out every day. As a “back-up”, we consult the Sign-in Book for attendance and as a resource when one parent calls to see if the other parent dropped off or picked up their child. It is very important for the information in the book to be filled out.
- ONLY adults may write in the book. Often times, in cases of child custody, divorce proceedings, and legal issues, the sign-in/out sheets are subpoenaed. These are legal documents and must be legible and accurate.
- I know children see your routine and want to be “helpful”. Please explain to them that only adults may write in the Sign-in Book and then offer them an alternative way of helping, such as carrying their lunch box, placing your check in the tuition box, handing paperwork to the front desk personnel, walking nicely through the office and into the classroom.

Thank you for your help with this very important matter.

CELL PHONE USAGE

Please do not walk through the front office, using your cell phone. It is often necessary for school personnel to communicate with parents and we can't do that, if you are talking on your cell phone. Secondly, it must be very disheartening for your child, not having seen you all day, not to get your undivided attention when being picked up. This is a perfect time to model proper cell phone etiquette and common courtesy, an important social skill. Remember, YOU are your child's first teacher! We would really appreciate your help with this.

TEACHING TIPS

Logic and Reasoning

A very simple way to help strengthen logic and reasoning skills in your young child is to work with him on patterning and sequencing. These activities are some that can fit very naturally into your daily routine. If you have several pillows on the couch or bed, encourage your child to arrange them by size or create a pattern by color. You can do the same with other household items such as empty prescription bottles, buttons (older children), balls, bottle caps, cans, eating utensils, etc. Be creative! Children can line them up smallest to largest, or by color, lightest to darkest. When having a special treat, your child can create patterns with M & Ms or Lucky Charms, alternating colors and shapes, and then eat her creation! When playing outside, encourage your little one to spot patterns in nature by playing an “I Spy” game. These activities provide an opportunity to learn through play, which current brain research tells us is most effective. In addition to helping connect synapses to strengthen logic and reasoning skills, these activities can help children enhance language skills by adding to their vocabulary words such as biggest, tallest, smallest, shortest, patterns, etc. and using them in context.