

Teaching in the Neighborhood

August 2022

A monthly dose of teaching ideas, updates, and inspiration for teachers across the Neighborhood EBSOC, Ellis Early Learning, Epiphany Early Learning, Horizons for Homeless Children, Nurtury

Upcoming Workshops and News

Teacher Inquiry Groups are getting started soon! See the flyer at the end of this newsletter to learn more and apply.

StrongStart is offering an excellent, free workshop on emergent curriculum and documentation: *Co-Constructing a Meaningful Learning Environment: Emergent Curriculum planning and documentation* - [link to register](#) (eecstrongstart.org/trainings-list)

New Teacher workshops will resume in September! Next session 9/23 9-10am

Supporting Children and Families with Separation Anxiety

TEACHER TALK!

Separation anxiety is a normal part of child development, and it can make drop-off times tricky for everyone involved! You can read about one way of gently supporting an anxious child in this [blog post by Teacher Tom](#). Read on for more tips:

- Have a quick goodbye ritual. Keep it simple and consistent, and remind parents never to sneak out.
- Be specific and child-friendly. Tell children when to expect their grown-up back: "Mommy will be back right after afternoon nap!"
- Acknowledge and validate feelings. Empathy can help a child feel safe and understood.
- Use books and storytelling. Addressing big feelings through age-appropriate reads can be a great way to explore difficult subjects with children.

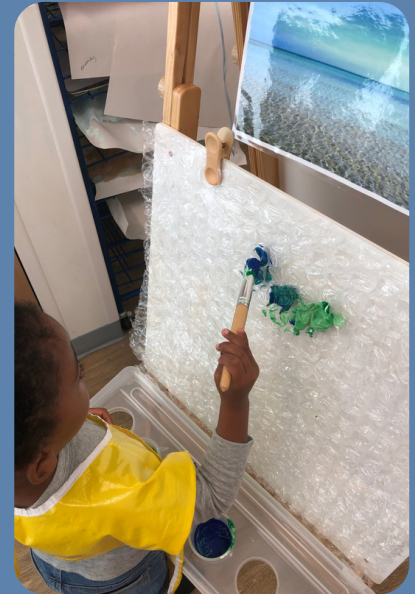


For multilingual children, learning a few key words in their home language, using predictable music for transitions during the day, and having a clear picture schedule can help children feel secure in a new routine.

Great ideas from great teachers

Process over Product: Ocean-Inspired Texture Painting

At Horizons this month, preschool teachers have been engaging with the Summer Early Focus curriculum, with a unit on Oceans. This week, teachers set up a beautiful and engaging invitation at the easel: a photograph of an ocean scene, with bubble wrap (recycled from a shipment) to paint on with blues, greens and white. Children could mix paint, explore the texture of the bubble wrap and talk about their creations. These educators knew some of the children need different sensory input and encouraged them to pop the bubbles and use paint on their hands. Children were encouraged to add to the work of their peers to create a gorgeous mural/ocean wall. The process matters here more than the product. Each child's contribution would be unique and add beauty and dimension to the mural.



Why Process Art is Important:

Process art is developmentally appropriate for toddlers and preschoolers. It allows them to follow their curiosity, explore materials freely, build their fine motor skills and express themselves in ways that traditional product-focused art projects doesn't allow.

MORE THAN ONE WAY...

Inspired to try this in your classroom? You can try bubble wrap at the easel, or maybe consider: offering different types of paper to paint on; brushes of different shapes and sizes; painting with natural materials like sticks or pinecones; or adding sand to the paint for a different texture.



How do you stay focused on process over product?

share your ideas with us: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org

Teacher Inquiry Groups 2022-2023

Want to share ideas and learn with educators across the Neighborhood? Join our teacher inquiry group!

What is an inquiry group?

A teacher inquiry group is a group of teachers who come together to ask questions, share ideas, reflect on teaching and learning, and support each other in their work with children and families.

Who can join?

Any educator at EBSOC, Ellis, Epiphany, Horizons, or Nurtury

When and where does the group meet?

On Zoom, monthly from October-May on Tuesday mornings 10-11am. We will work with your supervisor to arrange classroom coverage.

What will we do?

Share ideas, check in about classroom dilemmas, and help each other reflect on and plan for next steps in curriculum and teaching.

Will I get PD hours?

Yes! You will receive a certificate for 8 hours of PD and some other fun treats. **Plus - it's FREE!**

Use the QR code below or [click on this link](#) to apply today!



Questions?

email Megina Baker: mbaker@neighborhoodvillages.org