

# St. Peter's Preschool Newsletter

December 2022



## From the Director's Chair-By Rita Dai Wang

**Donuts With Dad:** How can you go wrong with donuts, coffee, and hot chocolate? Don't forget to RSVP <https://forms.gle/VFdfF1Gr2C9HJi19>

**On-time Arrival to School:** The teachers have begun to line kids up at drop-off to walk into the building all together as a tangible signal that school is starting. Once inside, they start Table Time. While giving off the appearance of just fun filler time, Table Time is so much more than that. The teachers plan specialized activities during this time to practice fine motor skills, academic skills, oral vocabulary, or other skills related to the weekly theme. They also use this time to assess children on the skills they need to be successful in school. I know mornings are crazy, but being on time really helps kids start school off on the right foot. Thank you for your support in this.

**Self-Sufficiency Skills:** One of our priorities at St. Peter's is to teach children to become independent and self-sufficient. To this end, we encourage them (as much as possible) to hang up their backpacks and coats in cubbies, open their lunch containers, put on their coats, carry their backpacks, clean up their spills, etc. It is second nature as parents to jump in and do things for our kids. This is a sign of our love for them, and let's be honest, it's faster if we do it ourselves 😊 However, it is easy to forget that as kids get older, us doing everything for them actually hinders them. They need to start practicing these important self-help skills so they can grow up to become independent adults. At morning drop-off, we will be encouraging kids to walk in by themselves while carrying their own backpacks. I have attached an article below about how you can help foster self-sufficiency at home.

**Harp Demonstration:** On Friday 12/16, the 3's/4's will enjoy a harp demonstration by Ursula Ratcliff (Ms. Rita's sister 😊). After hearing some Christmas songs and learning how the harp works, they will get the chance to try playing the harp if they would like.

**Pajamas/Book Drive:** We are once again collecting new pajamas and books on behalf of the Pajama Project. Drop off your donations in the wrapped box at drop-off by 12/21, and we will donate them to local children in need. See flyer below.

**Christmas Singalongs:** Come one, come all to our Christmas Singalongs! We are hard at work teaching kids some songs to perform for you in the beautiful St. Peter's Chapel. We hope you will be able to attend! There will be no Lunch Bunch this day or Thursday 12/22.

**Lunch Bunch Extension:** Starting in January, we will be offering Lunch Bunch Extension, which is the opportunity for kids who stay for Lunch Bunch from 12:00-12:30 to stay an additional 30 minutes from 12:30-1:00. This is especially targeted for those kids who have a sibling in the 4's class. That can be an awkward 30 minutes to fill! Even if you don't have a sibling in the 4's class, you are welcome to stay for LB and LB Extension. This Extension time may not be appropriate for everyone, as some kids get tired and are ready for a nap (some teachers, too!). We can try it and see how it goes on an individual basis. The cost for this is \$5 per session. Let me know if you are interested.

**Registration:** Believe it or not, we are already planning for the 2023-24 school year. Registration information for next year will be coming home before Christmas Break. Be on the lookout! We offer a \$50 referral bonus to families whose recommendations result in a new enrollment. Thank you in advance for sharing the word about our great school!

## Dates to Remember



- 12/2 Yoga – 3's/4's
- 12/2 Parents' Night Out 5:30-8:30
- 12/8 Donuts With Dad – 2's, 9:30
- 12/9 Donuts With Dad – 3's/4's, 9:30
- 12/16 Harp Demonstration – 3's/4's
- 12/18 St. Peter's Church Christmas Pageant 9:45
- 12/20 Christmas Singalong – 2's, 11:40 (no Lunch Bunch that day)
- 12/21 Christmas Singalong – 3's/4's, 12:40
- 12/24 St. Peter's Church Children's Christmas Service 4:30
- 12/24-1/3 Christmas Break
- 1/4 School resumes

## Happy Birthday!



- 12/13 Carter Williams
- 12/22 Emily Williams
- 12/27 Ms. Mina
- 12/28 William Kessler



We hope you have a wonderful holiday with your family!



# Snow Policy



During inclement weather, St. Peter's Preschool will follow Howard County Public Schools' (HCPSS) closing and delay policy.

- If Howard County Schools are closed, St. Peter's will be closed.
- If Howard County Schools have a two-hour delay, St. Peter's will be closed.
- If Howard County Schools have a one-hour delay, St. Peter's will open at 10:30.

If worsening weather causes HCPSS to close during the school day, St. Peter's may also close early, depending on the situation. We will notify parents of any changes due to inclement weather via email, Facebook, or phone call.

Even if HCPSS is open, there may be times that I arrive at school to find our driveway or parking lot icy and unsafe. In that situation, you may receive a phone call from your teacher stating that St. Peter's is closed. If this becomes necessary, we will give you as much notice as possible. Also, our driveway can become extremely slippery, so feel free to use Smith Ave (the 'street' next to our driveway on the left) because it is not as steep.

If you would feel more comfortable picking your child up early or not bringing him/her to school at all due to weather concerns, we completely understand. The safety of your children is our highest priority.



## St. Peter's Annual Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 18, 2022  
During the 9:45 am Mass



## Christmas Services

### Christmas Eve

4:30 pm Children's Service

9:30 pm Choral Prelude

10:00 pm Vigil

### Christmas Day

10:00 am Mass



# PAJAMA & BOOK DRIVE

## The Magic of Pajamas & Books

**N**EW PAJAMAS AND BOOKS are *magical gifts* that we collect and give, with love, to children. These gifts inspire children, teaching them how to use imagination and creativity to change their lives. They are the building blocks of confidence, trust and love. And because we

give them unconditionally, these gifts help create a trusting connection and long-lasting bond. It's easier than you might think to comfort and delight the children who need it most, giving simple but magical gifts that lift the spirit and can change the world.

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St. Peter's Preschool is hosting a **Pajama and Book Drive** to benefit the Pajama Program!

This holiday season, please help by bringing either new pajamas and/or new books for children of all ages. They are in special need of adult size pajamas for teenagers. All donations go to needy local kids. Thank you for helping to make this holiday season more snuggly for kids in need!

**Date:**  
December 1–21, 2022

**Location:**  
St. Peter's Preschool

**For More Info:**  
Rita Dai Wang  
410-461-7283  
[director@stpeterspreschool.org](mailto:director@stpeterspreschool.org)



Pajama Program is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 2001.  
To learn more about Pajama Program's mission visit [PAJAMAPROGRAM.ORG](http://PAJAMAPROGRAM.ORG)  
114 EAST 39TH ST • NEW YORK, NY 10016 • 212.716.9757

# The Importance of Raising a Self Sufficient Child

From *SleepingShouldBeEasy.com*

Sep 02, 2021

Are you doing too much for your kids? Learn the importance of **raising a self sufficient child** and tips to encourage independence.

## HOW TO RAISE YOUR CHILD TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT



Sometimes we assume kids still need our help with everything. We save them from struggle, making it easy to overlook the importance of self sufficiency.

After all, taking a step back to allow them to try is *hard*.

We save five minutes to tie their laces ourselves than teaching them how to do it. We avoid the big messes that follow when they feed themselves. And we feel needed and can't believe how quickly they're growing up.

## The importance of raising a self sufficient child

But at some point, our kids will demand to do things themselves. Or they're forced to, especially if we're welcoming a new baby and need them to be more independent.

Encouraging self sufficiency is crucial to raising the future adults we want them to be. Raising a self sufficient child offers many benefits, such as:

### 1. Feeling confident

Imagine the delight of a three-year-old as she realizes she can wash, soap, and dry her own hands. Or the pride in a first-grader as she chooses which clothes to wear for the day.

Self sufficiency builds the confidence kids feel in being more independent. After all, being self sufficient is another achievement or milestone they reached. And especially after many tries, finally being able to do something themselves feels gratifying.

Your child will beam with confidence as you encourage self sufficiency. She gets to do what *you* had always done for her. He loves to feel grown up, and his self-confidence grows right alongside his self sufficiency.

### 2. Saving time

If you're like me, you'd rather undress your child for her than watch and wait what seems like forever for her to do it. Or she takes a good two minutes to tie her laces when you know you can do it in five seconds flat.

Doing everything for her is tempting when you know you can do it faster, especially when you're in a rush.

But in the long run, you'll save everyone more time by encouraging self sufficiency. Sure, she'll take two minutes to tie her laces the first few tries, but after a while, a miracle happens: she'll eventually do it in five seconds. By doing more for herself, she frees up *your* time.

I love that my kids can do so many things I used to have to do for them, like tying their laces, cleaning the bathroom, and washing the dishes. Yes, it took time to teach them how to do these things, but now that they've learned, their independence has saved *me* a lot of time.





### 3. Learning essential skills

We forget what our number one job is as parents. It's not to make our kids happy, or even provide them with everything we never had. It's to raise them to be future adults.

Think about it. If, after 18 years, your child still can't do the things most adults can, then that can't be a good thing. Practicing self-sufficiency now prepares her for many of the requirements she'll need as an adult.

Even as a child, she'll still need to learn skills to go through childhood independently. She needs to learn how to brush her own hair, cut her own food, or problem-solve without giving up.

Opportunities to be self sufficient teaches her important skills she'll need throughout life. Grit, [perseverance](#), independence, strategy, discipline, and a positive attitude are some examples.

## How to raise a self sufficient child

Now that you know the importance of raising a self sufficient child, what are a few ways you can practice it at home? Below are a few ideas:

### 1. Doing chores

- **An easy chore to start is having your child wipe surfaces. You can spray while she wipes with a rag.**
- She can bring **dishes to the sink** after mealtimes. Teach her how to properly hold a plate so it doesn't spill crumbs.
- **Implement a cleanup time** where she put away toys on her own.

### 2. During mealtimes

- **Encourage your child to take the next step up.** If you're spoon-feeding your baby, scoop the food but put the spoon in her hand and guide it toward her mouth. If you've been cutting her sandwiches into bite-size pieces, slice it in quarters so she can bite it off.
- **Introduce new feeding items.** [Graduate from sippy cups to regular cups.](#) Introduce a fork so she can poke food. And allow her to use a child-friendly knife to cut her own meals.



### 3. Using the bathroom

- **See if your child can pull his pants and undies up and down to use the toilet.**
- Allow him to **turn on the faucet**, pump the soap, and scrub and dry his hands.
- Have him **undress himself for bath time** and place his dirty clothes in the hamper.

## Conclusion

The thought of letting your child do things on her own can be scary. Between my husband and me, I tend to be the one who still does things for our kids. It's faster, less messy, and I can do it much more efficiently and effectively than they can.

But that's not the point. Raising a self-sufficient child isn't about who can get it done faster, cleaner, or quicker. It's about raising a child with the confidence and skills to do things on her own—no spoon-feeding necessary.

p.s. A fantastic children's book to read about self-sufficiency is [All By Myself by Mercer Mayer](#):

