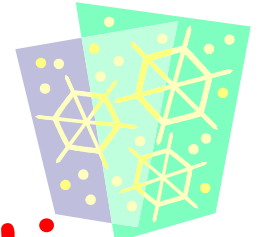


## Pottstown Early Action for Kindergarten Readiness

Mission: Every child in Pottstown will enter Kindergarten ready to learn and achieve



# PEAK Classroom Connections

*PEAK Classroom Connections: Creating a professional learning community for the early learning teachers in Pottstown to share ideas, improve instructional practices and implement researched-based best practices in the delivery of quality early learning experiences*



February 2009

## PEAK Happenings

### Pottstown School District Early Learning Center

The Pottstown School District announced that the Edgewood Elementary School located, at 920 Morris Street, will open in the fall of 2009 as the **Edgewood Early Learning Center**. The Edgewood Early Learning Center will serve **all** pre-kindergarten (4 year old) and kindergarten (5 year old) children, in the Pottstown School District. Mr. Robert Giering current principal of the Barth Elementary School has been appointed as the Principal of the Edgewood Early Learning Center. You can learn more about this, and all the school district news, on the Pottstown School District website at [www.pottstownschoools.com](http://www.pottstownschoools.com)

### Behavior Consultant

If you are having concerns about behavior issues in your classroom, remember all PEAK classrooms have access to our Behavior Consultant, Kiki Kukovich. Kiki is in Pottstown three days a week. If you have concerns about your class or a few children you can request a visit from Kiki by contacting either Emily or let your director know.

**Don't forget to check the PEAK website for updated information and upcoming Professional Development. [www.peakonline.org](http://www.peakonline.org)**

### Contact Information:

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#### Emily Baddeley

PEAK Pre-K Coach  
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#### Kathy Perry

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#### Whitney Tyng

Family Engagement Specialist  
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PEAK Web Site  
[www.peakonline.org](http://www.peakonline.org)



## Kindergarten Registration

Pre-K/Kindergarten -Registration Orientation on **Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m., at the Edgewood Elementary School.**

*Pre-K/Kindergarten registration for all four and five year old children not currently registered will take place from **March 4 - March 26** in our five elementary buildings. Parents should register in the buildings attendance area in which they live.*

DATE	SCHOOL	LEVEL	TIME
March 4	Lincoln	PreK & Kindergarten	Day * & Evening (6-8 pm)
March 5	Lincoln	PreK & Kindergarten	Day*
March 10	Franklin	PreK	Day*
March 11	Franklin	Kindergarten	Day* & Evening (6-8 pm)
March 12	Edgewood	PreK & Kindergarten	Day* & Evening (6-8 pm)
March 13	Edgewood	Kindergarten	Day*
March 16	Rupert	PreK	Day*
March 17	Rupert	Kindergarten	Day* & Evening (6-8 pm)
March 24	Barth	Pre-K	Day* & Evening (6-8 pm)
March 25	Barth	Kindergarten	Day*
March 26	Edgewood	Kindergarten	Evening (6-8 pm)

\*Day registration times are: **8:15 - 11:15 am & 1:45 - 3:30 pm.**

The information we have received from parents is that you, the teacher, are the most important person in getting information to parents about registering and transition to Kindergarten. Please make sure to identify all children that should be registered for Kindergarten and begin to share information with the parents. Encourage them to attend the orientation and sign up for registration.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Emily Baddeley in the PEAK office.

Problems with attendance? Do your families need assistance with referrals or resources?

Remember to call Whitney Tyng, PEAK Family Engagement Specialist, at 610-326-1610.

For other resources for families visit the PEAK website at [www.peakonline.org](http://www.peakonline.org)

### Remember:

All PEAK classrooms (any classroom serving 3 or 4 year olds) has access to all of PEAK's resources. If you have concerns about a family, or a family needs support, contact Whitney Tyng (contact information on the front of this newsletter).

## Paint Can Letters

### Paint Cans With Magnetic Letters and Numbers



These are simple to set up yet lots of fun for the kids. Purchase empty paint cans (new and unused) from the paint supply section of Home Depot or Lowes.

Put magnet letters in some cans and magnetic numbers in others. The cans come with a lid which is nice for labeling and storing each can. The children can take the cans out and just free-play with the letter and numbers by putting them on the cans in any order they wish. Children can find the letters to their names and put their names on the can. You can also have cans that have word cards placed inside them that the children can take out along with the letters and then make the words on the can that match the ones on the cards.

have cans that have cards on it with different numbers of objects and the children need to count the objects

on the card and place the correct number magnet on the can. There are many activities you can do with paint cans and magnetic letters and numbers ... use your imagination and have fun!!

Extensions:

You can put other things inside of paint cans as well:

Logos that begin with different letters of the alphabet, have children sort by the letters, how many "A" words are there? How many letter end in "y"? How many letters that are in your name can you find? You can use cereal boxes, candy wrappers, food boxes, etc.

Put in copies of environmental print and have children sort by type: restaurants, food, stores, toys etc. Turn the activity into a nutrition lesson and have children sort by "healthy" and "unhealthy" foods.

## Sorting

### MUFFIN TIN SORT

Muffin tins make great sorting trays. You can buy them in either six or twelve muffin cups per tray. For this activity you can cut out a circle that is large enough to fill the bottom of each tray (a different color for each muffin space). Cut twenty-five small squares of each color that is in the tray. Have the children put the squares into the tin with the same matching color. The foam pieces can be stored in a zip lock bag.

Other variations on the sorting tray include writing a number on the circle that goes into each muffin space and then have the children put the correct number of foam squares in each space. You could also write numbers on the foam squares and put them in the space with the same number on the circle. For older children this could be done with letters and sight words as well.

### CEREAL SORT

**\*\*Before doing this activity make sure your program allows the use of food for math activities\*\***

This is a fun activity that helps develop math skills. You will need six different types of cereal ... make sure that the cereals are different shapes ... sizes ... and colors. You will also need zip lock bags and sorting trays (You can purchase clear relish trays from a party supply store or the dollar store). Put a combination of the six cereals in a zip lock bag and allow the students to put one of each type in a section of the sorting tray. Have them continue to sort the cereal by putting the same type of cereal in the section of the tray that it belongs in. After they are finished have them count the cereal in each section and compare quantities, which has more, less, most, least, etc.

## Transitions

The most challenging time of the day for any preschool classrooms most often occurs around transitions (from centers to circle, handwashing to lunch, etc). It is more likely to be worse when staff do not effectively implement and manage the transition times. For example:

- Too many transitions
- Large group transitions
- Transitions that are too long with too much idle waiting time
- Unclear expectations and instructions
- Inconsistency with routines and transitions from day to day

You can prepare children for transition by using a signal. When choosing a signal keep in mind the following:

Children should be able to see it from anywhere in the room

Children should be able to hear it, even when they are playing

It should not be so annoying that you won't use it

Children should respond quickly

Some examples are:

Tapping a tune on a set of chimes

Hold up one hand and count to 3, children respond by holding up a hand and putting finger to lips

Using a rain stick

## Let's Celebrate National Dental Health Month!!!

### What kind of toothbrush should I buy?

Choose a "soft" toothbrush with a small head and a long handle. Hard bristles can wear down your teeth and damage your gums.

### How often should I change my toothbrush?

Change your toothbrush every 3-4 months or sooner if bristles are no longer straight.

### What kind of toothpaste should I use?

The type of paste isn't nearly as important as how well you use it. Use any paste with fluoride.

### How should I brush?

Use a circular motion over each tooth - top, bottom, back, side and front. Brush along gum line and behind your back teeth.

### How often should I brush?

Brush 3 times a day for 3 minutes each time. That adds up to 9 minutes a day. Since you don't have spare teeth, you might as well spare the time!

Contributed by Kathy Perry

[www.ahealthyme.com](http://www.ahealthyme.com)

