Dear Pre-K Families,

The Fall is a great time to take outside walks with your child and discuss the changes in season, such as the how leaves change colors and fall from trees.

If you would like additional resources or activities to support home learning, please visit the iTrails website (www.itrails.org).

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

Family Activity Corner

Early math matters, and each day most pre-k students are developing their math skills in their classroom. **Ten Little Caterpillars by Bill Martin** is an excellent book to read with your child to support the new math skills your child is learning.

As you read the book together, have your child find and count the caterpillars in the story. After you read, use real world objects (blocks, pencils, cheerios etc.) in amounts up to 5 to practice counting.

**Activity Idea: "Caterpillars in a Jar."** Place 10 cotton balls into a jar or bowl, and work with your child to count out each cotton ball. Have your child count the cotton balls again as you put them back in the jar. You can also have your child use tongs or tweezers to move the cotton balls, which is a great way to develop their fine motor skills.

Follow MNPS Pre-K on Facebook & Twitter: @MNPSPreK

For More Activities & Information Visit: www.itrails.org

Contact Information

Metro Nashville Public Schools
Pre-K Department
(615) 298-6766 Ext. 5

**MNPS District Important Dates**

October 31st
MNPS Optional Schools Application Available (Online)
www.mnps.org

November 8th
MNPS Parent-Teacher Conferences
Contact your school for information.

Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

Parent-teacher conferences are a great opportunity for you to connect with your child’s teacher. To have an effective conference, here are a few conference tips:

- Think of items you want to discuss with your child’s teacher prior to your conference.
- Write down questions that you have about your child.
- Arrive a few minutes early for your conference to allow you time to review your notes/questions.

October 2016

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Parent Spotlight

You may have heard of the MNPS School Options Application. The MNPS School Options Application provides an opportunity for families to apply for schools outside of their school zone.

Why would pre-K families be interested in MNPS School Options?

- Their child may currently be enrolled in an MNPS pre-K program in a school they are not zoned for, and they would like to apply to attend that same school for Kindergarten.
- A family may wish to apply for a school other than their zoned school for Kindergarten.

The School Options Application will be available online on October 31, 2016 and the deadline to apply is December 2, 2016.

Please note that the School Options Application is not the same as the Kindergarten Registration Form. Current pre-K students will still need to be registered for kindergarten in the spring time.

To find out more information on MNPS School Options or to find out where your child is zoned for school, visit the MNPS website: www.mnps.org.

Preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences are almost here for some schools. For many parents, this conference provides your first opportunity to sit down one-on-one with your child’s teacher to talk about your child’s learning experience in the classroom.

While teachers will have information to share, it is also important for parents to share information about their child’s school experience and to tell the teacher about family events that could impact your child, like an upcoming move or a new baby.

Helpful questions to ask the teacher during your conference are:

- What activities/centers does my child like best?
- What can we do at home to keep our child excited about learning?
- What goals do you have for my child this year?

If you still have unanswered questions after the conference, please follow up with a written note or schedule a second face-to-face meeting. Developing a solid relationship with your child’s teacher can support your child’s learning success.

For More Activities & Information Visit: www.iTrails.org

Pre-K Family Support Corner

Pre-K students are often excited to begin learning early math skills. It’s easy to practice math skills at home through games and projects.

Here are a few tips to support your child’s learning:

- Count food items together at snack time
- When you’re cooking dinner, let your child help you measure ingredients for a recipe.
- Check in with your child’s teacher about math activities to bring classroom learning into the home.
- Your feelings about math can influence your child’s thoughts about math. Help your child enjoy math by talking about it in a positive manner.