

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov. 3—Advisory Council Meeting 12:30pm
- Nov. 8—NO SCHOOL Election Day
- Nov. 11 — 3's Field Trip to Imagination Stage
- Nov. 11 — Scholastic Book Orders due
- Nov. 15- Staff Meeting at 12:30pm
- Nov. 16— Advisory Council Meeting 12:30pm
- Nov. 17 — Open House Tour at 9:30am
- Nov. 22— Honey Baked Ham Orders Distributed in drop off line
- Nov. 18- Advisory Council meeting at 12:30pm
- Nov. 22- Honey Baked Ham Orders Distributed in drop off line
- Nov. 21- Thanksgiving Feast for 3's & 4's
- Nov. 21 & 22 - Thanksgiving Service
- Nov. 23-25 - NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving

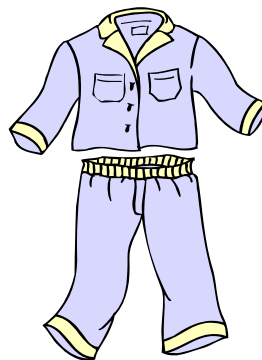
# CCUMCP Parent Information

NOVEMBER 2016

## Thanksgiving Pajama Drive

The Thanksgiving season provides us with a wonderful opportunity to teach our children and remind ourselves about the blessings that we enjoy that can be shared with others. This year at Thanksgiving the CCUMCP family will join together to donate new pajamas for area children AND adults. This program is nationwide, but serves local communities. This means that every pair of pajamas donated will find its way to a child in our area. We are asking the children

to bring those new pajamas or nightgowns to school by November



ber 18. Each class will bring its

donations to chapel. **To drive the point home, we are asking children to wear their favorite pair of pajamas to school the day that they have chapel (either November 21 or 22).**

Talk to your child about this effort and involve your child in the process. **Make sure to bring in all pajamas and nightgowns by Friday, November 18 if possible.** Thank you so much for your help in this important effort.

## Life Skills at Each Stage of Childhood

As parents we all want to raise confident and secure children. Children feel more confident when they can do things for themselves and for others. Doing so in part means mastering particular life skills. But which skills are appropriate to expect children to be able to do independently? And at what age? Lindsay Hutton's "I Did It All by Myself! An age-by Age Guide to Teaching Your Child Life Skills" <http://www.familyeducation.com/life/individuality/i-did-it-all-myself-age-age-guide-teaching-your-child-life-skills-0> provides a detailed list of skills your child should be able to do through the age of 18 years. Some of

the things at each stage might surprise you.

A 2-3 year old should be able to dress herself (with your help), put her dirty clothes in the hamper, brush her teeth and wash her face (with assistance), clear her dishes, assist in setting the table, and put her toys away.

A 4-5 year old should know his name, address, and primary phone number. He should know how to make an emergency call and when it is appropriate to do so. He should also be able to brush his teeth, wash his face and comb his hair without assistance

as well as choose his own clothes (though his choices may not conform to anyone's sense of fashion). He should also be able to help with simple chores like dusting or setting the table. He should know monetary denominations and how cash is used (so be sure to use cash yourself occasionally). Finally, he should be able to help with laundry chores such as putting clothes in the hamper, taking dirty clothes to the laundry room and putting clean clothes away.

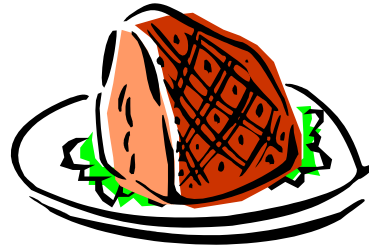
As children age their capabilities rise. As parents it is our job to help them move into each level of capability so that their (continued on page 3)

# Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser

The preschool is delighted to offer parents and the larger community the opportunity to order items from Honey Baked Ham for delivery to the preschool on Tuesday, November 22 or to order gift certificates that are deliverable anywhere. The company is able to offer their delicious hams in tandem with turkeys. What a great way to fill in your Thanksgiving dinner or to bring something nice to a fami-

ly gathering. Even if you can't use anything right now, consider buying a gift certificate to give as a hostess gift or use for yourself in upcoming months. Visit [https://](https://www.honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ccumc_preschool)

[www.honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ccumc\\_preschool](https://www.honeybakedfundraising.com/fundraisers/ccumc_preschool) to order a gift certificate. A portion of each sale will be returned to the preschool. Please return all order forms to the preschool by Tuesday, November 15.



Thank you!

## Preschool Tours

This year we are offering tours of the preschool monthly for prospective parents. The next couple of dates are November 17, December 7, January 11, and January 19. These are all of the tours offered prior to the January 31st deadline for accepting registration applications.

If you have a friend or neighbor who is looking for a preschool, please let us know. We will have 50 spaces for 2 year olds in the fall—30 for Tuesday-Thursday classes and 20 for Monday, Wednesday, Friday classes as well as 10 spaces in our Hummingbirds class that starts mid-year. In addition, we always have spaces available in our 3 year old and pre-K classes.

## Mastering Cutting with Scissors

As an assistant in a 2 year old class years ago I joked about the amount of cutting that was necessary for my job—I was constantly cutting out letters and shapes for art projects—and how delighted my kindergarten teacher would be to know that I was using what she taught me. While it is true that I perfected my scissor skills in kindergarten, children are now expected to enter kindergarten having mastered the art of cutting. This means that children need to work with scissors throughout their preschool years **beginning at the age of two**. For a nice explanation of why it is important for children to learn to use scissors and the age by age sequence, please go to the following link for an article written by an occupational therapist. See <http://www.gandetherapies.com/PDF%20Files/TheImportanceofTeach->

[ingYourChildHowToUseScissors.pdf](http://www.gandetherapies.com/PDF%20Files/TheImportanceofTeachingYourChildHowToUseScissors.pdf)

The best scissors to use are child-safe scissors with the rounded edges. These scissors provide stability for developing hand muscles. Before the lesson begins, outline some rules of safety. Explain that scissors can cut and should be used carefully with an adult's supervision. Instead of outlining what they can't cut exclusively be sure to mention what they can cut. For example, "We never cut other people or animals. We use scissors to cut playdough, paper and fabric."

After the rules have been set forth, begin by showing them their thumb and demonstrating that when they want to cut their thumbs should face the sky. This will help children learn how to orient their hands in the scissors. Demonstrate for them how the thumb goes into one hole and the

next two fingers go into the other hole. Help them open and close their fingers.



As the article referenced above mentions it is easier to have your child begin cutting thicker materials like playdough. Then she should progress to thick paper, regular paper and, finally, tissue paper.

Like any other skill, cutting precisely takes practice. While they do get to practice at school, it is important that they have plenty of practice at home too so give them plenty of opportunity.

If your child is having a great deal of difficulty, her hands may not be strong enough. Help her build her hand muscles by using tongs to pick up small objects or by manipulating playdough. These are fun activities that won't feel like work to her.

their level of self-confidence also rises.

Recognizing that children are capable of so much should also come with the understanding that learning those skills takes effort on the part of the adults in their lives. Children need to be taught the skills that we do so naturally. It helps to break down the tasks into smaller steps. So, for example, when teaching a child to clear his plate, begin by having him bring the plate to the sink. Then show him how to scrape off the leftover food with his fork, rinse off (if you rinse off), then place the plate in the appropriate place. Learning these

skills may take some time and continued coaching on your part, but the confidence that is gained from their mastery makes it well worth the effort.



## Speech & Language Screenings Dec. 1 & 2

Are you concerned about your child's speech or language development? If so, this is the perfect opportunity to have your child screened by professionals from the Speech and Language Experience.

If you think that you would like your child to participate in this screening, please raise the issue with your child's teacher. You will be required to sign a consent form, but the screening is paid for

by the preschool. Details will come home in the next few weeks.

## Thanksgiving Feast on November 21

The 3 year old and pre-K classes will be celebrating Thanksgiving on Monday, November 21 with a feast attended by Pilgrims (the 3's classes) and Native Americans (the pre-K classes). The attendees will have the chance to sample the ever traditional Thanksgiving offerings of turkey, muffins,

cheese cubes and dried cranberries. And like the original Thanksgiving Feast--wink, wink—it will be concluded with the eating of decorated iced cookies. The important thing that they may learn is that the meal is a time to celebrate and be thankful with their (preschool) family.



Pilgrims and Native Americans at a previous feast

**Get your preschooler involved in Thanksgiving. Let him/her make the centerpiece, help set the table, bake the dessert, say the prayer before the meal, or share what he/she knows about Thanksgiving with the adults at the meal. It will make the holiday meaningful to him/her and to you.**