

News and Notes

From Teacher Brianne

This school year has been wonderful and has surely gone by so quickly! I have truly enjoyed spending every minute with each child that I have been lucky to have spent. I will miss those that move on to kindergarten and I hope to hear how they are doing next year. For those who are not yet going to kindergarten, I will connect with each family at the beginning of the 2023–2024 school year in September to schedule and plan my sessions. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer!



Coming Up...

- **June 14** Last day of preschool classes/sessions ***I apologize that in my last newsletter that I had the incorrect date!***
- **June 15–22** Meetings for risers, IEPs and other business
- **June 22** Progress Reports sent to families



Special Education

Although the IEP is legally binding for a full calendar year, it is still open to change. As student needs or life circumstances change, the IEP needs to be able to adapt to those changes. Any team member can call for the IEP team to reconvene at any time and after discussion, they team may choose to amend the IEP to change some aspect of it. Amendments can also be done without having a meeting as long as it has been communicated to and agreed upon by all team members. One of these amendments regularly done is a riser where we reflect the change in location from preschool to elementary school when a child moves up to kindergarten.

Neurodiversity

The neurodiversity movement encompasses more than just the autistic population. There are other divergencies to the neurotypical norm including ADHD, Tourette's Syndrome, learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dyscalculia, epilepsy, hyperlexia, dyspraxia and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Eric Jensen writes in his book *Brain-Based Learning*: "The old belief was that most brains were 'typical,' with the rare exceptions of those with 'biological differences.' Current research says only about 10% of human brains can be categorized as 'typical' (Mazziotta et al., 2009), and even those have varying features."

In The Community-Kaleidoscope Play and Learn

There are a few organizations around Washington that offer Play and Learn sessions during the summer. Child Strive, located in Everett, will be having outdoor park-based sessions twice a month. Information [here](#).

The Center for Human Services, located in Shoreline, offers sessions three times a week, some in both English and Spanish and some sessions that are Spanish only. Find Information [here](#).

Social Emotional Learning: Executive Function

A big factor in children's social and emotional development is their executive function skills. This refers to the brain's ability to do things such as control impulses, have flexibility to move from one activity to the next, holding information in their mind to recall later while doing something else (working memory), forward planning a few steps into the future, organization, filtering information—deciding what is important and what is not, and task initiation. The center for the developing child at Harvard University has an informational pamphlet that states: Tests measuring different forms of executive function skills indicate that they begin to develop shortly after birth, with ages 3 to 5 a window of opportunity for dramatic growth in these skills. Development continues throughout adolescence and early adulthood." (*A Guide to Executive Function - Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2018*) We should keep in mind that preschool-aged children have very few and/or immature executive function skills and our expectations for their behavior should keep that in mind. They are far from their potential to do these things on their own and we need to support them without shame, judgment or frustration.

What we worked on



Coaching Notes

See the following PDF activity guide for building executive function skills in 3–5 year olds from Harvard's Center on the Developing Child. These activities are fun and easy such as playing red light green light, story telling and imaginative play.

 Center on the Developing Child
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Teacher Brianne's Recommendations

Book

Raising human beings by Ross Greene



Podcast or Blog

Your parenting mojo



Social Media

Play Pan Afrikan

