

Bayless Early Childhood Center

Building Priorities

Fine Motor and Early Writing Skills

Our Goal

We want students to build the hand strength and control they need for writing. Our goals include helping more students use an age-appropriate pencil grasp, improve pre-writing skills, and strengthen name-writing skills.

We Are

-Giving students daily opportunities to practice pre-writing and name writing.
-Providing hands-on activities that build hand and finger strength, such as rolling play dough, pinching tongs and tweezers, lacing beads, peeling stickers, and other fine motor activities.
-Helping students practice holding writing tools in ways that support their development.
-Reviewing students' work throughout the year to monitor growth.
-Working together to adjust activities based on student needs.

We Expect to See

-Stronger hand and finger control.
-More students using an age-appropriate writing grasp.
-Growth in drawing, tracing, and other pre-writing skills.
-More pre-kindergarten students able to write their first name.

How Families Can Help

-Give your child chances to draw, color, scribble, and write at home.
-Let your child practice with crayons, markers, pencils, and chalk.
-Build hand strength by playing with play dough, blocks, puzzles, beads, clothespins, or tongs.
-Encourage your child to practice writing their name.
-Celebrate progress as your child's skills develop.

Early Literacy

Our Goal

We want students to build strong early reading skills by learning to hear, recognize, and create rhyming words. Our goal is for all students to improve their rhyming skills and for more pre-kindergarten students to be able to create rhymes independently.

We Are

-Teaching and practicing rhyming skills in every classroom.
-Giving students many chances to hear and create rhymes during whole-group, small-group, and play-based activities.
-Using student progress to decide when children need more practice or support.
-Helping teachers share successful rhyming activities and strategies across classrooms.

We Expect to See

-More students recognize rhyming words.
-More students create their own rhymes.
-Stronger listening and sound-awareness skills.
-Students build skills that will support future reading success.

How Families Can Help

-Read rhyming books together.
-Play simple rhyming games in the car, at bedtime, or during daily routines.
-Ask, "What rhymes with ____?" or make silly rhymes together.
-Sing songs and nursery rhymes.
-Repeat favorite books and songs. Repetition helps young children learn.

Strong Home-School Connections

Our Goal

We want families to be active partners in their child's learning. Our goal is for 90% of ECC families to complete at least one Literacy or Activity Bag each quarter.

We Are

-Sending home Literacy and Activity Bags connected to skills students are learning at school.
-Sharing reminders through ParentSquare, newsletters, paper notices, and direct communication.
-Designing activities that are fun, age-appropriate, and easy for families to do together.
-Reviewing family participation and providing extra reminders or support when needed.
-Celebrating participation throughout the year.

We Expect to See

-More families taking part in learning activities at home.
-Stronger connections between classroom learning and home.
-Families understanding the skills their children are developing.
-Students enjoying learning with the important adults in their lives.

How Families Can Help

-Complete the Literacy or Activity Bag with your child each quarter.
-Talk with your child about what they are learning at school.
-Read together daily.
-Return activities and materials by the requested date when possible.
-Contact your child's teacher if you have questions or need help with an activity.