February's book recommendation is “The Colors of Us”, by Karen Katz. Many teachers use this book at the beginning of the year. I like to repeat it in February to celebrate shades of everyone mentioned in the story. Lena’s mother is a painter and teaches her that not everyone is the same color. As they walk through the neighborhood they see their friends and see that everyone looks different. In the book, you will read that Lena and her mother compare friends’ shades of skin to peanut butter, butterscotch, and chocolate.

Continuing with the art theme this month, you can use this book as inspiration for an art piece. Your child can trace of his or her hand and find a shade to color it. Additionally, he or she can use words from the book to describe the colors he or she sees in the picture and the family members.

Our letter this month is letter “T”.

Timmy the Turtle likes to Touch his Toes
Reach up high, reach down low.
Touch your Toes, There you go.
Touch, Touch, Touch your Toes
Touch, Touch, Touch your Toes!

February is a great month to focus or expand a social skill that builds an ability to relate to others, to make others feel comfortable around us, to influence each other in a positive way. Understanding the perspective of another person is an essential skill that promotes emotional intelligence. We observe the emergence of this skill at infancy when one infant hears another cry, they tend to join in. In preschool, we see a child try to comfort another’s sadness by giving them a toy. Most of us do not live in isolation and understanding that each one of us experiences the world from unique perspectives is an important life skill.

Here’s an amazing children’s author with a beautiful story about how we are all important in our different ways: You Matter by Christian Robinson. Please watch his YouTube read aloud to get his complete message and a little something fun to draw with your child.

All children are great artists. The importance of their art is in the act of creating with confidence and in using their imaginations. Art is a creation of self-expression. Adults can assist children to develop an appreciation of the unique qualities of their own work, and to encourage and nurture expression at every opportunity. All children pass through a sequential pattern of artistic development. Like language, some go through the various stages more quickly than others. All progress through this development and build on skills already mastered in order to advance. Encourage scribbling. Squiggles are more important than just artistic expression. They are a precursor to writing and help children develop fine motor skills. Early images of people will look more like amoebas than humans and will contain few details. This large head and limbs is a child’s perspective of adults. As images become more representational, details will be added, and torsos will be included in renderings of people. Emphasize creative processes over the finished products, and ask open-ended questions about the images your child creates.

Don’t be afraid to get messy!

Each day, make a plan of where to meet if separated. Tell your child to look for another mom with children/safety officer to help them.

Take a photo of your child each day. If something happens, you have a current photo of them and what they were wearing.

If something does happen, try to remain calm. The situation usually resolves itself quickly.

S.E.L.
February is a great month to focus or expand a social skill that builds an ability to relate to others, to make others feel comfortable around us, to influence each other in a positive way. Understanding the perspective of another person is an essential skill that promotes emotional intelligence. We observe the emergence of this skill at infancy when one infant hears another cry, they tend to join in. In preschool, we see a child try to comfort another’s sadness by giving them a toy. Most of us do not live in isolation and understanding that each one of us experiences the world from unique perspectives is an important life skill.

Here’s an amazing children’s author with a beautiful story about how we are all important in our different ways: You Matter by Christian Robinson. Please watch his YouTube read aloud to get his complete message and a little something fun to draw with your child.

All children are great artists. The importance of their art is in the act of creating with confidence and in using their imaginations. Art is a creation of self-expression. Adults can assist children to develop an appreciation of the unique qualities of their own work, and to encourage and nurture expression at every opportunity. All children pass through a sequential pattern of artistic development. Like language, some go through the various stages more quickly than others. All progress through this development and build on skills already mastered in order to advance. Encourage scribbling. Squiggles are more important than just artistic expression. They are a precursor to writing and help children develop fine motor skills. Early images of people will look more like amoebas than humans and will contain few details. This large head and limbs is a child’s perspective of adults. As images become more representational, details will be added, and torsos will be included in renderings of people. Emphasize creative processes over the finished products, and ask open-ended questions about the images your child creates.

Don’t be afraid to get messy!

Each day, make a plan of where to meet if separated. Tell your child to look for another mom with children/safety officer to help them.

Take a photo of your child each day. If something happens, you have a current photo of them and what they were wearing.

If something does happen, try to remain calm. The situation usually resolves itself quickly.

Parenting 101

When traveling with small children, remember this helpful hints:

- Each day, make a plan of where to meet if separated. Tell your child to look for another mom with children/safety officer to help them.
- Take a photo of your child each day. If something happens, you have a current photo of them and what they were wearing.
- If something does happen, try to remain calm. The situation usually resolves itself quickly.

@themusicsettlementkids | themusicsettlement.org

Art Show
March 9th and 10th

TMS OC Campus
2610 Detroit Avenue

MARCH STEM SATURDAY
MARCH 11, 2023
10 AM - 12 PM

Theme: States of Matter
Curated for ages 3 to 8 years old with adult. Free; register to attend on TMS website.

Upcoming Events