



MACFEAT LABORATORY SCHOOL NEWS
RICHARD W. RILEY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
WINTHROP UNIVERSITY
October 2018



ACCEPTANCE FOR 2018-2019

Applications for currently enrolled children and eligible siblings for 2018-2019 must be received by October 5th for priority enrollment. There is no application fee for currently enrolled children; there is a \$30 application fee for new applicants (i.e. siblings). A link to the application form can be found on Macfeat's website at <http://www.winthrop.edu/macfeat>. Please turn in your application (and fee, if applicable) to the Macfeat office no later than Oct. 5th.

SPREAD THE WORD



Please help us spread the word that we are now accepting Macfeat applications from the broader community for all three classrooms for the 2019-2020 school year.

DID YOU KNOW?



Our Macfeat website now has a "Parent Page." On this page you will find important announcements, school newsletters, handouts and other pertinent information you need to know!

SAY CHEESE!



PICTURE DAY: Thursday October 11th

Lilysnaps will take individual and class photos on October 11th. Photos will be available for purchase.

DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENTS



Assessments are developmental profiles created by the teachers based on developmental norms for young children. Assessments are also based on NAEYC and the South Carolina Academic Standards. As stated in the Macfeat Family Handbook (page 6), teachers conduct individual child assessments. These assessments are on-going and include one-on-one observation, checklists, anecdotal records, classroom observations and work samples. These assessments are used to gain insight into each child's social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth and development. Assessments are compiled individually; they are not "tests" and child comparisons are not made. The teachers use the gathered information for parent-teacher conferences and to make adaptations in their curriculum implementation. Teachers also consider information received from individual families when implementing curriculum. Your teachers will review this information with you during parent-teacher conferences when they discuss the assessment of your child. You will obtain more information regarding assessments from your child's teacher at **Parent-Teacher Conferences**. Scheduled conferences are once a semester and a sign-up sheet will be posted; make certain you schedule a conference with your child's teacher!



BIRTHDAYS/SPECIAL DAYS

The teachers like to make certain that each child has a birthday celebration or “special day” at school. Please refer to the Macfeat Family Handbook (page 7) regarding Birthdays/Special Days. Talk to your child’s teacher about when you plan on celebrating your child’s special day. **Please remember, any food brought from home for sharing with other children must be whole fruits or commercially prepared and packaged.** Please also note, we cannot serve children under four whole grapes; nuts; hard candy; popcorn; raw peas; hard pretzels; or chunks of raw carrots. Please check with your child’s teacher about possible allergies in the class. No party favors, please. Remember that distributing birthday invitations at school should only be done if every child in the class is included.

CHARACTER EDUCATION



Each Monday, for nine weeks this semester, graduate students enrolled in Winthrop’s school counseling program visit the Macfeat preschool classrooms to engage children in lessons focused on character development. Concepts including respect, kindness, citizenship, emotion identification, conflict resolution, emotion regulation, listening, accountability and empathy are taught through stories, games and interactive role play. Social and emotional development is an important focus of our preschool classrooms and we are grateful for this opportunity to work with the College of Education’s counseling department.

STEAM



SCIENCE • TECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING • ART • MATHEMATICS

Each Tuesday, the kindergarteners head up to the 3rd floor of Withers for an interactive, hands-on STEAM lesson with our Instructional Technology Center staff. During this time, they are able to engage with educational technology tools to help them think like a scientist, mathematician, engineer and artist. Macfeat is so fortunate to have access to these types of educational materials and experts in the field!

SCHOOL-WIDE FIELD TRIP



Macfeat classes are going to the Pumpkin Patch at Woodland UMC again this year on **Friday, October 26th**. We will walk with Winthrop Campus Police escort to Woodland, on Cherry Road. We will leave Macfeat around 9:30 and arrive at the pumpkin patch by 10:00 for our story time and games. Family members are welcome to walk with their child! You will receive a permission slip required for your child’s participation. Please return your child’s signed permission form to your child’s teacher by the designated deadline.

WE NEED YOU!



We love to involve families in the classroom. The teachers sent home a reference sheet inquiring about particular skills or interests you have. They can incorporate these skills and interests into the curriculum – whether it is baking, building, reading, playing an instrument, dancing, constructing, etc. Please talk with your teacher about ways to capitalize on using your skills and hobbies to enhance our children’s learning experiences at Macfeat.

MACFEAT ADVISORY BOARD

The first Macfeat Advisory Board Meeting was September 12th. Thanks to the members who volunteered to be a part of this important group. Please contact a parent representative from your child’s class if you would like any items discussed at the next Advisory Board meeting which is scheduled for November 8th.

Lisa Brown (McNelly) Lisa.brown@cityofrockhill.com

Foster Hays (McNelly) haysp@winthrop.edu

Ashley Stowe (Agosto) Ashstowe@gmail.com

Wrenn Talbert (Agosto) wtalbert@wfcorp.com

Brian Ghent (Whitten) ghentb@winthrop.edu

Lindsay Yearata (Whitten) yearatal@winthrop.edu

Koti Hubbard (College of Education rep)

hubbardk@winthrop.edu

Teresa Creech (community rep)

creecht@winthrop.edu

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

iMAGINE STEAM Festival



Hosted by South Carolina's Coalition for Mathematics & Science at Clemson University and presented by Comporium, this event is designed to showcase pre-kindergarten through 12th grade education and career pathways in science, technology, arts, engineering and math (STEAM) through fun, hands-on learning, interactive demonstrations and family-oriented entertainment – provided by area companies, schools and non-profits.

When: Sat. Oct. 27th 11am-4pm
Where: Fountain Park, Rock Hill
Cost: FREE

CROP HUNGER WALK



Each year, Macfeat children and their families join in our community's fight against hunger by participating in our local CROP Hunger Walk. This year, the walk is **Sunday, November 4th** at 3:00pm. Please mark your calendars. You will be receiving more information in the upcoming weeks. We really hope you can be there!

5,2,1,0 LET'S GO!

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES TIP



Speaking of CROP Walk, did you know...?

This month, we are highlighting the "1" in 5,2,1,0 Let's Go!" that states children need at least 1 hour each day of physical activity. While they certainly accomplish this during their school day at Macfeat, it is also important that you provide opportunities for your child to be physically active at home. Attached to this newsletter, you will find a 5,2,1,0 handout that provides tips for making your family time ACTIVE. Have fun moving together!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Oct. 11	Picture Day
Oct. 12&15	Fall Break, no school
Oct. 26	Pumpkin Patch Field Trip
Nov. 6	Election Day, no school
Nov. 21-23	Thanksgiving Break, no school
Dec. 12	Last day for Macfeat children
Jan. 7	Children return

MAKE **PHYSICAL PLAY** PART OF **EVERY DAY!**

Children need **LOTS** of time to move their bodies! Movement helps children develop their motor skills, which are important to all other areas of development—language, cognition, social, emotional, and adaptive skills. Children need encouragement, instruction, and opportunity to develop their motor skills; help support this by practicing the following.



Be intentional about teaching your kids how to move.

Movement skills don't always naturally develop. Try purposefully including the following active movements in your play time with your children:

UPTO 1 YEAR OLD – Stretching, patting, grasping, releasing, creeping, crawling

1 TO 2 YEARS OLD – Clapping, grabbing, squeezing, pressing, stamping, pushing, pulling, jumping

2 TO 3 YEARS OLD – Twisting, balancing, waddling, climbing, marching, rolling, sliding, turning

3 TO 4 YEARS OLD – Hopping, tossing, galloping, jumping, slithering, darting, bouncing, trudging

4 TO 5 YEARS OLD – Tumbling, running, galloping, prancing, skipping, throwing, catching, tip-toeing, bending, stretching, collapsing, sneaking, balancing, trotting, kicking, batting

Choose toys that promote movement.

Depending on the age of your child, there are different toys to consider:

UPTO 1 YEAR OLD – Floor mirrors, crib gyms, snap lock beads, push and pull toys, low climbing platforms

1 TO 2 YEARS OLD – Activity tables, bean bags, tunnels, large balls, ride on toys (no pedals)

2 TO 3 YEARS OLD – Wagon/wheelbarrow, spinning seat, hopper balls, rocking horse

3 TO 4 YEARS OLD – Foam flying disks, soft baseball and bat, adult-like push toy (lawnmower, vacuum, etc.), double blade ice skates, ribbon wands

4 TO 5 YEARS OLD – Climbing ropes, kite, jump rope, Velcro catching mitt, junior size sports equipment (soccer ball, football, batting tee, etc.)

Make your family time active by:

- Scheduling active family play into your routine.
- Playing active games together (Twister, red light/green light, Simon says, charades, tag).
- Acting out favorite stories.
- Going on a walk or hike together.
- Setting up an obstacle course in the house or garage.
- Dancing to music.



Early Years

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A GREAT START

October 2018

Macfeat Laboratory School at Winthrop University
Erin Hamel, Director



KID BITS

It takes a village

School events are great for getting to know other parents. Take time to introduce yourself to a few people and exchange contact information. You'll develop a network to turn to for carpooling, babysitting referrals, or discussing parenting concerns that crop up.

Food allergies

Sharing snacks or lunch can be dangerous for kids with food allergies. Be sure your youngster knows not to offer her food to others. If she has a food allergy, she should say, "No, thank you," if someone wants to share with her. Even if the item looks safe, it could contain an ingredient she's allergic to.

DID YOU KNOW?

Students who build good attendance habits in preschool and kindergarten are more likely to graduate from high school. Make sure your little one goes to school every day unless he's sick or there's a family emergency. That way, he will understand from the beginning that regular attendance is important.

Worth quoting

"If you think you can do a thing or you think you can't do a thing, you're right." *Henry Ford*

Just for fun

Q: What did the toothbrush want to be when it grew up?

A: A broom!



Reading, reading everywhere

"I know that word!" Children absorb words from their surroundings— simply by seeing them every day. And they feel proud as they begin to recognize more and more words. Try these ideas to fill your home with print for your youngster to read.

Label household objects

Write the names of household items (*lamp, door, couch, table*) on separate sticky notes. Help your youngster post each word on the correct object. She can walk around the house and read the words anytime she likes. Once she thinks she can read them when they're not matched with the items, remove them, and let her try. Now, make labels for other objects.

Decorate with print

Encourage your child to hang printed items in her bedroom. For example, put up a calendar so she can read the names of months, days, and holidays. She might also display a postcard from her cousin or a poster from a movie she saw. Invite her



to point out words she knows, such as her cousin's name, and then you could read any unfamiliar words to her.

Create a book

Let your youngster use a binder to make a coffee-table book full of words she knows how to read. She'll love flipping through and reading the book all by herself. Help her cut out words from food packages (*soup, rice*), magazines, or catalogs. Slide each word into a plastic sheet protector to put in her book. ♥

Learn at clean-up time

Simple household tasks teach kids so much more than just how to keep things neat and clean. As your youngster pitches in, help him build these skills.

- **Following directions.** Take his learning to the next level by giving two- and three-step directions. *Example:* "Please put the blocks in the bucket, and then put the bucket in the hall closet."
- **Becoming independent.** Assign your child age-appropriate jobs that he can do on his own, such as dusting the furniture or folding towels. Avoid correcting him, and he'll see himself as capable of doing things without you.
- **Cooperating.** Ask him to help with bigger jobs like changing the sheets on his bed or cleaning out the inside of the car. He'll practice working as part of a team. ♥



Healthy technology habits

Is it okay for little ones to spend time on computers, tablets, and cell phones? It depends on how and when they use them. Consider this advice for helping your youngster use technology in appropriate and positive ways.

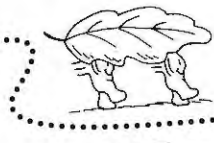
Make it meaningful. Your child will benefit more from technology if he uses it with you for real-life purposes. You might video chat with relatives to stay in touch. Or help him type his questions (“Why do leaves change colors?”) into a search engine, and read the answers together.



Encourage real play. Kids this age need plenty of active, hands-on playtime to develop their brains and bodies. Suggest alternatives to screen time, such as playing Solitaire with actual cards rather than on an app.

Be a role model. Let your little one see you limiting your screen time. For instance, put away your cell phone while you talk to him, or silence it and place it in a special basket during family time like meals and read-alouds. You’ll send the message that people are more important than screens.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER



Cause and effect

“What will happen if I jump in that puddle?” Here’s how to help your youngster understand cause and effect, or the idea that one thing leads to another—an important science concept.

Point out something that happened, such as your youngster’s sneakers being soaking wet. Now, take turns naming possible causes. Stretch her thinking by being creative. Maybe she



jumped in a puddle, spilled a drink on her feet—or forgot to take off her shoes before getting in the bathtub! Talk about which cause is most likely. If it rained recently, the puddle explanation probably makes the most sense.

Look for other opportunities to explore cause and effect with your little one. If a balloon pops, ask what caused it. Did someone stick a pin in it, or did a hippopotamus sit on it?♥

OUR PURPOSE

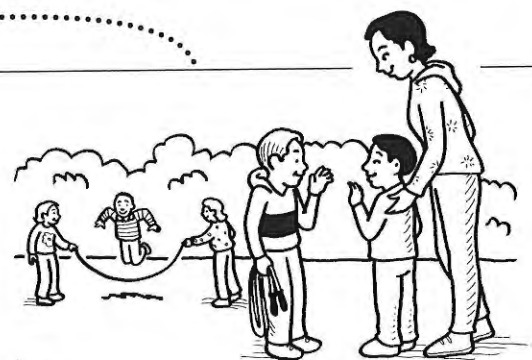
To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote school readiness, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Q & A Can I play?

Q: I’ve noticed that my son is hesitant to join other kids at the playground. What should I do?

A: Asking to join a group takes courage. Your child may need adult help at first, so try walking with him to approach other kids. Then, stand by until he’s settled. Once he’s comfortable joining in with your support, he’ll be more likely to do it on his own.



At school, he could start by asking just one child to play. When that feels natural, he might try two students, then three. He may also be more confident joining a group that includes at least one person he knows well.

Remind him that others might want to play with *him*, too. If he notices another student watching him jump rope, he can ask, “Do you want to jump with me?” Later if that student is playing in a group, it may be easier for your son to join in.♥

PARENT TO PARENT Smoother mornings

Breakfast battles, sock hunts, and half-packed backpacks were making school mornings stressful for my daughters and me. Natalie, Maya, and I needed a better routine, so we had a family meeting to brainstorm solutions.

Natalie suggested making breakfast the night before. Together, the girls decided they’d put cereal boxes, bowls, spoons, and bananas on the

table in the evenings. Then Maya said they could lay out their outfits at bedtime—including socks and hair accessories. Finally, we agreed to keep everything they take to school by the front door.

Now, Natalie and Maya set the breakfast table and pack their backpacks after dinner. They’re also enjoying modeling outfits as they decide what to wear. No more last-minute chaos for us!♥

