



# Saddleback Children's Center



## October Newsletter 2018



### Message from SCC

Dear SCC Families,

We are off to a great start this year and already into our second month of school! It was so nice to see many of you at Back to School Night and we look forward to our year together. Our teachers were so thrilled to share with you what they have done so far and will be doing in each of their classes this year.



Don't be surprised if you hear your child tell someone that they are following Jesus, showing God's love or making good choices. We are giving examples in our classrooms of these three important concepts. Ask your child's teacher about it.

-Carla Leveratt, Director & Meagan Kraszewski, Assistant Director

### Lunch Bunch Information



Our Lunch Bunch program starts the week of October 1<sup>st</sup>! Lunch Bunch is intended as an occasional day of fun for children enrolled in our Preschool Morning Program. The lunch program runs from **11:30-12:15**, Monday through Friday. Please note: A clipboard with the sign-up sheet is located in the school office. You must sign up in advance. Space is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis. The cost is \$10.00 per day and you can pay by cash/check using the provided envelopes in the front office or we can bill your account.

### CLC Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>



Community Lutheran Church is kicking off the holiday season with a Harvest Festival & Boutique. Come shop at the boutique, enjoy a sweet treat from the bake sale, put your bids in at the silent auction, take your chances in the raffle, participate in kids crafts and activities, and sit down with a BBQ lunch. There is something fun for the whole family! Admission is free.

All proceeds will benefit CLC and Saddleback Children's Center's new Kitchen.

Please join us for our Harvest Festival & Boutique on Saturday October 20, 2018 from 9am-3pm at Community Lutheran Church in Rancho Santa Margarita. See you there!

If you are interested in selling your hand-made crafts at the boutique, download the registration from here: [Harvest Festival Registration Form](#) or you can pick one up in person from the church. Space is limited.

For more information please contact Julie Mortenson at 949-858-0307.

## IMPORTANT DATES

***Preschool Sunday***  
**October 7<sup>th</sup> 10:45**  
**at Community Lutheran Church.**



Please join us to see what your children have been learning during Chapel with Pastor Marty and Josiah, Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

The children will be singing a song that they have been learning during chapel at the beginning of service.

After the service we'd like to welcome all our preschool families and the SCC staff with a Community Lutheran Potluck!

Please RSVP Josiah at [Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com](mailto:Josiahclcrsm@gmail.com) by Tuesday, October 2nd if you are planning on attending, we look forward to seeing you!

***School Picture Days***  
**October 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**



All children will have a picture taken and be included in the class photo on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

*There is no obligation to buy photos.* Simply dress your children accordingly on their picture day. Portraits will be available for parents to view online the same day the photos are taken. You will be able to purchase photos from a variety of styles and sizes that fit your needs and budget.

Our full-time students (5 days) may have their picture taken on either day. They will, however, be in both class pictures (T-Th & M-W-F). The Green Room will have their picture taken on Tuesday. *You will receive a flyer in your file designating your child's picture day.*

\*\*We are also in need of a Parent Helper for picture day to help the day run smoothly! Please email Meagan Kraszewski [Meagan.K@saddlebackchildrenscenter.org](mailto:Meagan.K@saddlebackchildrenscenter.org) for more information!\*\*

***Parent-Teacher Conferences***  
**October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**

Parent-Teacher conferences are a great time for the parents and teachers to connect and share information about each child. The teachers have been assessing their students in various areas of development. You will receive a written report at conference time.

Please sign up to schedule a conference time. The sign-up sheets will be on the parent table outside your child's class.

\*There is NO PRESCHOOL scheduled on parent conference dates. We only offer childcare for students in the Full Day & 8 Hour programs only. THIS CONFERENCE IS FOR PARENTS ONLY.

***Fall Harvest Festival***  
**October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>**

We are busy planning our annual Fall Harvest Festival with a western theme. Each class will participate by having a small booth or activity for the children. Parents, we are going to need volunteers to help run the booths. Please look for the "Parent Helper" sign-up sheets by your child's sign-in clipboard.

***Health and Developmental Screenings***  
**November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Saddleback Valley Unified School District is providing screening services through the School Readiness Program here at SCC. These screenings will take place during school hours and are free. The screenings that you can choose to have your child participate in include vision, hearing, developmental, dental, and growth & nutrition.

By now, you should have received a Parental Consent for School Readiness Health & Developmental Screenings Packet. Please complete and return this packet no later than **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Late packets will not be accepted as the School Readiness Nurse needs time to review the information.

## IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

### Protecting Against Illness at School

Please note that our staff will inspect each child that comes to school for signs of illness. If a staff member feels your child is not well enough to participate in our regular school day activities, we will ask to have the child stay home for the day or until the child is well enough to fully participate in our program.

SCC will continue to do all we can to keep our school healthy and free of infection. We sanitize all our classroom equipment weekly and have hand washing policies for staff and children that help stop the spread of illness.

As a parent, you can help by following the policies outlined above that are also in your Parent Handbook. It is also important that you teach your child how to cough and sneeze into their arm or a tissue and to wash their hands after using a tissue. Hand washing is the number one way to stop the spread of infection to others.

If your child has contracted a serious illness like Chicken Pox, Staph Infection, Strep Throat, Pink Eye or any other highly contagious infection, please call the school as soon as possible so that we may notify other parents and our staff.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a lot of information on how to keep your family healthy during the flu season. You can go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.cdc.gov/flu/school](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school) for information on flu prevention.

## LOST AND FOUND

We have already accumulated a nice collection of lost items. The lost and found is located in a basket in the foyer. Please look through the basket if you think you may have an item in the Lost and Found. Thank you!

### \*\*IMPORTANT NOTE\*\*

We have children with severe allergies. Please show compassion and follow our "no nut policy."



SCC  
Preschool is

**NUT FREE**

**THIS IS A  
PEANUT AND  
TREE NUT  
FREE ZONE**

## SCHOOL DROP-OFF/PICK-UP TIMES:

**Sign-In:** When dropping off or picking up your child you must sign them in/out each day. 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 be sure to use your legal signature. If another person other than yourself that is authorized to sign out your child will be doing so, please notate this on the "comments" page when you sign your child in.

- **Morning Drop-Off**

Our campus is not open until 7:00am. Families that arrive early in the morning may not enter the campus until this time. Please respect the time the teachers need to set up for your children to have a fun and safe learning environment. If you arrive at 8:30am, please sign your child in directly to their classroom. This is a transitional period where teachers are picking children up from the Big Room and taking them to their classrooms.

- **Preschool Drop-off:** If your child is enrolled in the preschool morning program please wait until 8:45AM to sign your child into their classroom. Our teachers need plenty of time to prepare for a day full of fun and learning.

## We Have a Facebook Page and You Can Follow Us on Instagram!

Just a reminder that Saddleback Children's Center has a Facebook page and an Instagram Account. Many parents find this a helpful way to get reminders and updates about our school electronically. It is also a good way see what is going on at the school throughout the day through posted pictures (for those who have given consent to post). Just "like us" on Facebook or "follow us" on Instagram and you will start seeing updates on your homepage!

## Reviews and Referrals

Reviews and referrals are the sincerest compliments that you can offer us. If you are happy with your experience as a parent as well as your child's experience at our school and are comfortable sharing that with others, please review us by visiting Google, Yelp or liking us on Facebook and Instagram.





# ONGOING WAYS TO SUPPORT SCC

## Outdoor Classroom Project



We are pleased to announce that Saddleback Children's Center is entering our third year in developing our play yards or outdoor classrooms. With that said, we are now entering the certification process. With guidance from the Outdoor Classroom Project, we hope to promote the following objectives:

- Establish a lifelong pattern of ongoing, vigorous and extended physical activity.
- Foster learning through self-initiation, control, and personal responsibility.
- Achieve social / emotional mastery and build communication skills through outdoor projects such as our school garden and group activity.
- Build a healthy, balanced internal psychology with time spent alone.
- Develop an interest in science and math through connecting with nature.
- Create a successful learning environment for the active learner.
- Manifest classroom harmony.

From the Outdoor Classroom: A Brief Description by Eric Nelson, M.A.



## Fall Fundraisers

The proceeds from our Fall Fundraisers this year will all go toward our classroom remodeling project and materials for our Outdoor Classroom.

- Poppin Popcorn
- Family Night Out

## Poppin Popcorn Fundraising

We will be starting our first fundraiser of the year selling different varieties of popcorn starting October 2<sup>nd</sup> through October 16<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information coming soon!



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!

# DAP: The "Magic" in Early Childhood Education

by Dr. Barbara Bowman

Over the past 30 years, we have learned a great deal about how children learn and develop. Early childhood education is increasingly seen as valuable for promoting the well-being of children and families.

Unfortunately, some people seem to think that just the words "early childhood education" are magic and all we need to do is to see that every child is in an early childhood program and all will be well. But it's not just *any* early childhood program. The magic is in what happens in a program. Early childhood programs of a particular quality and over time can positively affect children and their families. Those that follow developmentally appropriate practices (DAP) are the kinds of programs that can make a difference.

Many people misunderstand what we mean when we talk about developmentally appropriate curriculum and practices. I was appalled to hear that in Georgia recently, in its effort to insure success for all its children, banned developmentally appropriate practices as not sufficiently educational. The criticism was that children do not learn to read, write and compute, or learn civil behavior, or have good internal controls if you use developmentally appropriate practices. But DAP seeks to prepare children for academics--by making the academics interesting and worth learning. It seeks to teach civil behavior--by seeing that children are treated and treat each other with civility. It seeks to teach self-control- in the context of good mental health.

We must also beware of those who do not understand DAP. They define DAP as rigid practices, rather than as a set of principles that are to be applied in different ways at different times and in different contexts. They want to see DAP as laws that require every developmentally appropriate classroom to look like every other one. DAP is *not always* delaying group reading instruction until age 6--if a group is ready to be successful, you can start earlier. It is *not always* having mothers stay until their children are settled in school--because all mothers cannot stay and, for some children and mothers, staying is not helpful to either the mother or the child. It is *not always* having enough equipment so children do not have to wait or take turns--although we try to keep frustration to a minimum because we care about civility.

I would like to discuss three developmentally appropriate principles and their implications for effective practice.

***Principle #1: Developmentally appropriate practices recognize the importance of relationships.*** During the past 30 years, probably the most significant change in our thinking about young children is our new understanding of the role of social interaction in learning. We now know that children construct their knowledge about the world and learn their skills through engagement with adults and older peers.

This is different than how we understood development in the 1960's, when Piaget's influence was at its height. Then we thought of the active child as learning mostly on his own. Adults were supposed to get out of the children's way as they made sense of the world through their own initiative. They were to construct their own intelligence. We now understand that children are not completely self-directed little beings. We also now know that children are not wholly dependent on adults. They are not like cars on an assembly line. We cannot stamp out competent children with standardized formulas, characterized by work sheets and drill and practice. Our new model of development calls for both an active child and an active caregiver/teacher.

Children learn to "make meaning" from and through their social interactions with adults and older children. The new model sees development more like a dance between adults and children, with each bending and sliding to the moves of the other. Parents, because their relationship with their children is on-going and consistent, are likely to be the most influential relationships in children's development. This is why good quality early childhood programs support parents so they can do their jobs better.

But parental relationships are not the only important ones. New research in child development indicates that teachers and caregivers are powerful influences on the development of young children. When trained to understand and respond to young children, they can buffer (or intensify) a child's experience. We must be sure that every child in our centers and schools finds committed and responsive adults. Children will not find these kinds of relationships when teachers are overwhelmed by too many children, by too little take home pay, and by too few opportunities to learn their profession.

**Principle #2: Developmentally appropriate practices must be responsive to the learning style of young children.** This need seems to have been forgotten as pressure for academic achievement has increased. Instead of the metaphor for young children being passive, ignorant and unworthy students, everyone now speaks of them as "sponges," ready to soak up knowledge and skills. But many people misunderstand what we mean when we extol the intelligence and capabilities of young children. They believe that because young children are so smart, we can teach them as if they were older children.

This has resulted in a dread disease--what I call the "academic bump." You know you have got it in your program when teachers at each level complain that the children are coming to them unprepared, which, of course, means that the teachers in the prior grade or level are not doing their job. Often this leads to downward dumping of curriculum. More and more of the curriculum of 3rd grade finds its way into 2nd grade, and what used to be done in 2nd grade is moved into 1st, 1st into kindergarten and kindergarten into preschool. Pretty soon, if the school is suffering from "the bump," you will begin to find signs of 2nd grade in kindergarten and the program that used to be taught in 1st grade becomes the preschool curriculum.

This bump disease is noticeable in preschools and day care centers as well as the primary grades. You know the program is afflicted when worksheets, number facts and whole group teaching are in and story reading, dictation, block play and conversation are out. I was in a program recently in which the teachers were lining up 3-year-olds to go to the bathroom and, as you can imagine, they were all over the place and it took forever to get them organized. When I asked why the teachers were doing this instead of just taking a few children at a time while the others continue their activities, the answer was that they will have to do it when they get to elementary school. But, it is not developmentally appropriate curriculum to teach next year's skills this year. Many people are realizing that the very countries with whom we want to compete, like Sweden and Japan, do not rush children into formal instruction in reading and writing at an early age.

**Principle #3: A developmentally appropriate curriculum responds to individual differences.** All children do not do the same things at the same time. The basic equation of early childhood education is that the same curriculum practiced on different young children will get different results. No matter how carefully you plan, no matter how well you implement your plan, all the children will not learn the same amount or the same thing from the same experience. Homogeneous treatments delivered to heterogeneous kids yield heterogeneous results. Children do not develop evenly over 12 months or over 8 years. Much of early learning is maturation driven. That means that biological growth and experience have to coincide before a new developmental step can be taken. Some children's biological capabilities develop more or less evenly, others grow by fits and starts. Some children do everything a little early, some are uneven (walk early/talk late or the other way around) and some are just a little later than others. But just as most children will learn to talk between 9-18 months, they will all learn to read between 5-8 years old, with appropriate reading environments. We have no evidence that there is an advantage to learning two months or even two years earlier.

Even if we could match the children for developmental or experiential characteristics which would predict similar outcomes, we shouldn't want to. Our world is populated with people of various abilities and talents. During early childhood, children must learn how to regard differences between themselves and others.

For more information please visit <http://theallianceforec.org/library.php?c=7&news=117>

# October 2018




## October Concepts

Color: Orange

Number: 2

Shape: Square



M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3 Chapel	4	5
LUNCH BUNCH, SPORTS, DANCE & SPANISH ALL BEGIN THIS WEEK!!				
8 School Picture Days 	9	10	11 Chapel	12
15	16	17 Chapel	18	19
22	23 Chapel	24	25	26 <b>Parent/Teacher Conferences</b> Child Care for Full Day & 8 Hour Students Only
29 Chapel	30 Harvest Festival "Go Western"	31		

October Bible Verse:  
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart." Proverbs 3:5