



EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWS & NOTES

Office of Catholic Education

Spring 2011



CELEBRATING EASTER

We celebrate Easter each day. We keep celebrating so that we might continue to enter into the meaning of the resurrection. In the early Church, the newly baptized would be at each liturgy every day during the week of Easter, wearing their white garments. We go through our everyday

lives during Easter week conscious of the "white garments" we all wear. We are renewed as a priestly people, committed with Jesus to give our lives for others.

The resurrection stories, which we read during Easter week, come from communities that are proclaiming the good news. The tomb is empty - Jesus' tomb and every tomb that tries to claim us in death. These are not believers who, in their deep desire, just made up the resurrection. These are people who can hardly believe what they are seeing and experiencing. They, like us now, had trouble recognizing his presence with them.

Let the prayers of this Easter week draw us into the joy. Jesus is with us. He is not dead, but alive. And, that makes all the difference in the world in how much hope and courage we have, before any struggle, any possible fear of death. (Source: <http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Lent/easterweek.html>)



E.A.S.T.E.R.

E is for Easter, coming soon,
A is for angels, near the tomb,
S is for stone which was rolled away,
T is for tomb, found empty that day,
E is for early morning, the women are glad,
R is for the Risen Lord, no reason to be sad.

TEACHING YOUNG CHILDREN SELF-CONTROL SKILLS

As parents and educators, we know how important it is that all children learn self-control. Self-control means having power or control over our actions. It also means that we know right from wrong. Children who rely on others to make choices for their behavior do not learn self-control. Without self-control, children may make bad choices and be easily influenced by the behavior of others. The skill of self-control makes it possible for children to know and to do the right thing.

In an article published in 2002 by the National Association of School Psychologists, the authors identify several strategies that can be used to help young children learn self-control. "Try simple goals first, where success is expected, one goal at a time." The article follows this suggestion with a number of general strategies that may help children learn appropriate self-control behaviors. These suggestions include:

- **"Take a Break** ~ Encourage children to 'take a break' or a 'time out' from a situation where they are feeling angry or upset."
- **"Teach and provide attention** ~ Children can learn to resist interrupting others by learning how to observe when others are not talking, so that they can join in appropriately. Be sure to provide children with attention at appropriate times so that they are not 'starved' for attention."
- **"Use appropriate rewards** ~ Children need consistent, positive feedback to learn appropriate behavior. ... Be sure the child knows what behavior is desired."
- **"Use specific activities designed to teach self-regulation** ~ teachers can help teach young children the skills that foster self-control using activities such as the following:
 1. Skill: Dealing with wanting something I can't have...
 2. Skill: Knowing your feelings...
 3. Skill: Dealing with feeling mad..."

To find out more about each of these skills, teachers are encouraged to read the entire article which can be found at www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/behavior%20template.pdf.

SPECIAL DAYS TO CELEBRATE

April 1 One Cent Day
 April 6 North Pole Discovered (1898)
 April 7 World Health Day
 April 17 Daffy Duck's Birthday (1937)
 April 18 Pet Owner's Day
 April 21 Kindergarten Day
 April 22 Earth Day
 April 26 National Pretzel Day
 April 27 Tell-a-Story Day
 April 29 Zipper Day

May 1 Mother Goose Day
 May 2 Dr. Spock's Birthday (1903)
 May 3 National Teacher Day
 May 5 Cinco De Mayo
 May 8 Mother's Day
 May 12 Kite Day
 May 13 Tulip Day
 May 15 Chocolate Chip Day
 May 30 Memorial Day

June 1 Donut Day
 June 3 Egg Day
 June 6 Yo-Yo Day
 June 14 Flag Day
 June 19 Father's Day
 June 21 First Day of Summer



THE NEW JELLY BEAN PRAYER

Red is for the blood He gave,
Green is for the grass He made,
Yellow is for the sun so bright,
Orange is for the edge of night.

Black, white, brown, yellow and **red** is
 for the children He made
 All of these colors receive the grace He gave,
Purple is for the hour of sorrow,
Pink is for the new tomorrow.

Give a bag full of jelly beans,
 Colorful and sweet,
 Tell them it's a Prayer...
 It's a promise..
It's an Easter Treat!

TECHNOLOGY IN THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM



Using technology in the preschool classroom should be given thought, as it is integral to the society in which we live and will be useful in a preschoolers future studies. Modern technological devices help teachers to visually depict what they are teaching. Hence in a technology assisted preschool curriculum there are opportunities for reinforcement of the lessons so a preschooler develops a thorough understanding on each subject.

When incorporating technology in the preschool curriculum, care should be taken so that there is ample opportunity for social, emotional, physical and cognitive development of preschoolers. An overuse of technological devices can make children lazy and over dependent on them.

Technological devices should only be used to supplement what a preschooler learns. It cannot replace a traditional education system where contact with peers and teachers offer real life experiences which none of these machines can provide. (Adapted from: www.brighthub.com/education/early-childhood/articles/68859.aspx)

FEASTS TO CELEBRATE...

April 17 Palm Sunday
 April 21 Holy Thursday
 April 22 Good Friday
 April 24 Easter Sunday

May 5 National Day of Prayer
 May 10 St. Damien of Molokai
 May 13 Our Lady of Fatima
 May 14 St. Matthias
 May 31 The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

June 1 St. Justin
 June 2 The Ascension of the Lord
 Celebrated on Sunday, June 5

June 6 St. Norbert
 June 11 St. Barnabas
 June 12 Pentecost Sunday
 June 13 St. Anthony of Padua
 June 19 The Most Holy Trinity
 June 24 The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
 June 26 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
 June 29 St. Peter and St. Paul

YOUR EARLY CHILDHOOD NEWSLETTER...

Please feel free to take the opportunity to share any newsy or informational items that you feel would be good material for our newsletter. Your input to this publication will make it very beneficial to all who read it. Please e-mail your suggestions and comments to Dr. Heintschel.

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