

OWU/ECC Center Newsletter

April/May 2014



From the Director:

As we enter into our last few weeks of school, I would like to thank you for choosing ECC as your child's first formal education experience. We recognize YOU are your child's first and most important teacher. We have experienced a wonderful year filled with opportunities and discoveries. If your child will be moving on to Kindergarten, we hope you will stay in touch with us. We enjoy it when children and families return to visit. Using facebook is another way to stay connected to our school. Recently, one ECC alumni child returned to be a mystery reader. As always, you are invited to attend our annual silent auction (it falls on the first Saturday in November). Below is the link to our parent evaluation in the form of a survey monkey. Please take the time to complete it, as we use these evaluations when considering programing and improvements for the following school year. The surveys are anonymous. If you would prefer a paper copy, please let your child's teacher know.

Kellie

ECC Parent Exit survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KC8KJV6>

Mark your Calendars

- 4/30 & 5/1: Last day of classes
- 5/2: 6-7pm End of year family picnic (Blue Limestone) This is a **Friday** which is a change from the past.
- 5/12: 6-7pm Garden Committee Work Night (bring the whole family and prepare to get dirty)

Do you know of a family without a preschool?

We have a few remaining spots in our pm classes.

The last tuition bill will be mailed to your home address. Please let Mrs. Hall know if your address is incorrect on your billing statement. Thank you for making payments in a timely manner.

Thank You!

We would like to extend a thank you to parents who chaired committees this year:

Social Committee: Angel Meadows and Kim Eggert

They planned great activities and took good care of the teaching staff. Thanks to Addy Scott for planning teacher appreciation week.

Maintenance Committee: Allison Chalklin

She kept our dress up clothes and towels clean all year long. She and her husband repaired broken toys.

Playground Committee: Shala Hankison and Erinn Nicley

They will help preserve our wooden play structures.

Garden Committee: Kelly Milliken and Chris Fink

They will chair for a second year after leading the project with much success last year.

Scholastic Book Sale: Angel Meadows

We love books!

PAB President: Evelin Wells

She manages the PAB account, and has volunteered during years when none of her children attended the ECC.

Silent Auction Committee: Maura Ackermann and Juli Jones

Maura started the silent auction and has chaired it for the past seven years. Juli will take over completely next year.

To all parents- whether you participated on a committee or volunteered in the classroom, all the little things you do for us do not go unnoticed!



Flip Flops

They are fun! They are fashionable! They are not for school! As the weather gets warmer, please send children to school with shoes they can run and play in. Thanks!

Sunscreen

We hope to be out in the sunshine soon! Children will be outside for around 20 minutes. You may want to apply sunscreen prior to school.



This week on Wednesday and Thursday, we will practice our lock down procedure. Teachers will not use this language with children, but we want you to be aware, should your child talk about visiting an unusual space for a short time. We practice fire drills on a monthly basis.

End of the Year Family Picnic *(rain or shine)*

Bring the whole family to celebrate the end of our school year.

Some families like to bring their own picnic dinner. The ECC Social committee will provide cake.

Friday, May 2nd

6:00-7:00pm

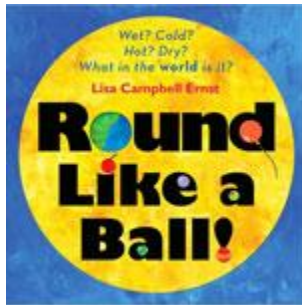
Blue Limestone

“Readers are made on the laps of parents.”

Books that Stretch Children's Thinking

Young children learn to think in new ways when they imagine, guess, describe, and wonder. Try these books to engage your child’s curiosity and to inspire her to see different views of the world.

(Note: Many of these books are available in Spanish, and can be purchased as a hardcover, paperback, or board book.)



Round Like a Ball, by Lisa Campbell Ernst. 2008.

The book begins with a familiar guessing game: "I’m thinking of something that’s round like a ball." Each page offers a new clue. The paper cutout shape in each illustration is a visual hint to the answer. What’s round like a ball? It’s the Earth! Although this book introduces many facts about Planet Earth, you can also use it to spark a conversation about color, shape, and size.

Available in English. Can be purchased as a hardcover and paperback.



Not a Box (2006) and ***Not a Stick*** (2007), by Antoinette Portis.

These books feature simple line drawings that will spark your child’s imagination. When asked, “Why are you sitting on that box?” a rabbit replies, “It’s not a box,” then demonstrates that it’s a racecar, a mountain, and a robot. In *Not a Stick*, a pig imagines his stick becoming a sword, a horse, and more. These books will inspire your child to consider many different ways to imagine and pretend.

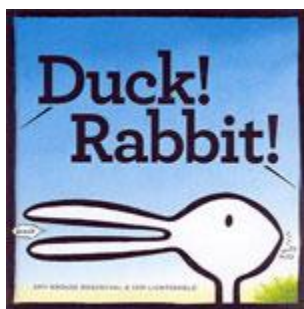
Available in English and Spanish. Can be purchased as a hardcover, paperback, and board book.



Just How Long Can a Long String Be?! by Keith Baker. 2009.

In this story, a bird and an ant discuss all the uses for a piece of simple white string. The examples are imaginative and each contains a sense of purpose or fun, such as “[hanging] a picture on a wall” and “[helping] the sweet pea vines grow tall.” As the string winds its way from page to page, the book imparts a feeling of connectedness among all things in the world, and will encourage your child to think about the many uses of simple things.

Available in English. Can be purchased as a hardcover and paperback.



Duck! Rabbit! by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and Tom Lichtenheld. 2009.

In this funny book, two unseen characters disagree on what kind of animal stands before them. Is the creature a duck with a bill? A rabbit with tall ears? The answer is that it all depends on how you look at things. This clever book reveals that sometimes there really is more than one right answer.

Available in English and Spanish. Can be purchased as a hardcover and paperback.

Try this:

- **Play the game, “I’m Thinking of Something.”** Use words that describe shape, color, and size to give clues about a familiar household object (“I’m thinking of something brown. It has four legs. It’s made of wood.”) You and your child can take turns leading the game. You can also ask your younger child to think of the different uses of household objects. We use spoons, for example, to stir, eat, give medicine, and—in a child’s world—dig!
- **Break out the boxes.** Collect cardboard boxes of all sizes and watch how your child plays with them. He may imagine the box is many things other than just a box—a car, a cave, or even a bed!
- **Talk about it.** Discuss how sometimes there is more than one way to see the world. The unseen characters in *Duck! Rabbit!* are each certain that their interpretation is the right

one, but both are right. There is more than one way to read the illustration. It's an optical illusion. Helping your child see this is a great transition into a conversation about what happens when two people see something differently and how there's not always just one right answer.

Source: Adapted from S. Friedman, 2010, "Stretch Children's Thinking," *Now Read This!*, *Teaching Young Children* 3 (4): 3.

© National Association for the Education of Young Children — Promoting excellence in early childhood education

- See more at: <http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/reading-writing/books-stretch-childrens-thinking#sthash.JBjl6pgN.dpuf>

From: NAEYC.com

Link to Delaware County Library Story Times:

http://www.delawarelibrary.org/event?tid=1&tid_1=All