

## Cognitive Development

**Children will maintain interest in self-selected activities and may seek to engage others or ask questions.** In order to allow children the opportunity to develop this ability, we need to provide an environment in which they can choose materials and use them in their own ways. This is one of the reasons that we spend the majority of our morning engaged in free play. The environment is designed so that the children have access to a wide variety of materials and are free to spend a significant period of time working with them.

## Social Emotional Development

**Children will approach caregivers for support and comfort.** Building trusting relationships is at the heart of what we do at PVCC. These relationships are the basis for all learning and growing that will take place. It is critical that we do all that we can to make sure that each child feels welcome and known. It is only after that has taken place that they can begin to turn to us for comfort and support. We know what a leap of faith it is for you and your child to trust that this environment will be responsive to your child's needs and are very grateful that you have taken it.

## Physical Development

**Children will use more complicated series of movements such as climbing up and down.** Our commitment to spending a solid period of time outdoors is partly aimed at addressing this goal. The environment outside offers many places to climb and run as well as equipment to toss and catch. We use a variety of items to create new obstacles and opportunities. In addition we introduce equipment within the classroom to support these skills, including a balance beam and a ramp to climb and slide on.

## Early Language, Communication and Literacy

**Children will use words to request objects, have needs met or gain attention.** The children are working hard to add words to their vocabulary. During the day at school we spend lots of time engaged in conversation with the children, seeking to support their attempts to make their ideas and needs understood through words or signs. This includes asking for more food at the snack table rather than only pointing as well as asking for a turn with a toy rather than just pulling it.

## Upcoming Events

Welcome to the first edition of our monthly newsletter. The developmental strands listed on the right side come from the CT Early Learning and Development Standards. This is the document created by the Office of Early Childhood as a guide for programs. The standards identify the skills, understandings and abilities that young children are expected to develop during the preschool years. We use them to help us to document a child's ability and to track the child's growth overtime. It is our goal to ensure that the activities we offer to the children are suitable for developing these skills. In general we use this newsletter to share with you some of the work that has gone on in the previous month.

The second section of this newsletter will explain our plans for the upcoming month. We have spent the first few weeks of school presenting materials for the children to explore and supporting their selection of personal favorites. During group time we have been dancing with scarves, playing instruments, conducting experiments with the big tube and playing games with bean bags. As we enter into October we will continue to primarily engage in activities that allow for movement and active participation. In addition we are sensitive to the range of skills within the group and are planning activities that can involve a variety of levels of complexity. For instance during our bean bag toss game, some children were focused simply on getting the bean bag into the bucket, while others were asked to describe with accurate vocabulary where their bean bag landed, i.e. inside, outside, behind, in front of, etc.

**We will be taking a field trip to Barden Farm in New Hartford on Thursday October 26.** We will take a tractor ride out to the pumpkin field and each child will get to choose a pumpkin. We will also have a chance to explore the animals on the farm. There will be a sign up posted for drivers for the trip.

**We will celebrate Halloween at school on Tuesday October 31.**

As always if you have any questions or concerns please let me know.