

# THE CREATIVE TATTLER

CREATIVE PRESCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



**If you are looking for a reason to celebrate and be happy, here it is!**

Creative has successfully completed our first month since reopening and we are going strong. As you know, many changes have been made to keep all of us safe and healthy. All of us oldsters (teachers) have creaked through many of the changes, while the children have met them head on. They have mastered saying goodbye on the steps, got the entering, washing hands, temperature taking and locating their early morning play location down pat and - most of all - mastered the dreaded masks. We ALL dreaded the thought of little kids and masks, but have been relieved to see them navigate the masks successfully.

We have sooo many new procedures now. Our chairs and tables have never been so clean. After each meal or each time a group uses a table, Dr. Pam magically appears and sprays down each chair and the table. It's amazing how many jobs one person can add to their list! Needless to say, we thank you all for your patience,

understanding, and support while we make our way through just exactly how to work through the changes.

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**If your child is out for any reason, please call us and let us know! We are having to follow-up with every absent child's family - that takes away from our already busy days with added protocols of cleaning and safety.**

***Thank you!***



**We send out thanks to the Moms and Grandmamas who so kindly made a jillion masks for the kids to wear.** Just to let you know, we wear them upon arrival until we go outside (then they go in each child's personal white bag until they are needed again). After lunch, all of the masks are collected and put in the laundry. After snack, we start all over again with fresh masks. So we really do appreciate having a good supply of them. Being able to choose each time from a grand array of colors and designs has made this chore fun and whenever children have choices life is always better.

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We are washing blankets more frequently, storing nap items in giant zip lock bags, and using an antibacterial spray on the cots. Periodically, we have our Smith family come and professionally deep clean the rugs and building, including shelves and toys. We think we are doing the best that we can to lower the risk factors we can control.

### ***Staying Safe: Avoiding Crowds***



Dr. Pam has already sent out a letter to parents, but to reiterate, ***we ask you to stay out of crowded areas or self-quarantine for 14 days if you choose to go.***

If you find yourself having been around someone who has tested positive for COVID, you will need to keep your children home for 14 days. We appreciate the fact that a few of you have quickly been tested upon exposure, but remind you that a negative result **before day 14** does not mean you did not contract COVID from your exposure. Self-quarantine is still necessary.

**So to repeat, even if you receive a negative result and your doctor okays your child's return to CPS, we (and the CDC) insist on you quarantining for the full 14 days.** We realize that this is inconvenient

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for all! However, it may be what keeps us open and healthy while our city's COVID numbers go up.

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## **July Theme**

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This July we have decided to change things up a bit from our original plan.

Our focus will be “Zoos and zoo animals” (originally from April). Our colors will be red, white, and blue and the shape is the hexagon. The letters and corresponding animals will be “C” and centipede, “N” and narwhal, and “Y” and yak. Our July author will be James Marshall who authored the “George and Martha” stories. The eco-tip will be “A single aluminum can that is recycled can generate enough energy to power a TV for three weeks.”

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Dr. Pam will be planning on some type of informational meeting concerning our 20-21 VPK program which we hope will begin on August 10<sup>th</sup>. We will let you know what form the “meeting” will

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take. Dr. Laura will be planning a meeting for our 20-21 Kindergarten. Again, stay tuned for how the meeting will take shape.

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## ***We're Hiring!***

Please keep your eyes open. We have run advertisements for an additional staff for three years and have had the community college and universities put up notices. **NO ONE!** seems to want to work as hard as we do.

We would love to hire a full time or even a part-time person for each building. We have everyone we need for the children, we could just use an extra hand to fill in and help us get all the little things done. We have had Cathie's daughter, Tot, with us this summer but she will leave and go back to her public school job. Having her working alongside us has made it very obvious that an extra pair of competent hands would make our days move easier. If you know of anyone please have them call Dr Pam.

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## ***From the Desk of Dr. Pam***



Dear Parents,

**Several families have asked me about talking with their children about race and equality;** I wrote this answer to one of the Big School families last week.

It is never too soon to talk about differences and appreciating all people; we have always done that with all groups and ages. Like sex, don't go into more detail about problems than they can understand but let them know your beliefs and feelings. Young children don't notice difference and when they use inappropriate language it is always because they have heard it somewhere, but really don't know what it means. Pay attention to the books and toys you buy for your children, making sure they depict races, genders, and other differences in a positive and equal light.

I know this works because my own grown children and their children share my beliefs about equality and acceptance. Dr. Hanline from FSU and Creative are going to undertake a research

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study in the fall, looking at the attitudes of children who grew up here between 1990 and 2010 concerning persons with physical and mental challenges. We are hoping that our results can be used to support inclusive environments for young children with challenging abilities.

There are many good books out there with appropriate pictures and stories about people of different-ages, sex, religion, race etc. You don't need books about racism just books that show positive inclusive moments. When things are depicted in the wrong light in conversations, on tv or in books, call attention to the situation and share your beliefs. Helping children to understand acceptance really comes from daily experiences. Noticing the homeless person on the corner etc. Take them places where diversity is readily obvious to see.

Several years ago when we were discussing the differences in the colors of our eyes, hair, skin etc., one of the four years olds looked up at Cathie and said, "Miss Cathie, your legs are brown." He had never noticed the rest of her. Children really are open and loving creatures...the adults in their lives develop the hatred and discriminatory attitudes. They do not see differences, they are taught to look for them.

We truly believe that when children are exposed to different people with different skin colors, religions and abilities they will not be afraid but will be accepting of difference. We know that fear only comes from ignorance. You are wonderful families and we are happy to be able to share your children.

Dr. Pam

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***Letter from CPS Parents' Club***



When it comes to parenting, I like to remind myself that I can either *react* or *respond* to any given situation – I am sure you can guess which one my children prefer.

I have been applying this concept to our current situation – are we *responding* or *reacting*? There are some ways in which we are responding to the present virus – washing our hands, wearing masks, and socially distancing. **A reaction to someone getting sick from COVID, however, would be Creative closing.**

I understand how emotionally, physically, and mentally taxing this can be, but please understand that the policies we've put in place are here to protect you, your children, and our staff. If you have to ask yourself "*would Creative consider this a large gathering?*" you probably already know the answer. We are sacrificing a lot right now - not only for the greater good of our community, but the privilege to return to a small iota of normalcy for us and our children by being operational. Please help us keep it that way by doing your part.

Megan Glasgow  
CPS Parents' Club President  
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