



September 2011

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing Bethany Busy Bee Preschool for your child. When you arrive at school please remember to stop by the restroom so your child can wash their hands. Then sign your child in at the classroom and remember to sign out when you pick up.


Lunch Bunch begins the week of September 12<sup>th</sup> on Mon, Wed, Thurs, & Fri from noon to 1:30 for \$9 per session. This month Lunch Bunch will include opportunities to make applesauce, shaving cream art, or playing musical chairs, Duck, Duck Goose or an obstacle course.

If your child is in Mother's Day Out, please feel free to join us for the Fire Safety talk on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> or Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:15. The visit with the Fire Truck (if not out on fire calls) will be on Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:15.

**Upcoming Events include:**

- September 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday: Free Day at the Denver Art Museum 720-865-5000
- September 12<sup>th</sup>, Lunch Bunch begins - noon to 1:30, Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri - \$9/LB this year
- September 14<sup>th</sup>, Women's Bible Study, 9-11 AM, weekly
- September 18<sup>th</sup>, Sunday: Free Day at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science 303-322-7009
- September 21<sup>st</sup> & September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Wednesday & Thursday: Fire Safety Talks, 10:15 & 10:45
- September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Fri.: LIFT, Ladies In Fellowship Together, 9:15 Brunch, Sign-up for free childcare.
- September 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday: Free Day at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science 303-322-7009
- September 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday: Free Day at the Denver Botanic Gardens 720-865-3500
- September 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, Mon. & Tues.: Pizza with Bethany's Pastors at 11:30.
- September 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday & Thursday: Fire Safety Talks, 10:15
- September 30<sup>th</sup>, Friday: Pizza & Puppets Family Nite, sign-up, cost \$5/person or \$15/family
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, Saturday: Free Day at the Denver Art Museum 720-865-5000
- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sunday: Visit Bethany's Sunday School and Church programs at 9:00 & 10:45.  
Lunch at 12:15 with the Bethany Evangelical Free Church Staff
- Tuesday evenings, 7 PM: Men's Pickup Basketball in our gym, Dads are welcome to join them!

Thank you in advance for your support of this year's fundraising efforts. Please be thinking of ways you can participate in our Silent Auction on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. You may want to start now by asking merchants you frequent for gift certificates or donations. There are a few request letters in each Parent Handbook Folder and more available at the preschool. The money we raise helps keep our tuition as low as possible and provides scholarship dollars for those in need. We are selling E-books until the end of November. At \$10 they make a great gift for friends, neighbors, grandmas and grandpas - especially for those who shop at King Soopers regularly. Busy Bee gets to keep \$6 for every book sold. We are also selling re-loadable King Soopers cards with \$10 pre-loaded. Busy Bee gets 5% of every amount re-loaded on the card. They, too, are great for those that shop or buy gas regularly at King Soopers. The cards and the coupons are easy to use and it is amazing how the 5% adds up. If you buy both, we will reward you with a card for a free Chick Fil A Chicken Sandwich!



We want to thank you again for all your work to make our first week a success. We appreciate the paper, wipes, baggies, paper towels and tissues as well as those who have volunteered to help us in the classrooms. We are especially grateful for those of you who have already turned in your September, 2011 tuition; \$40 activity fee; May, 2012 tuition and all your paperwork - the information form, new emergency card, a current physical, the immunization record and the yellow confirmation that you received the parent handbook. If you have any questions or need any additional forms, please stop by the office. We will need any request for tuition assistance returned by 9/23/11.

Please remember our calendar and monthly newsletters are now posted on the church web-site at [www.bethanyefree.org](http://www.bethanyefree.org). Click on the preschool or go to [www.bethanyefree.org/PAGE-bee.htm](http://www.bethanyefree.org/PAGE-bee.htm).

Please let us know if you see things we can do differently or better. We are delighted to be serving you! Joyce & the staff of Busy Bee Preschool

### **Children Learn by Playing**

Children seem to play at every opportunity they get. They are in constant motion. According to the developmental sequence of growth, now is the appropriate time for play in their lives, and here is some of the learning that takes place.

Outdoor play refines a child's gross-motor (large muscle) skills. The cross lateral movement (right arm/left leg and vice versa) is critical to a child's later success in reading and writing. When there is a lack of progress in gross motor development, the child will struggle with the fine motor skills.

Blocks help children learn scientific, mathematical, art, and language concepts, along with fostering competence and self-esteem. Blocks teach concepts of spatial relations, stability, and balance - included in this are depth, width, equality, and inequality - all from building blocks!

Dramatic play encourages their wonderful imaginations. We must nourish this. Playing make-believe lets a child bring the complicated grownup world down to size. Research demonstrates that children who are active in pretend play are usually more joyful and cooperative, more willing to share and take turns, and have a larger vocabulary. Imaginative play helps youngsters to concentrate, be attentive, and use self-control.

Manipulative toys include Legos, Play-doh, pegboards, large beads to thread, sewing cards, and stacking and nesting materials. These help children develop fine motor skills, a precursor to learning to write.

Cooperative play, working together in the different areas of the class, helps children learn to respect the ideas of others. They develop social skills and competence, which is an underlying goal of early childhood education. They learn to contribute to joint efforts and to problem solve by working together to find a solution. Children's play provides a window into their lives. Through observations of children at play we can learn a great deal about what they understand and can do. We also come to appreciate and know what they are like as individuals.

By Nancy Telfer and Rea Wallace

All of this talk of play reminds me - sending your children with closed toe shoes would be the best for their safety and comfort on the playground. Outdoor play this month will include a focus on the balance beam, as well as our safety rules for the playground.