

St. Peter's Preschool Newsletter



May 2025 – by Rita Dai Wang

I can't believe it, but we are nearing the end! May 21st is our last official day of the 2024-2025 school year. Thank you all for entrusting your children to us. It has been a joy and a privilege to spend our days with them!

Picture Day: Our Picture Days went super well, and I can't wait to share the results of Ms. Meghan's magic with you! We will share thumbnails for you to preview and instructions on how to purchase images soon.

Diapers needed: St. Peter's Church is seeking diapers for a family with a 2-3 month old. If you have any extra diapers that would fit a baby up to 1 year old, we would love to help support this family. Please bring them to Ms. Rita.

Admin Help needed: St. Peter's Church is looking for some hourly administrative office help (document editing/design, filing, etc.). If you or someone you know may be interested, please have them get in touch with Fr. Derek at rector@stpetersec.org.

DIY Stepping Stones (4's): On 5/13, the 4's will be making stepping stones to add to the path in our Nature Center. See my email from earlier this week for more details.

Mother Goose visit: On 5/15, we will have a special visit from Mother Goose! All classes are invited. 3's families - please let me know if you are planning to come so I can set out enough chairs.

Graduation: We will be holding the 4's Graduation in our Nature Center on Wednesday 5/21 at 12:00. Friends and family members are invited. There is no limit on the number of attendees. Feel free to bring chairs or picnic blankets. If it rains, we will move the event inside the chapel. We will be providing caps for each child to wear if they want, but not gowns. More information soon.

End of Year Picnic: We will have our End of Year Picnic at the Patapsco Valley State Park Tire Park in Catonsville, from 10-1pm on Thursday 5/22. All classes are invited. The school will provide sandwiches, drinks, and popsicles. Keep an eye out for a sign-up to bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert.

End of Year Survey: We are always trying to make our program the best it can be, and I would appreciate your feedback. Please take a moment to fill out an anonymous survey. Thank you in advance for your help!

<https://forms.gle/s5iKkkPayYA8z5dk7>

Packets for next year: In the next few weeks, I will send home packets of information for those who will be returning next year. Please read through the paperwork and return forms either before school ends, over the summer, or at Meet the Teacher Day in August. Thanks!

Tuition payments for 2025-2026: If you have registered your child for next year, your first tuition payment is due by August 1st. You can mail it, drop it off at school, or pay online via our website. Don't forget - we have a secure mailbox at the foot of the driveway. Just make sure to put my name on the envelope.

Big Picture Parenting: As parents, it is so easy to get caught up in the minutiae of the every day. The end of a school year is a good chance to step back and put things into perspective. Here is a good article about how important it is to remember the big picture. Don't forget to see the forest for the trees!

Dates to Remember

5/1 Muffins with Mom (2's/4's)

5/2 Muffins with Mom (3's)

5/5-5/9 Teacher Appreciation Week

5/13 DIY Stepping Stones – 4's

5/15 visit from Mother Goose (in school field trip all classes)

5/20 Last Day of School (2's)

5/21 Last Day of School (3's/4's)

5/21 4's Graduation - 12:00 Nature Center

5/22 End of Year Picnic (all classes) Patapsco Valley State Park Tire Park 10-1pm

6/2-6/6 Science Camp (Wk 1)

6/9-6/13 Science Camp (Wk 2)



5/30 Emma

5/31 Jovie

6/3 Mac

6/5 Katie & Billy

6/8 Ranger

6/9 Ms. Clare

6/10 Calah

6/12 Lily & Reese

6/16 Daniel & Connor

6/28 Marleigh

7/9 Myles

7/11 Ms. Annie

7/23 Harper

7/30 Eli

8/12 Ms. Brenda

HOW LUCKY I AM TO HAVE
SOMETHING THAT MAKES
SAYING GOODBYE SO HARD.





What Do You Hope Your Child Is Like as an Adult?

Stepping back so you can see the bigger picture

Emily Oster 4/21/25

Parenting often seems like a series of small goals. Get your baby to latch. Get your 1-year-old to eat peas. Get your toddler to poop in the toilet. Teach your kindergartener to read. Get your middle schooler to hand their homework in on time. It's one small, goal-oriented step after another.

It's no wonder that when parents ask me questions (which happens all the time), they are all about these goals. *How* do I get the baby to latch? *How* do I make my kid eat vegetables? *What will it take to get my child into college?* Whatever our current question is, it is what is front-of-mind in the moment. And when we get through one of these milestones, it's on to the next.

I started thinking about the question of goals in parenting the other day, and I got curious what people would say if I asked them to zoom out. So I posed this question on Instagram.

Think about the future. Your child is in their 30s. You look at who they are, what they have become, what their life is like, how you interact with them — the whole picture. And you think: "I feel like I did a good job." What is it that you are seeing that makes you think that?

I told people to say as much or as little as they would like. Almost 7,000 people responded. Here's what you said in response, and a few of my takeaways.



What you want for your kids

What were the big-picture concerns you all had? Were they "*I'll know I did a good job if my child eats peas?*"

No, they were not. Looking at the responses together, there were several big themes.

Happiness: You want your kids to be happy, period. Whatever that means to them. This doesn't mean they aren't ever facing struggles but that they know how to work through them and are, generally, happy most of the time.

Kindness: You want your children to be kind, especially to those who need it most. This includes in their day-to-day lives, but also in giving back through volunteering and other community activities.

Independence and self-sufficiency: Your children are living on their own, able to manage their own lives. Financial well-being came up here — the hope that children will be stable and support themselves.

Relationships: You want your kids to have people they love in their life, who love them back for who they are. And you want your children to talk to you, to love you, to still be in your lives.

Because I like a good graph and I know you do too, here's a frequency count of the top 10 words people mentioned in their answers. You can see all the themes above come out.

"Happy and Kind"

The most common words you shared when asked what you hope your child is like as an adult

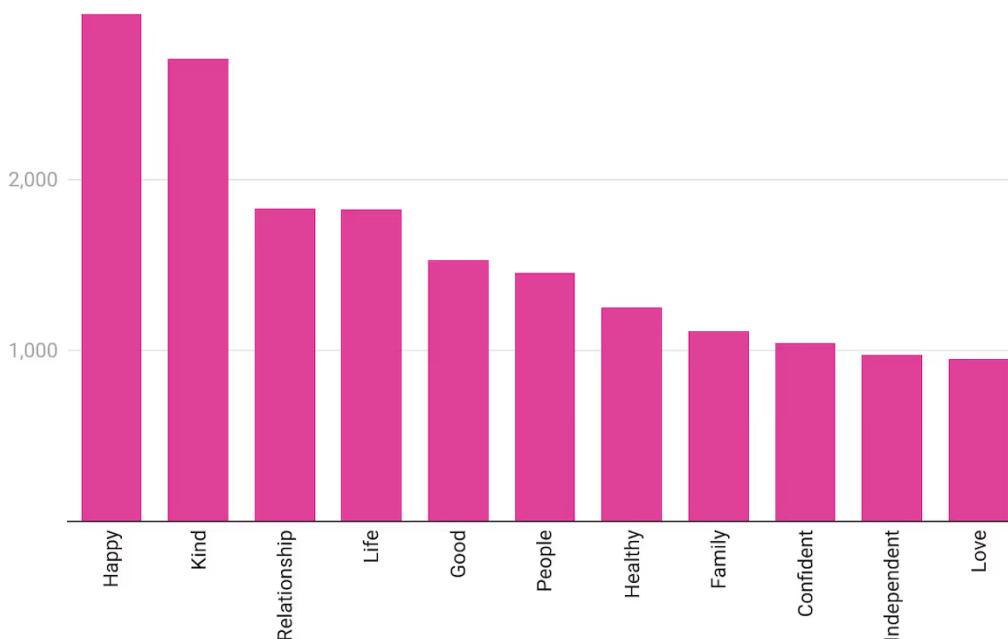


Chart: ParentData • Created with Datawrapper

In your own words

Many of you wrote incredibly beautifully about your hopes for your children. I read them all, and I wanted to surface a few here.

- *First, they want to come home, we have a relationship. Second, I have two sons, so it's important to me that I've seen them cry as adults, knowing that they feel safe enough to both feel this emotion and show it to me as their mom. Third, and I would never put this on them, but I hope that they want to have kids. I hope that we've made being a parent seem like the best job in the world and that they want to be ones too!*

- *She comes home constantly, eats all my food, and feels comfortable totally roasting me — making fun of me to my face, constantly bringing up silly things I've done (“remember when mom...”) and teasing me for being an old lady. I want her to feel so comfortable and loved that she can say anything to me and knows I'll just roll my eyes and laugh along.*
- *Kindness, tolerance (to stress, curveballs, disappointment), boundaries. Advocating for themselves and others, but for themselves first. Supporting others, and especially their siblings. Genuinely happy. Frequently adapting to change. Healthy, physically and mentally. Hopefully they like to cook, but ok if not ;)*
- *My child is independent and responsible. They're working towards something, whether that's raising a family, working in a career, or just trying to make something better (their home, their community, the world, doesn't matter) — I guess you'd call this some kind of fulfillment or feeling like they're living for some kind of reason/purpose beyond themselves. In my ideal scenario, they're also capable and able/willing to help those less capable than they are, in whatever form that takes (mentoring junior employees in their field, checking in on the older neighbor after a big storm, volunteering, etc.).*

If I had to summarize, it's this person, who hits all of the core messages in one.

They have healthy, safe relationships (romantic, platonic, familial, etc.), they've completed enough education/skill that they can have a job that makes them financially stable, they aren't scared of new experiences, they can handle frustrations, have patience, resiliency, and grit. And they want me to still be in their lives in a meaningful way!

What's the point of big-picture parenting?

Many of these quotes and ideas are lovely, but ... what's the point of taking this perspective?

The day-to-day of parenting is about narrow goals and, honestly, that is necessary. We do need to figure out how to feed our kids. They do need to poop in the toilet eventually. Many decisions must be made every day. The bulk of parenting *is* about small-picture problem-solving. Recognizing that you want your child to be a kind person when they are 30 does not actually solve the problem that they take three hours of constant attention to fall asleep, and you *do* need to solve that problem.

And still, there are two main reasons to step back to think about the big picture, at least sometimes.

Reminding ourselves what we are *really* trying to achieve can provide us with much-needed perspective when we're in the trenches. It's not that the small decisions aren't important, but taking a wider view helps us see that there are many small decisions, and this is just one of them.

More importantly, stepping back can help us shape our choices, since sometimes a focus on immediate goals can interfere with the long term. As an example, we can often get in the way of developing independence for our kids when we refuse to give them responsibility for things like remembering their homework. A narrow focus on “must achieve 100% homework on time” can get in the way of a broader goal of having our kids learn from their mistakes.

So if you haven't already, I'd urge you to think about your answer to this big-picture question. Write it down, save it somewhere, maybe talk about it with your partner. And then when you're really in it as a parent — when the narrow goals seem to be taking over your life — read it and take a breath.

P.S. I want to give the last word here to one of the grandparents who wrote in from the other side:

This is not theoretical for me. My daughter is in her 30s (I follow you because of our grandson). I am blown away at how capable a parent she is. That is the first answer that came immediately to mind.

SUMMER BUCKET LIST

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO THE BEACH | <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO THE ZOO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | VISIT A MUSEUM | <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO STORY TIME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | EXPLORE AN AQUARIUM | <input type="checkbox"/> | WATCH FIREWORKS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | TAKE A HIKE | <input type="checkbox"/> | GO ON A ROAD TRIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PLAY IN A SPLASH PAD | <input type="checkbox"/> | WATCH A BASEBALL GAME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PICNIC IN THE PARK | <input type="checkbox"/> | GO ON A BOAT RIDE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | PLAY AT THE PLAYGROUND | <input type="checkbox"/> | EAT FROM A FOOD TRUCK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BACKYARD WATER PARK | <input type="checkbox"/> | BLOW BUBBLES |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DRAW WITH SIDEWALK CHALK | <input type="checkbox"/> | EAT AN ICE CREAM CONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FIND A COOL MURAL | <input type="checkbox"/> | HAVE A CAMP FIRE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO AN OUTDOOR CONCERT | <input type="checkbox"/> | GET MESSY! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO A PETTING ZOO OR FARM | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO A GARDEN OR NATURE CENTER | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | GO TO AN ORCHARD OR FARMER'S MARKET | | |

