

Focus: Financial Literacy

Note to Parents:

This month, we will begin the Financial Literacy, the sixth literacy in our propriety curriculum, "INSPIRED." You may be scratching your head saying, "The Financial Literacy? How are you going to teach my young child about money?". However, the Financial Literacy is not solely about money. Rather, it is more focused on teaching children how to be responsible for their belongings and how to use their time, talents, and resources to achieve their goals, as well as assist others in achieving their goals. Although our older students will be introduced and explore simple concepts about money, a majority of the Financial Literacy will focus on teaching our students to think about being responsible, generous, and resilient. For example, our infants and toddlers will simply be introduced to the value of responsibility by being given opportunities to begin taking care of their belongings. Our nursery school students will dive a little deeper into the value of responsibility by learning about the importance and consequences of being responsible. We take it a step further for our preschool students as we will discuss how to be both responsible and generous with our time, talents, and resources. Our pre-kindergarten students will learn about and participate in activities that require them to show responsibility, generosity, and resiliency when trying to reach their goals.

We would like to recommend activities that you may do at home with your child to help support and supplement our curriculum. The activities are broken down by age groups but feel free to expand your child's learning by doing any of the activities. We hope you enjoy them!

Fun at Home



Infants & Toddlers

"Clean Up Time!"

This month your child will be introduced to the value of responsibility by simply discussing and practicing taking care of his/her belongings, including his/her toys! To help introduce your child to this value, encourage your child to practice cleaning up toys after he/she has finished playing with them. Start by playing with your child on the floor at home. As you play, pull out several toys and/or books. After you have finished playing together, place a basket or bin in front of your child and demonstrate putting the toy in the basket. Then, ask your child to place the toy in the bin and praise him/her for taking care of his/her toys. Repeat until all the toys have been put away!

"Washing Dishes"

When you are washing the dishes at home, talk to your child about what you are doing. Share that you are being responsible by making sure the dirty dishes become clean! Then, give your child a large sponge that is slightly damp as well as a small plastic bowl and encourage him/her to "wash" the dish! See if your child can mimic your movements and be sure to praise your child for helping to wash the dishes!

Nursery School



"Laundry Fun!"

Help your child begin to show responsibility by practicing to put away his/her clothes. Take turns selecting pieces of clothing and asking your child where the item belongs on his/her body. Then ask where each clothing item should be put away. For example, ask your child questions such as, "Where should you put your shoes?" and "Where do you keep your socks?" Then put the item in its appropriate location! Discuss why it is important to put your clean clothes away in the right spot!

"Grocery List"

Talk to your child about what to do to make sure you do not forget things! Discuss how some people write down a list of things they need to remember to buy before they go to the grocery store. Then, together, create a grocery list of your own and work together to use it the next time you go to the grocery store! Praise your child for being responsible!



Preschool

"Piggy Bank"

During this literacy, we will talk about money in terms of what we can do with it - spend, save, or donate it! Talk together about the many ways people can save their money. Discuss what a piggy bank is with your child. Together, create a "piggy bank." You can decorate a store-bought piggy bank or create your own using an empty soda bottle or a large Mason Jar! After you have decorated your piggy bank together, discuss with your child how he/she can earn coins to put into the piggy bank! Encourage your child to save some coins by putting them in the piggy bank! Once the piggy bank is full, reward your child for saving his/her money and decide what to spend the money on together!

"Donation Station"

We will not only learn about donating money during this literacy, but also we will learn about donating our old clothes and toys! At home, talk to your child about why people donate their old clothes and toys to others. Discuss how donating old toys to others is showing the value of generosity. Challenge your child to find one or two old toys to donate to someone in need. Allow your child to take his/her toy to a donation center, if possible! Praise your child for being generous!



Pre-Kindergarten

"Responsible and Generous"

This month, your child will continue to learn about being responsible and generous with his/her time, money, and/or talents. Have a conversation with your child about why it is important to be responsible. You may even challenge your child to name or demonstrate two ways that he/she can show responsibility! Then, repeat the conversation, but this time talk with your child about the value of generosity. Ask your child to think of one way he/she can show generosity to someone else, and then work together to complete the generous act! Once finished, ask your child how he/she felt after being responsible and generous with his/her time, money, and/or talents.

"Achieving Your Goals"

As your child learns about being responsible and generous, he/she will also begin to learn to be resilient when trying to accomplish a goal. To encourage your child to be resilient, share a time when you had to show resiliency when working on achieving a goal. You may even talk about how you had to be responsible and generous in order to reach your goal. Then, with your child, come up with a short or long term goal that you can both work toward reaching together. Illustrate a picture together of the goal you both want to achieve and decide on a plan of how to reach your goal. As you and your child work toward this goal, remind your child to be resilient, especially when challenges occur. Monitor your progress together and encourage each her/him to show the Financial Literacy values!

