



# Saddleback Children's Center



Newsletter  
March 2018



## Message from SCC:

This month brings with it our preparation to celebrate new life as spring nears. We will be emphasizing this season as a time for new beginnings and looking at God's smaller creations, such as insects. We will end our month with preparations for Easter. Our teachers will be sharing the Easter story in a manner that the children can understand. We will talk about God's love for us through his son Jesus.

Last month our children were delighted to take part in our Book Trust dollar donation drive last month. They were proud to bring their own dollars to share with children in need of books. Thank you for partnering with us to teach the children about showing God's love to others!

-Carla Leveratt, Director &  
Meagan Kraszewski, Assistant Director



Community Helpers Month was a blast with visits from the dentist, Fire Department, and OC Sheriff's Department.

## Important Dates to Remember:

### Dr. Seuss' Birthday Celebrations

Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>



In honor of Dr. Seuss' Birthday which is on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will be celebrating by reading his cherished books. Then we will enjoy eating green eggs and ham for our snack!

### Summer Registration

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

See attached flyer for more information!

### See's Candy Fundraiser



March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Candy will be available for delivery March 28<sup>th</sup>, in time for Easter! Look for order forms in your files March 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Special Easter Celebrations

Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> &

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

### Good Friday

SCHOOL CLOSED

### Easter Break

April 2 – April 6

Full Day & 8 Hour Students Only



# Summer School Registration



Summer School registration forms will be distributed to your files Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Look for additional forms in the foyer or in the office!

## Important!

Registration for the Fall opened up to the public:  
February 20<sup>th</sup>

Classes are already filling up. Sign-up for the Fall before all the spaces are taken! Now that Priority Registrations are over, it is first come, first served!!

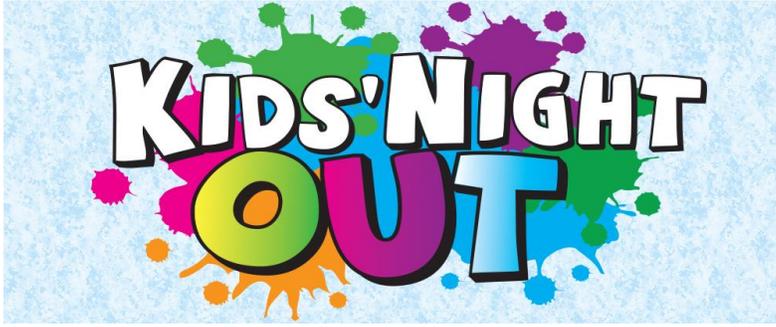
Be sure your child has a space for the new school year!

**B**ring **O**ne **G**et **O**ne Hundred  
*family to register* *dollars*



To receive your \$100.00 credit, the family that registers must tell us that you sent them.





Mom and Dad take the night off!  
Drop the kids off in the Full Day Room with Josiah and volunteers for dinner, desserts, music, crafts, fun games, and a movie while you have an evening to yourself.

**Saturday, March 24th**

Time: 5:00-7:00 pm

Cost \$ 20 per child, siblings additional \$10.

Ages: 2.5-8

We are also looking for volunteers, please email Josiah Canto, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Community Lutheran Church [Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com](mailto:Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com) for questions

Pre- registration is required,  
please email Josiah  
Registration deadline is Thursday, March 22nd



Thank you!

We appreciate all of our parents who graciously donated goodies for our Valentine celebrations last month! Our children enjoyed their parties. Also, a special thank you to the parent volunteers who helped at the parties.

**PRESCHOOL SUNDAY NEXT  
MONTH**

Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>,

**COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Save the date!  
More information will be coming soon.



## Reminders

- ❖ Tuition: Tuition is due the first of each month and payable until the 10<sup>th</sup>. Payments received after the 10<sup>th</sup> will be assessed a \$25.00 late fee. Tuition must be paid within 48 hours of notification or an additional **\$25.00 will be charged to your account for a total of \$50.**
- ❖ Sign-In: When dropping off or picking up your child you must sign them in/out each day. If not, you may be called to return and sign your child in/out. No one under the age of 18 may pick up a child from school. Parents/guardians are required by the State of California to sign their child in and out of school each day. Please make sure that you use your full legal signature.
- ❖ For your tax records:
  - Our tax I.D. # is: 93-0782055
  - Our address is: 30322 Via Con Dios, Rancho Santa Margarita, Ca 92688
  - You can also find all tax I.D. information on our web site at: [saddlebackchildrenscenter.org](http://saddlebackchildrenscenter.org)

# ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT SCC



Help support us while you shop! The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases, which will go toward our school and church when you select "Community Lutheran Church" as your charity!

## Memorialize Your Child's Time at SCC!!!

Local resident, Meg Safford of Art Just Create It, will assist our staff and children in beautifying our courtyard. Purchase a tile kit and our teachers will guide your child through the project. Informational flyers about how to purchase will be available this month.



## Family Night Out

Last month, family night out at Selma's was such a success and it was wonderful to see so many families come out to support our school. We raised over \$300 so thank you for showing your support!

We plan to do another family night out during March at a different restaurant. Please look for information coming soon...

## Fund the Floor Phase 2 Update

We are thrilled to announce that the installation of our new beautiful vinyl plank flooring for our older building is scheduled for the week of April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Just in case this is your first time reading about it, we have raised enough to replace the flooring, a project totaling almost \$20K. We would like to again send our thanks to our Community Lutheran Church members as well as our preschool families for working together to achieve this.



## March Fundraisers



Our March Fundraisers, See's Candies and Tile Memorial, will raise money to go toward the purchase of new furniture for our classrooms and also for our Outdoor Classroom Project.

## Ways to get involved

- Any of our fundraisers opportunities
- Straight donations
- Ask about how to volunteer

# The Importance of Messy Play

By Liz Parnell



Mess is an essential part of childhood. Living in a small urban home or a rented property – as is the case for many city dwellers – can make messy play stressful and cause it to be avoided. Also, it is easy for parents to feel that people will criticize or judge if our child is seen wearing dirty clothes, or if our homes are less than pristine and spotless. Fear of bacteria can also contribute to a degree of paranoia about dirt.

When we talk about messy play, we aren't referring to unhygienic living standards or toys strewn all over the house. We're talking about activities such as jumping in puddles, making mud pies, painting, sand play, clay molding and play dough.

Children, especially young children, need to explore their environment with all their senses. Children learn primarily through play, so combining their need to play and their need to explore often results in a mess. This can't be avoided and we would do well to remember that a degree of mess is part of life as a child and not something to become uptight about.

Play that incorporates rich textural experiences allows children to express their emotions through manipulating the materials (clay, paint, sand) and refines their sense of touch. The richer the textural experiences, the richer their cognitive and language development will be – how can a nine-year-old grasp the concept of “slimy” if he has never touched anything “slimy”? They also learn about cause and effect (mixing colors, pressing too hard on your play dough sculpture) as well as size, shape and many other concepts. Messy play materials should encompass different temperatures (cold, warm, tepid), textures (rough, smooth, wet, dry), scents, appearances and locations.

However, small children see no line between “play time” and the rest of life. For an infant, every waking moment is dedicated to exploring and learning. Babies and toddlers love to make food and eating a whole-body experience at times, smelling, tasting, squashing and throwing their food. While it can be inconvenient to clean up, and discouraging if you have spent time lovingly cooking a meal, this food play is a normal and important part of childhood. If mess is always discouraged, a stressful relationship can develop between parent and child as well as a future avoidance of messy play (even when it is offered), which can lead to a diminished sense of touch and potentially limit cognitive development.

Messy play isn't limited to indoor play, however. Dirt, sand, leaves and water are all great messy play materials. But what do you do when you don't have a backyard or other outdoor area to utilize? Most large cities around the world are coastal or on a major river or lake, so there are often natural waterways and beaches to explore and get messy in. National parks, state forests, fields, meadows, parks and creeks provide a range of free opportunities for play with different messy materials such as bark, sand, water, rocks, dirt, mud, shells, leaves and sticks.

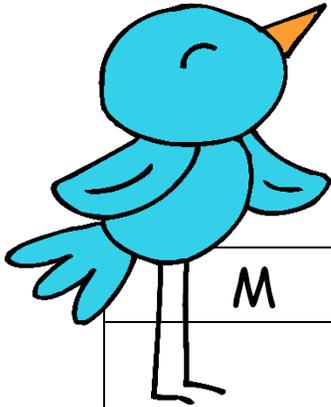
There are other ways to make messy play accessible closer to home. Think of the outdoor spaces you do have access to – a courtyard, balcony, garage or shed. Is there a way you could utilize this space for messy play such as painting, even temporarily? Could you do some container gardening, or collect natural materials from around your home?

You can also make messy play less stressful inside the home. The “wet areas” of your home – typically with hard flooring and wall coverings that are resistant to water – such as kitchens, laundries and bathrooms can provide easy-to-clean opportunities for messy play. A plastic drop sheet or an old sheet underneath the child and materials can protect carpets and furniture. Confining messy play to certain areas (play dough only on the kitchen table, water only in the bathroom) can also help to make messy play a workable activity indoors. Having aprons, “play clothes” or one set of clothes that can be worn during painting, play dough and mud activities can lessen the stress that can occur when precious clothes are stained.

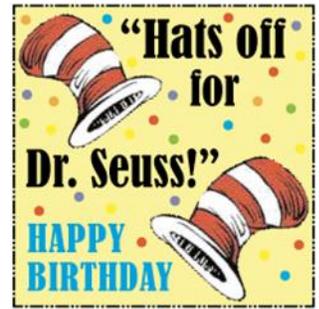
If you still can't bear the thought of allowing your child to play with play dough or paints inside the house, cooking can be a great opportunity for textural play that isn't quite so messy. Kneading dough and molding biscuits, bread rolls or cookies can incorporate creativity and the sensory experience, but it can never replace the full experience of messy play in all its options. Take up any opportunities you can for group messy play where you don't have to worry about the clean-up – such as playgroups, art classes etc.

Nothing can replace the fun and learning of a childhood filled with messy play, but children living in urban environments need not miss out on this essential group of experiences.

# March 2018



March Concepts  
 Color: Purple  
 Number: 7  
 Shape: Oval



M	T	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6 Chapel	7  Easter Fundraiser Beans	8	9
Dr. Seuss' Birthday				
12	13	14 Chapel	15	16 Happy St. Patrick's Day (March 17) 
19	20 Chapel	21	22  Easter Fundraiser Ends	23
26	27	28 Chapel	29	30 Good Friday <u>SCHOOL CLOSED</u>
		 Special Easter Celebrations 		

March Bible Verse:  
 "Sing praises to the Lord." Psalms 9:11

