

# PIEDMONT CHILD CARE CENTER NEWSLETTER

~MARCH 2011~



“There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to give our children. One is roots; the other, wings.” -Hodding Carter

## ROOTS AND SHOOTS GARDEN



With the sunshine and “warm” weather our thoughts move toward our garden and the many wonderful experiences we have had over the last seven years. Again this year we will continue to nurse the Fairy Garden, the Butterfly Garden, the Worm Garden and the Alphabet Garden. We plan to enhance the herb garden, plant a fruit bush garden, a sunflower garden, and a vegetable garden. We encourage you to become a part of this outdoor classroom by committing with your children some time each week to work in the garden.

The Roots and Shoots garden is the brain child of Jane Goodall who developed the program to encourage gardening in impoverished countries. The concept is a mentoring program where the children (“Shoots”) pair up with volunteer adults (“Roots”) to form a partnership which provides a unique learning experience in an outdoor classroom.

Please consider being a part of this spring, summer, and fall activity.



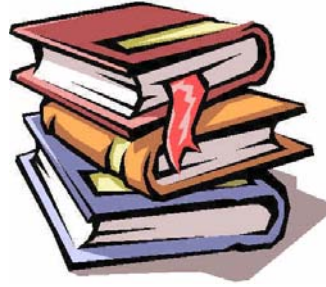
**Please Remember...**

**Our annual Spaghetti Dinner is Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm at Trinity Church Parish Hall. Tickets are only \$7 per adult and \$5 per child (children under 2 eat free). Join us for a delicious dinner and the chance to win our Pot Of Gold Raffle! Can't wait to see you there!**



## Important Dates in March...

- March 13-  
Daylight Savings  
Time, Spring  
Ahead!
- March 17-  
St. Patrick's Day
- March 20- Spring  
Begins
- March 25-  
Spaghetti Dinner



As we celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday this month, it is important to remember to read to or with your child each day! Here are just a few benefits of reading to your child...

1. A stronger relationship with you. As your child grows older, he'll be on the move—playing, running, and constantly exploring his environment. Snuggling up with a book lets the two of you slow down and recaptures that sweet, cuddly time you enjoyed when he was a baby. Instead of being seen as a chore or a task, reading will become a nurturing activity that will bring the two of you closer together.

2. Academic excellence. One of the primary benefits of reading to toddlers and preschoolers is a higher aptitude for learning in general. Numerous studies have shown that students who are exposed to reading before preschool are more likely to do well in all facets of formal education. After all, if a student struggles to put together words and sentences, how can he be expected to grasp the math, science, and social concepts he'll be presented with when he begins elementary school?

3. Basic speech skills. Throughout toddlerhood and preschool, your child is learning critical language and enunciation skills. By listening to you read *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, your child is reinforcing the basic sounds that form language. "Pretend reading"—when a toddler pages through a book with squeals and jabbars of delight—is a very important pre-literacy activity. As a preschooler, your child will likely begin sounding out words on his own.

4. The basics of how to read a book. Children aren't born with an innate knowledge that text is read from left to right, or that the words on a page are separate from the images. Essential pre-reading skills like these are among the major benefits of early reading.

5. Better communication skills. When you spend time reading to toddlers, they'll be much more likely to express themselves and relate to others in a healthy, constructive way. By witnessing the interactions between the characters in the books you read, as well as the contact with you during story time, your child is gaining valuable communication skills.