

AUGUST 2025

Family Newsletter



REMINDER

The center will close at 2 pm on Friday, August 29th for Teacher In-Service

TRANSITIONS: HOW TO SUPPORT & GUIDE

As we approach a new school year, children may experience a mix of excitement and uncertainty. Whether they're starting care for the first time, moving to a new classroom, or meeting a new teacher, change can feel big. Here are some ideas to support them and ease the transition.

Talking to Children About Change & Transitions

Children thrive on routine and predictability, talking through upcoming changes can reduce anxiety. Use simple, positive language to explain what's coming and help your child identify and express emotions like nervousness, excitement, or worry. Walk through what a day might look like to build confidence.

Building Friendships and Classroom Community

Making new friends is exciting but for some children, it can also be challenging. At home, practice role-playing greetings and sharing. Talk about kindness and what it means to be a good friend and how to include others.

Helping Children Feel Ready Emotionally

You know your child best and your support makes a big difference in how they adjust. A special hug, handshake, or phrase can help with morning drop-offs. Remind them of past examples of your child being brave or trying something new to build their confidence.

By nurturing emotional readiness now, we set the stage for a smooth transition and a joyful start to the year!

The Life and Times of the Honeybee

by Charles Micucci

Give Bees a Chance

by Bethany Barton

What on Earth? Bees

by Andrea Quigley

Are You a Bee

by Judy Allen

Bee: A Peek-Through Picture Book

by Britta Techenentrup

Explore My World: Honey Bees

by Jill Esbaum

Please Please the Bees

by Gerald Kelley

Because I Love You

by Sandra Magsamen

The Bee Book

by Charlotte Milner

Buzzy Bee: A Slide-and-Seek Book

by Little Bee Books

The Honeybee

by Kirsten Hall

Little Bees: Finger Puppet Book

by Chronicle Books

Little Bee

by Edward Gibbs

For
Grins

(Answer on page 2)

What did
the paper
say to the
pencil?



Early Learning
Academies



EMBRACE THE MESS! Making Space Messy Play

MESSY PLAY isn't just fun for young children, it also offers them numerous benefits! Some of these benefits include **fostering their natural curiosity, exploring the five senses, encouraging decision making, and developing their small and large motor skills.**

As a busy parent, it can feel tempting to steer children away from messy play towards something quieter and simpler but there are ways to minimize the mess while you're embracing it!

- **Bring it outside.** What better place for children to engage in messy play than the great outdoors? Playing outside also affords children the ability to find their own natural messy play situations like making mudpies or searching for pill bugs in the dirt, while keeping the mess outdoors and out of your home!



- **Take it to the bathtub.** The bathtub is a great place for messy activities because it's easy to clean and children can be cleaned immediately after play ends! Possible activities in the bathtub might be digging items out of gelatin or using washable finger paint to make pictures on the side of the tub.
- **Lay down a table or floor covering.** Lay down a tablecloth, silicone bathmat or newspaper over the play space so all you have to do to clean up the mess is roll it up and throw it away!
- **Make getting clean part of the experience.** When children wrap up their messy play, why not end it on a high note with some water play? Hose down outside, run through a yard sprinkler, or have a water balloon fight to clean their bodies in a fun way!

STICKY HONEY PAINT

This sticky honey paint will stimulate the senses and only requires 2 ingredients! Mix light corn syrup with a bit of yellow paint until it takes on the color you want and then lay a piece of paper down, drizzle some paint on like honey, and enjoy the exploration.



While your child is exploring the sticky honey paint, talk to them about where honey comes from, how the paint feels, or what bees do. This paint has the potential for a little bit of a mess, so it is suggested to set up somewhere easy to clean up outside, highchair, etc.)



HONEY SLIME



This slime can be made using just 3 ingredients you likely already have in the house: **honey, cornstarch, and vegetable oil!**

To make the slime heat honey in the microwave for 45 seconds. You will then add 2 tablespoons of cornstarch, mix until it is completely incorporated into the honey, and then add 2 more tablespoons and repeat until it is no longer sticky and is a cohesive mixture. If it is still sticking to your hands after 2 minutes, add a bit more cornstarch! Add in vegetable oil as needed until the Honey Slime becomes stretchy, but not sticky. This "slime" is thicker than most glue-based formulas but is stretchier than playdough and completely edible!

