

MEMO

To: Directors, Teachers, Family Workers
From: Heidi Toursie
Re: Literacy Event for Week of the Young Child
Date: March 11, 2017

Thank you for your participation in Read Across America week. Between the lending library and the Read-a-thons, the focus and excitement around reading has been contagious and is very evident with our families.

We have one more literacy event planned for this school year. In celebration of Week of the Young Child, we will once again be inviting parents to participate in the classrooms. For some parents that may mean reading to the children for others it may be joining us for lunch or outside time or helping with projects. Attached you'll find a sign-up sheet.

I have planned the literacy event for WOTYC, but you will plan other WOTYC events for your classroom.

The theme of this event is *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* as each classroom has this book and it is a great way to welcome spring! We will again be asking parents to keep track of the books they read at home. Similar to the hats we used to track books read in the classroom and at home during Read Across America week, we will be sending home colorful circles (I will provide the circles). On the circles, parents will write the child's name and the name of the book they read. As the circles are returned, we will hang the circles on the wall. Each circle will slightly overlap the other to form a caterpillar. Stand alone sites will form the caterpillars on the wall around the classroom. Larger centers may choose to form their caterpillars along the hallway.

Our Week of the Young Child celebration is April 17th – April 21st, however you can continue the Read A Thon for as long as you like. Many teachers continue it throughout the spring! Tracking the reading at home will provide the opportunity for children and families to feel successful about their reading accomplishments.

As we did with Read Across America week, we will be choosing a classroom goal for the number of books read during the week. The goal for each classroom will be up to the director and teaching team. A realistic formula for setting a goal may be 2 books a day in the classroom and 3 books per week read at home for each child. In a classroom of eighteen children that would be 64 books for the week. You may want to round it up to 70 or down to 60. Goals should be posted where families can see them. **I would**

encourage you to give each family a goal at home as well, for example, one book per night.

If you would like to develop your theme around *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* or simply Caterpillars, here are some sites with suggested activities.

http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/caterpillars/theme.htm

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/pep/teachingideas/generictheme.html>

<http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/carle.htm>

Some of the suggested lesson plans are intended for primary grades and may need to be modified.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiasm and please let me know if you have any questions or need any support with the Read-a-Thon.