

Families Matter

Spring 2019

ALL THEY DO IS PLAY

It's that time of year when parents begin to look at preschool programs for the next year. If your child is or will be three years old this fall you can apply for preschool. The Colorado Preschool Program (CPP) is a scholarship program that will fund preschool for 10 hours a week. Parents have some choice about which preschool program to choose and this is often followed by a tour to ask about curriculum and what children learn. In Fremont County play based curriculum is used.

Parents may watch a preschool classroom and ask "When are they going to work?" or "What are they going to learn?" Be assured that learning through play **IS** learning and children learn lifelong skills they will carry into their adult lives.

Take literacy. In a play based classroom, literacy doesn't just happen in the book area or while learning the alphabet. Literacy happens when children's names are on their cubby or coat hook. Literacy happens in the house area when children pretend to write a shopping list or arrange magnetic letters on the play fridge. Literacy happens in the music area when instruments are labeled or children stand on a letter as part of a song. Literacy happens in the block area when toys are labeled, when there are books about cars and road signs.

Teachers join children in play and guide them through their learning. As children learn letters and letter sounds they also learn to cooperate with one another, to take turns, to wait patiently, and they are having FUN.

Consider Math. In a play based classroom math does not just happen sitting at a table writing numbers. Math happens outside as a teacher counts while pushing a child on a swing. Math happens in the block area when children compare long to short, square to rectangle. Math happens when children pour sand in buckets and compare more to less. When children use shapes to build a fort, it's math and it's FUN! Much more fun than sitting at a table with shapes drawn on paper.

When you visit a preschool classroom and see the children playing and wonder, "When will they learn?" Remember that in preschool, play is where they learn. And play is the perfect way to "teach" your child at home.

It's spring now and as you spend more time outside, do math by counting rocks, comparing the length of sticks, notice how high or low the birds fly in the sky. When you are in the car notice the signs and billboards. Look at license plates and the names of cars. Count the train cars and clouds.

Engage in math and literacy as you play. And while you do, you will build vocabulary, number skills, and you will build on your relationship with your child.

Plato said, "You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

from Jody Berg, Director of Children's Services

Fremont County Family Center
1339 Elm Avenue, Canon City, CO 81212

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Spring 2019

Families Matter - Winter 2019

Save the Date:
2nd Annual Children's Services

STEAM

FAIR

Saturday, June 15, 2019
@ 1339 Elm Avenue
Cañon City
Call Kathy - 719.275.0550

IT'S WHATS GOING ON

Farmers Market begins June 4 from 8-1 at Veterans Park in Cañon City.

Want to take in some local art? First Friday Art walk every month in Cañon City. Second Saturday Art Walk every month in Florence.

Family Center Playgroups meet every Thursday morning from 10:00 -11:00.

Car seat checks are available by appointment. Call 719.275.0500 to find out more.

The Arkansas Riverwalk is open daily from sunrise to dusk and offers 7 miles of beautiful trails along the river. A great place to share with your child. Check the web-site for more on the trail: www.ccrec.org

The BUS—Second Friday's at the Penrose Park from 2-3...resources and more.

Other things to see and do: Fremont Center for the Arts, Colorado Museum of Prisons, Royal Gorge Regional History Museum

This Newsletter,
Family Center
Services
& Programs
brought
to you by:



Fremont County Family Center
1339 Elm Avenue, Canon City, CO 81212

Bright by Three
Now offers Bright by Text option
Information and resources
delivered to your phone...

Register at brightbytext.org



**Early Head Start and First Steps
Parents as Teachers home
visitation programs currently
have openings. For more
information or to enroll please
call Sherrie Walker at
719.275.0550 x218**



Come
work and

play in the community garden.

Every Friday morning from

9 to 11 a.m. @ the Cañon City

Recreation District on

575 Ash - behind the dog park.