



8.19.2022

B I - W E E K L Y

CONNECTION

Child Care E-Newsletter

A Message From The Director

S.T.E.M.

S.T.E.M. is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.

When we break down the acronym into its parts, we see that early childhood programs practice S.T.E.M. activities every day. What does it look like in an early childhood setting? It looks like PLAY!

Science activities may look like exploring water and sand, comparing natural materials like rocks and soil, rolling balls across the room, and looking through a magnifying glass to count how many legs are on the ant found in the classroom. Technology activities are more than just machines with screens! It's using tools like scissors, being inventive, identifying problems, and making simpler machines like gears, wheels, and pulleys work. Engineering could happen in the block area, where children are planning and designing structures with minimal teacher guidance. Math activities may look like counting, matching shapes or making patterns!

As a parent of an early learner, you can expand on your child's S.T.E.M. learning and lead them toward discovery by encouraging their natural curiosity. Ask them open ended questions, write down their ideas, and explore with them.

Leanna Lorden

Director of Children's Programs

The Scaffolding Method

In the early childhood world learning takes place everywhere we turn. Children and adults alike learn from observing each other, making how we model appropriate behavior and interactions crucial.

"Parents can use scaffolding to empower kids to do things on their own by breaking down the skill they are trying to master. The key is that you don't hover or do things for your child, but rather use patience and guidance to allow them to master skills on their own."

For more information on how you can allow your children to learn, click the red button!

Scaffolding In Early Education



Jess Webb

Assistant Director of the Early Learning Program

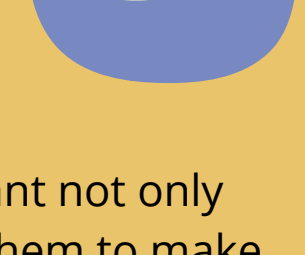
The Classroom Corner

Book Buddies

As our Kickstart kiddos prepare to leave our Early Learning Program, they're understanding the importance of the role they play at White Birch Center. Giving them one more opportunity to be the "big kids", the Toddler and Kickstart teachers set up some combined group time where our soon-to-be kindergarteners had the opportunity to set a good example for the toddlers. During this time the children read books together, sang songs, and showed what it looks like to be kind and respectful to their peers.



Ideas From The Kitchen



What's Cooking?

Involving your child in the kitchen while cooking is important not only because it helps educate them on nutrition, but also allows them to make well informed decisions about the food they eat. Having your child work alongside you while you cook is a fantastic way to build their confidence, expand their knowledge, and unite the family in a way that everyone can enjoy.

Click the button below to read "5 Great Reasons to Cook with your Kids", a resource provided by Healthyeating.org. The article explores how cooking as a family and eating the prepared meal together can lay the groundwork for kids to prioritize family later in life. Cooking with your kids also helps to create a confident and adventurous eater who isn't afraid to venture outside the box of comfort. Invite your child to work with you as you prepare weeknight dinners and who knows, maybe one day they will be cooking a delicious meal for you!



5 Great Reasons to Cook with your Kids

Michaela Dunn

Kitchen Manager

Extended Education Program

While many children are excited to go back to school in the Fall, many others are also worried about the transition. Will their teachers be nice? Who will be in their class? What time is lunch? Recess? There's lots of things you can do to help ease the transition for your child.

Check out this article for some tips!

10 Ways to Make the Switch From Summer to School

Allison Saltmarsh

Director of the Extended Education Program



Staff Highlights

Kaitlyn Carey

She is originally from Northfield, NH but moved to Henniker a couple years ago. New to ECE, she is excited to learn more, and is furthering her education at NHTI for radiation therapy. In her free time, she spends time with her friends and family. White Birch has been an amazing place to work, and Kaitlyn is so excited to see where it takes her!

