

St. Peter's Preschool Newsletter



February 2024

From the Director's Chair – by Rita Dai Wang

Registration Referral Bonus: Thank you to everyone who has already registered for the 2024-2025 school year. We love having families come back! The highest compliment our parents can pay us is the referral of family or friends. The trust that you place in us means a great deal. In appreciation, you will receive a \$50 credit off one month's tuition for every new enrollment as a result of your referral.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: Thank you to all the 2's/3's parents who made the time to conference with teachers. While we see many of you at drop-off and pick-up, it is nice to have a dedicated time to discuss your children's learning. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

International Night: Good news – we are rescheduling this event for Friday 4/5! We hope that you will be able to join us. Be on the lookout for a new RSVP sometime in March.

Dinner and Dialogue: We are excited to debut a new parent event this year. We are hoping this will be a casual but meaningful way for parents and teachers to engage in conversation about kids, families, and anything you'd like over dinner. See link for details. The event will be Thursday 2/8 from 6:00-7:30. Please RSVP by Monday 2/5. <https://forms.gle/4MMTJbUm1vux1mUG9>

School Calendar Updates: We have finalized some dates and added some new events to our school calendar and wanted to give you a heads up. Here are the new dates below. More details will come prior to each event. I have attached an updated school calendar as well.

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|------|--|
| 2/8 | Dinner and Dialogue |
| 3/12 | Restaurant Night – Coal Fire Pizza |
| 4/5 | International Night (rescheduled date) |
| 4/15 | Petting Zoo visit – in school field trip for all classes |
| 4/26 | Parent's Night Out |

Dates to Remember

- 2/8 Dinner and Dialogue
- 2/9 Teacher Work Day – no school
- 2/13 Valentine's Day Party – 2's
- 2/14 Valentine's Day Party – 3's/4's
- 2/19 President's Day – no school
- 2/22 Goodies with Grandparents – 2's
- 2/23 Goodies with Grandparents – 3's/4's
- 3/1 21 Day Reading Challenge starts 



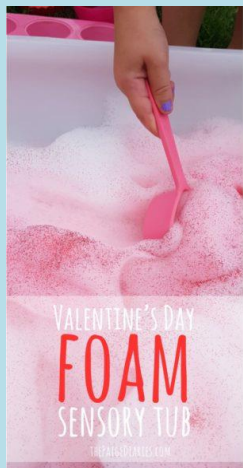
4 Reasons Children Should Play Outside in the Cold

There's a Norwegian saying – *“Det finnes ikke darlig vaer, bare darlig, klaer!”* which translates to *“There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing.”* Playing outside in the cold weather has many benefits for kids, so bundle them up and send them out!

Playing outside in the winter:

- Strengthens the immune system
- Helps to burn extra energy
- Promotes problem-solving and cognitive thinking
- Boosts vitamin D levels and uplifts mood

<http://www.pentagonplay.co.uk/news-and-info/4-reasons-children-play-outside-cold-weather>



Valentine's Day Foam

1. In a bowl, add 2 tbsp dish soap and ¼ cup water. Add food coloring or liquid water color.
2. Mix with a hand mixer for 1-2 minutes or until the foam forms stiff peaks.
3. Make more as needed!

<http://www.thepaigediaries.com/2018/01/valentines-day-foam-sensory-tub/>

Try this at home!

Winter is also a great time to practice fine-motor skills indoors! Give your child beads to thread, clothespins to clip, playdough to pound and shape, toothpicks to build into structures, or spaghetti to thread into straws!

Is It Tattling or Telling?

How to teach your kids when to report a broken rule

Writer: [Jamie Howard, PhD](#)

From Child Mind Institute, [Childmind.org](#)



“John just took my train! I had it first.”

How many times do our children run up to us to share a grievance toward another child? Generally these complaints involve rules that have been broken. We spend a lot of time teaching our kids “the rules” — use your inside voice, share your toys with your friends, keep your hands to yourself, etc. The list goes on. It’s natural for a child (and even us adults) to want to call attention to perceived rule breaking, but “Do not tattle” can also become a new rule for your child to follow.

Why rules work

Rules are important because kids tend to be egocentric, focused on their own experiences and perspectives. It can be difficult for a young child to put himself in another child’s shoes and think about the way his actions affect that child.

For this reason, it’s much more effective to tell your young son that he needs to let his friend have a turn using his toy rather than explaining to him that his friend is feeling disappointed because he’d like a turn. Even though your child may see that John is upset that he hasn’t had a chance to play with the toy, he will more easily understand that John should get a turn because sharing is the rule.

While empathy and perspective taking are incredibly important, these vital skills cannot be learned before a child is ready, and therefore do not govern behavior until a child is older, has internalized social mores and cares more deeply about making his friend happy. So, until your child begins to develop empathy skills, guidance and rules are the most effective methods of keeping order. Tattling can become one of those rules, even if it’s a tricky one to master.

Why kids tattle

Rules work well with young children because their cognitive and moral development allows for mastering a set of simple instructions, and they are motivated to receive praise from adults for following them. For these reasons, kids usually believe it’s the right thing to do to tattle on kids who break the rules. Kids may even think that they are being helpful when they tattle, and might expect praise for it. Tattling is a natural response to learning about rules, but your child can learn that it is not necessary in every rule-breaking situation.

Keep in mind too that sometimes children tattle for other reasons beyond rule breaking, such as getting attention from grownups or because they want a peer to get in trouble. This leads to a complicated situation: Children need an explicit rule not to tattle on other children ... and an understanding that we *do* want them to report some rule violations to adults. We should always keep in mind how illogical this may seem to young children when we start thinking a child should intuitively know when to tell and when not to tattle.

When is it tattling?

A child who has been drilled to follow rules takes them very seriously, leading them to tattling on friends and siblings no matter how minor the misbehavior. However, there are some simple ways to help your child understand the difference between tattling and alerting a grownup when an important rule is being broken.

1. Understand the difference

Tattling is reporting a peer's wrongdoing, when the situation is safe and the child can handle it herself.

Telling is alerting adults that the situation is not safe and/or your child needs help managing the situation.

Tattling to get a peer in trouble can be mean-spirited.

Telling to protect a peer from harm is civic-minded or showing concern for others.

2. Give children tools and words

Children may be able to solve a minor problem themselves if they can identify the problem and use their words effectively to express their frustrations. As tattling/telling situations arise, talk through the moment with your child and help him or her figure out ways to approach a similar situation in the future. For example, if your child is being rushed at the water fountain, he can say, "It's my turn" to the child who is being impatient. If someone calls his friend an unkind name, he can say, "That's my friend. Don't talk to him like that!" But if it keeps happening, or the bully is a bigger kid or is being scary, then it's time to tell the teacher.

3. Give concrete examples

Tattling: "He touched my lunchbox!"

Telling: "She took my lunch!"

Tattling: "She took one of the blocks I wanted to use!"

Telling: "He pushed the block tower on top of me!"

In the tattling examples, neither scenario caused an unsafe situation and might have been solved if children used their words to talk through the problem. However, in both of the telling examples, there is potential for a harmful situation that would best be resolved by an adult – making sure each child was able to eat lunch and making sure no one was hurt from a falling block tower.

4. Give reminders

The first few times a child tattles, grownups should gently remind children of the difference between tattling and telling: tattling is not necessary, but telling is. "If someone is about to be hurt, tell me. If no one is being hurt, try to work it out among yourselves."

When children are young, tattling behavior can be effectively shaped by adults' responses to the tattling. A child who tattles can be reminded that the perceived rule breaking harmed no one and to return to play, whereas a child who tells can be rewarded for looking out for his peers. As children get older and continue developing social skills, they'll begin to use these social and problem-solving skills to avoid tattling, but also understand that being a good friend means involving adults when more help is needed.

St. Peter's Preschool | 2023-2024 CALENDAR

updated 1/31/24, dates subject to change

8/1 First tuition payment due
Week of 8/21-8/25 Meet the Teacher Days
8/30 First day of school – 3's/4's (9:30-1:00)
8/31 First day of school – 2's (shortened first day for 2's 9:30-11:00)

AUGUST '23						
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FEBRUARY '24						
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2/8 Dinner and Dialogue
2/9 Teacher Work Day – no school
2/13 Valentine's Day Party – 2's
2/14 Valentine's Day Party – 3's/4's
2/19 Presidents' Day – no school
2/22 Goodies w/Grandparents – 2's
2/23 Goodies w/Grandparents – 3's/4's

9/4 Labor Day – no school
9/22 Pizza/Popsicle Social 5:30-7:00

SEPTEMBER '23						
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MARCH '24						
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3/1-3/21 21 Day Read-aloud Challenge
3/4-3/8 Spirit Week
3/4 Jump Bunch – 2's
3/5 Jump Bunch – 3's/4's
3/12 Restaurant Night – Coal Fire Pizza
3/21 Easter Egg Hunt – 2's
3/22 Easter Egg Hunt – 3's/4's
3/25-4/1 Spring Break
TBD Police Officer Visit

10/3 Lunch Bunch starts – 2's
10/18 Larriland Farm field trip – all classes
10/20 Teacher Work Day – no school
10/30 Halloween Party – 3's
10/31 Halloween Party – 2's/4's
TBD Firefighter Visit

OCTOBER '23						
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APRIL '24						
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4/1 Last tuition payment due 😊
4/2 School resumes
4/5 International Night (rescheduled date)
4/15 Petting Zoo (in school field trip) – all classes
4/23 Sharp's Farm field trip – all classes
4/26 Parents' Night Out
4/29 School Pictures

11/6 Jump Bunch in school field trip – 3's/4's
11/7 Jump Bunch in school field trip – 2's
11/21 Parent Teacher Conferences – 4's
11/22-11/24 Thanksgiving Break
11/7 Restaurant Night - Qdoba

NOVEMBER '23						
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MAY '24						
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5/2-3 Teacher Work Day – no school
5/6-5/10 Teacher Appreciation Wk
5/6 Jump Bunch – 3's/4's
5/7 Jump Bunch – 2's
5/16 Muffins with Mom – 2's
5/17 Muffins with Mom – 3's/4's
5/21 Last Day of School – 2's
5/22 Last Day of School – 3's/4's
5/22 Graduation – 4's
5/23 End of Year Picnic

12/1 Parents' Night Out
12/7 Donuts with Dad – 2's
12/8 Donuts with Dad – 3's/4's
12/19 Christmas Singalong – 2's
12/20 Christmas Singalong – 3's/4's
12/22-1/2 Christmas Break

DECEMBER '23						
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JUNE '24						
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6/3-6/7 Science Camp
6/10-6/14 Science Camp

1/3 School resumes
1/5 Pajama Day
1/8 Jump Bunch – 3's/4's
1/9 Jump Bunch – 2's
1/15 M.L. King Day- no school
1/18 Olenka Music field trip – 2's
1/19 Olenka Music field trip – 3's/4's
1/22 Parent Teacher Conf. – 3's
1/23 Parent Teacher Conf. – 2's
1/26 International Night

JANUARY '24						
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JULY '24						
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