

Preschool Family Newsletter

October 2022

Greetings, SOMSD Preschool Families!

Welcome to the month of October. The first few weeks of school focused on our students getting familiar with classroom routines, transitions, and emotions. Reviewing the daily schedule is a big part of a Preschooler's Day. Teachers are consistently engaging students and involving them in the day-to-day activities of their classroom. Students are learning what the expectations are and are encouraged to plan their day through play planning activities. Engaging students in consistent routines promote cognitive development, builds problem-solving skills, and boosts self-confidence and self-awareness. Transitioning from one activity to the next is done very strategically. Teachers use a variety of strategies to engage them in transitioning. Those strategies may include but are not limited to reviewing the schedule, using a clip to change activities, verbal warnings, informing students of a schedule change, using a timer, playing music, and ringing a bell. Teachers may also engage students in a Make-Believe Play role/action transition, such as singing songs or doing a quick movement. The process of transitioning is built into our program through intentional teaching practices.

This month, the students in our program will start the Family theme. Students will learn about different types of families while sharing their own family experiences. Students will explore and engage in this theme through stories, prop building, and by participating in make-believe play activities. Your children will make connections and build on prior knowledge to learn new and exciting things within this theme.



"It's the first day of autumn! A time of chocolatey mornings, and toasty marshmallow evenings, and best of all, leaping into leaves." _Winnie the Pooh



Classroom Corner

The Classroom Community is a building block within our program. The preschool class is set up according to the standards of the Department of Education. Interest areas like Dramatic Play, Blocks, Table Toys, Science, Art, and Library make up the classroom environment. All children have their names and pictures on their belongings, such as their cubby or other classroom materials. Child-sized tables, chairs, and shelves are low. Toys and other materials are placed at the child's eye level. Class rules, including charts and artwork, are in locations where children can easily view them. Students will see their work and understand that a classroom environment is a welcoming place that enhances and expands their world of learning.

Class Rules and Rules for Home

Introducing the concept of classroom rules sets the tone for a supportive classroom environment. Rules also help to teach children expectations, responsibility, and self-regulation while promoting positive behaviors and interactions with others. Rules are the foundation of the preschool learning environment. There are also many benefits to having rules at home. Families can incorporate rules at home to help children understand that there are expectations and responsibilities at home. Incorporating rules for home and school allows children to play an active role in their growth and development.

[Rules for home Tip sheet](#)

[Rules for Home Sample](#)

[Backpack Connection Social Stories Support](#)

Family Resources and Community Events

Maplewood Community Fridge- Open 24/7- at 1926 Springfield Ave, Maplewood- The fridge is in a bright blue shed in the Indiana Street parking lot. "Take what you need and leave some for your fellow neighbors in need." The fridge is stocked with fresh produce and other food items.

FAMILY HELPLINE 1-800-THE-KIDS (843-5437) 24 hours a day - 7 days a week. If you're feeling stressed out, call the Family Helpline and work through your frustrations before a crisis occurs. You'll speak to sensitive, trained volunteers of Parents Anonymous who provide empathic listening about parenting and refer you to resources in your community.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE- 1800-273-8255 or 988

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States.

<https://988lifeline.org/>

NJ Mental Health Cares

The NJ Mental Health Care's Help Line staff offers telephone counseling, information and referral, and assistance in helping to get the behavioral health services needed by you or a loved one. For assistance or more information, please call our toll-free, confidential number: 866-202-HELP (4357) (TTY 877-294-4356)

[NJ Mental Health Cares](#)

Family Support Organization of Essex County

The Family Support Organization of Essex County provides families with support services, resources, and advocacy services to help meet their individual needs. They also offer monthly workshops and weekly support groups to aid families. The goal is to empower families to take control of their lives by building on their strengths and supporting them as needed. FSCEC is located at 60 Evergreen Place, Suite 410 East Orange, NJ (973) 395-1441

[Family Support Organization](#)



WEDNESDAYS
SLOAN ST PARKING LOT
JUN 1ST - OCT 26TH
2-7 PM

SOUTH ORANGE DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

FRESH PRODUCE | DAIRY | MEAT | PICKLES | JAM | NUTS & MUCH MORE



South Orange Farmers Market
Every Wednesday until Oct. 26, 2022
Please remember to bring your reusable bag



Blue's Clues Live on Stage
Oct. 9, 2022
NJPAC
For tickets and more information, please go to their website.
[Blue's Clues Live NJPAC Ticket Info](#)

Family Nature Club at the Turtle Back Zoo

Experience the sounds, smells, and sights of the outdoors with FNC as we explore our natural heritage within Essex County's parks. We offer our community two kinds of FNC Programs: one focused on exploration and the other on service. For more information about the program and dates, click the link below.
<https://turtlebackzoo.com/discover/family-nature-club/>



Alice in Wonderland Experience

Oct. 8, 2022
New Brunswick NJ
9:00-2:00

If you and your family and friends are fans of escape rooms, you will love the [Alice in Wonderland Experience](#). On Oct. 8, the streets of New Brunswick will transform into a giant, escape-room-style experience. You and your team will follow Alice down the rabbit hole and enter a world of adventure, intrigue, and impossible things at this immersive event. Tickets are \$80 for six team players. (Kids can join the team for free and play along too!) You only need to book one ticket per team and can start your adventure anytime from 9 am – 2 pm. The secret starting location will be revealed two weeks prior to the date. The event lasts 2-3 hours, and you'll need to use the CluedUp app to play. Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).



NJ Fall Festivals

As fall approaches, there will be lots of fun things to experience with families, from apple and pumpkin picking to hayrides and corn mazes. This list has something for everyone.

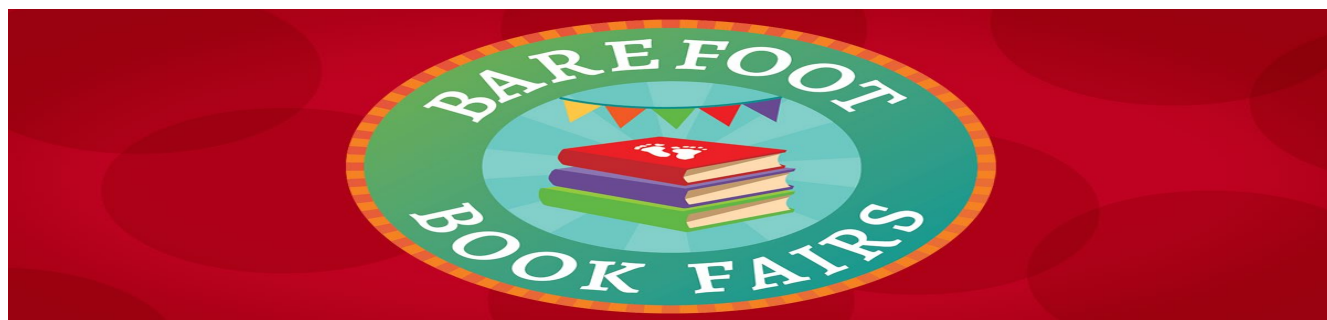
Please click the link below for a complete list of fall festivals throughout the state.

[New Jersey Fall Festivals](#)



Book Festival brings together readers and authors to celebrate the joy and diversity of the written word. Our informative adult author events highlight the major artistic, social, and political issues of the day, while our vibrant and fun-filled children's area allows our youngest readers to discover the importance and delight of books—and meet many of their favorite authors!

<http://mapsobookfest.org/about-us/>



SOMSD Preschool Fall Book Fair

October 1-November 18, 2022

Location: Virtually

Please join us for our first fall virtual book fair. Barefoot Books is a company that specializes in providing a variety of diverse book selections specifically geared toward Early Childhood learners. Click the link below, and it will take you to the site. Choose your books, check out, and your books will be shipped directly to your home. Enjoy!

[Barefoot Book Fair Flyer](#) [SOMSD Book Fair Link](#)

Center for Family Services Nurtured Heart Group

October 12, 19, and 26

Virtually

The Center for Family Services will host a parent/caregiver series of workshops that will focus on handling challenging behaviors in children. Interested parties must first register for this event. More information can be found by clicking the link below.

[Nurtured Heart Group Flyer](#)

Bubble Mania! - SOPAC

Nov. 20, 2022-1:00

Featuring Casey Carle, a comic bubble artist who has "burst" onto stages across the world with a flair for showmanship and irresistible energy for bubbling...from the intricate to the massive. Come see beauty, wonder, and fun as Casey brings his amazing one-man show BubbleMania combining spontaneous comedy, Jazzy music, and brilliant bubbling.

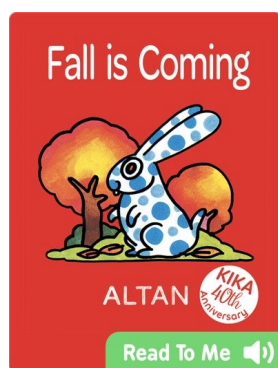
[Bubble Mania Tickets](#)

Songs, Mindfulness, and Movement:

[Kids Vocabulary: Family](#) [Pumpkins \(Are My Favorite Fruit\)](#)

[Scout and the Gumboot Kids: Leaves](#)

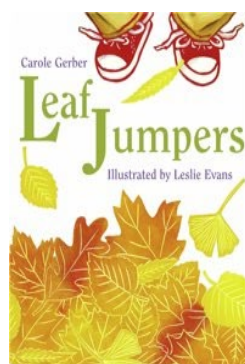
Books and Activities:



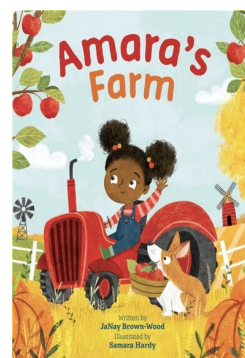
[Fall is Coming](#)



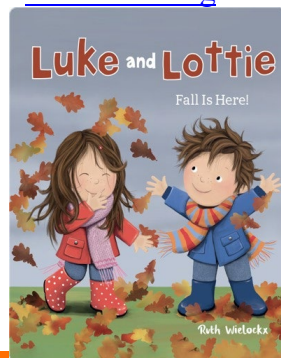
[Crayola Fall Colors](#)



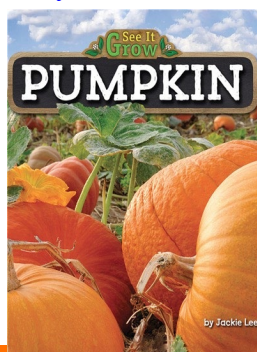
[Leaf Jumpers](#)



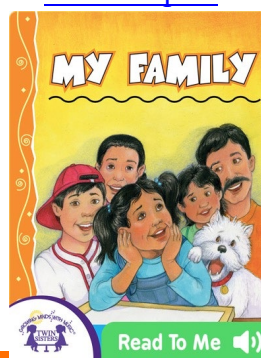
[Amara's Farm](#)



[Fall is Here](#)



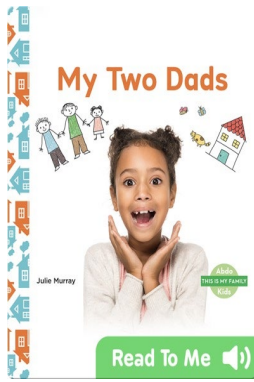
[Pumpkin See it Grow](#)



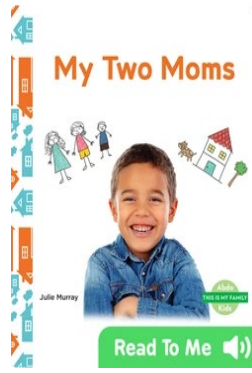
[My Family](#)



[My Mom and Dad](#)



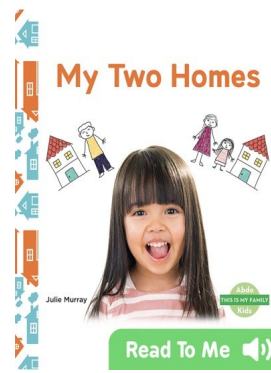
[My Two Dads](#)



[My Two Moms](#)



[My Single Parent](#)



[My Two Homes](#)

Fall Craft Activities:

For a list of fun fall craft suggestions, please click the link below.

[Fall Crafts](#)

[Fall Crafts for Preschoolers](#)

In October, the Preschool Department recognizes Fall, Yom Kippur, Hispanic Heritage Month, and Halloween. For all those that celebrate, we hope that you have a wonderful time as you celebrate with family and friends. Have a great fall season!

LaTaeya Lane-Mega

Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)

llane@somds.k12.nj.us

