

## October in the Duckling Class

Dear Duckling Families:

It is hard to believe that we have already completed one month of school! Your children are absolutely adorable and we are having so much fun! It is going to be an Awesome Bucket Filling School Year!!!

**Don't forget to put our Classroom Calendar in a special location and refer to it before leaving for school! October is a busy month: We have Back to School Night, Trunk or Treat, Halloween Parties and Parades!** *(Please look for updates as to how these are taking place during this time.)*

### **Social-Emotional Development: Objectives for October & for the School Year:**



**I Am A Bucket Filler – Manner's Matter!**: The Giving Nest uses the wonderful story entitled: *Have You Filled a Bucket Today* by Carolyn McCloud to teach the importance of manners, kindness and respect. This month the teacher will focus on using our manners. She will have a beautiful bucket labeled "We Are a Bucket Filling Class"! The teacher will give each child an index card that has a picture of a child using good manners or a child using bad manners. The child will look at the picture and tell everyone what is going on in his/her picture. Then the child will decide if the picture shows good or bad manners. If it shows the child being a Bucket Filler he/she will put the picture in the bucket. If it shows the child being a Bucket Dipper he/she will put the picture in the Trash Can!

**Let's Work Together & Get the Job Done!**: It is always fun to play but not so fun when it is time to clean up! The teachers encourage cooperation and working together by making clean-up time fun! First, we always give a "5 Minute Warning" that it will be time to clean up and then we do one of the following: 1. Set a timer and say: "It is clean up time – can we work together and beat the clock?" 2. Toy & Bin Match-Up: The children have to match the toy in their hand to the bin that has a picture of that toy! 3. Sing a Clean-up Song!

**Self-Help Skill:** I Can Wash & Dry My Own Hands! During this time in a child's development you will often hear "I Can Do It Myself!" and they are correct – they

can! When we allow children to do things on their own, we are helping them to become competent, independent and confident little beings! There is nothing better than seeing a child beam with pride when they accomplish a task on their own OR with a little help! In October the children will be given a handwashing lesson in the bathroom and from then on they will be encouraged to do it by themselves! But don't worry – we will be watching and those that need help and/or a little extra washing and drying afterwards will be helped!



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Encourage and remind your child to use manner words!
2. Try some of the clean-up ideas listed above. For a child that is “Clean Up Resistant”; use a small hula-hoop and encircle a small group of toys. Tell your child they need to clean up everything inside the hula-hoop.
3. Give a handwashing and drying lesson at home – encourage them to do it by themselves!

### **Physical Development:**

#### **Gross Motor (Large Muscle) Objectives & Activities for October:**

##### **Discovering Different Ways to Move our Bodies:**

**Square Identification & Moving Our Bodies:** The teacher will make a large masking tape square in the gym room. The children will listen carefully as the teacher tells them what they need to do! She may say: “Let’s Walk/Run/Tip-Toe/Crawl/Slitter/Hop, etc. on the square!”

**Positional Words UP & DOWN & Moving Our Bodies:** The children will learn “Up & Down” as they play “Simon Says” and act out the song “The Grand Old Duke of York”!

**Please Note:** Both activities listed above also develop listening skills and following 1 & 2 step directions!

#### **Fine Motor (Small Muscle) Objectives & Activities for October:**

One of our main goals this year is to develop the muscles in your child’s hands to get them ready for cutting with scissors, drawing and writing. We do this in a series of steps. Our first step is to provide a variety of opportunities to exercise their hand muscles. This is done as they play with play dough, string beads, put puzzles together, etc. In October the children will play with fine motor toys, hold a glue stick and apply glue, tear paper, aim and scribble with a crayon and

practice holding scissors as they listen to the Handwriting Without Tears song “Open, Shut Them”.



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

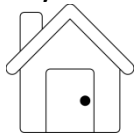
1. Go to the Playground! Encourage your child to hop, run and jump!
2. Give your child opportunities to work with their hands – play dough, lacing cards, picking up small things with their hands, tweezers, spoons, etc.

## **LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Language Development Objectives & Activities for October:**

**Listen & Do – Following Simple Directions:** An important skill for children to learn is to be able to listen and follow directions. With three year olds we start with simple one step directions and move up to two and possibly three step directions. For instance the teacher may say: “Put glue on the yellow paper”.

**“Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater”** The children will act out and recite the nursery rhyme “Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater”.



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Play listening games with your child such as *Simon Says*. Also, begin by giving 1 Step directions, such as “Please get your backpack.” When you find success, start adding 2 step directions, such as, “Please get your backpack and your jacket.”

## **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT:**

### **Cognitive Development Objectives & Activities for October:**

**Shows Curiosity and Motivation:** Uses senses to explore their environment.

1. **Scooping, Feeling, Looking Inside a Pumpkin!** Scoop out the insides of a real pumpkin and look at the seeds and rind with a magnifying glass. They will glue one seed on their pumpkin puzzles.
2. **Squirrels in Autumn:** While on the playground the teacher will ask the children to look for and collect acorns and to observe how squirrels interact with each other. The next time the teacher will hide the acorns in the gym room and the children will pretend they are squirrels and go on an “Acorn Hunt.” Later the children will count how many acorns they have found and they will make an adorable craft!

## **ACADEMIC SKILLS IN OCTOBER**

### **HALLOWEEN & COLOR FUN** - The children will...

1. Make Halloween Goodie Bags.
2. Make Halloween Crafts – find a special place to hang up these adorable decorations!

### **FUN WITH SQUARES** - The children will...

1. The teacher will make large masking tape squares in the gym room. The children will listen carefully as the teacher tells them what they need to do! She may say: “Let’s Walk/Run/Tip-Toe/Crawl/Slitter/Hop, etc. on the square!
2. Square Hunt: The teacher will hide shapes in the classroom and tell the children to go on a shape hunt. They will make two piles – 1 pile of squares and 1 pile of not squares!

### **Stone Soup (Story of the Month)**

Stone Soup is a wonderful interactive story that teaches cooperation and sharing. The teacher will tell the story using our flannel board figures and afterwards the children will act out the story. The teacher will put a big soup pot and spoon in the middle of the circle and each child will be given a vegetable. As the teacher retells the story she will name a vegetable and the child holding that vegetable will put it in the pot and stir the soup. The story will continue until all the children have had a turn. Then the teacher will cook the Stone Soup and the children will share and enjoy their yummy soup that they made together!

### **Math Time...**

The Giving Nest uses the **Harcourt Math Program**. This provides the children with developmentally appropriate hands on activities that will help them form beginning mathematical knowledge. In October the children will...

- Identify & describe same & differences among objects.
- Will be given a shoe box of assorted items to find matches - such as counting bears, hot-wheel cars & plastic fruit. They will sort by like item and determine how they are alike or how they are different.

### **STEAM Time...**

Please check out the October Newsletter to see what activities the children will be doing this month!



### **What Can You Do at Home?**

1. Look at the things we are doing above and review with your child.

**If you ever have any questions, concerns, etc. please put a note in your child's take-home folder and I will give you a call.**

