

Families Explore Movement at Fall for Fairfax

OFC Booth Provides Fun and Helpful Community Outreach

Children and families who stopped by the Office for Children booth at Fall for Fairfax enjoyed a variety of fun learning experiences and the opportunity to be creative! The activities were inspired by the Fairfax County School Age Child Care program's "SACC on the Move" curriculum.

The SACC curriculum is about nurturing children's natural curiosity. SACC teachers and children are exploring the way their minds and bodies are constantly on the move as they "Question, Try and Share." In this spirit, at Fall for Fairfax children used their senses to experience a variety of ways that movement is expressed in the world.

Children had the opportunity to explore the laws of movement firsthand in the popular soccer shootout. Each child experimented with where to place the ball and how hard or soft to kick it to line up a goal. They also expressed movement through the visual arts as they designed one-of-a kind jewelry.

The car races were also a highlight for the children. Each child took turns racing the cars and making observations about how cars of different sizes moved along the adjustable track. Children were excited to discover how changing the height or length of the ramp impacted the speed of the cars.

OFC staff from various programs worked over the course of the two-day Fall for Fairfax event. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful opportunity to provide fun, engaging experiences for children and helpful information about OFC programs to the community.



Families with children of all ages enjoy a variety of activities. From practicing soccer moves, racing small cars on a ramp to designing bracelets and beading necklaces.



Cox Farms Hosts ITC Families at Fall Festival

Families connect while celebrating the season

On September 28, 2018, more than 100 families with Infant & Toddler Connection visited the pumpkin patch at Cox Farms Fall Festival. With over 300 people in attendance, and 20 ITC staff present, this was ITC's largest event of the fall season. ITC children, up to 3 years old, and their families participated in hay rides, played in the corn sandbox, and went down the slides on burlap sacks. Families got to feed and pet the goats in the goat village, and participate in a cow milking show, as well.

During their visit, ITC hosted a meet-up area in the Cox Farms playground for families to connect with each other. "We loved getting to meet other families at the Kiddie Zone at Cox! And our daughter loved the slides so much – we'll surely get back to Cox every year now," shared an ITC parent.

Cox Farms provided complimentary admission tickets, a generous donation they've provided for nearly a decade. Utilizing a community

grant, Cox Farms waives the admission fee annually for ITC families, in the last week of September.

"This is an event that families look forward to every year, and as a staff member, it's one of the most fun events of the year. We love seeing families enjoy themselves, and we love sharing in the experience," said Family and Support Liaison Benae Casino after the event.



Children at the Employees' Child Care Center discovered many of the delights of the fall season at the annual Fall Festival for families. The children, who are various ages up to Pre-K, learned a lot about fall traditions and seasonal changes by exploring the decorations and learning experiences set up throughout the ECCC playground.

Bales of hay had been artfully arranged by center staff to encourage climbing and discovery. Scarecrows, maize, pumpkins and gourds of varying sizes provided

Fall Festival Offers Fun for All Ages

colorful fall scenery to stimulate the senses.

Children enjoyed the opportunity to pick a tiny pumpkin from the creeping vines in the playground "pumpkin patch." Children also had fun painting. Some children used paper for a canvas while others chose to paint their own unique design on a pumpkin shell.

Staff and families engaged children in other activities to foster imaginative, make-believe play including face painting, "pony rides" and "wagon rides." One of the most

popular activities was hammering pegs into a pumpkin shell.

Tasty fall treats included cider, pumpkin muffins and pears. It is always a joy for parents to join their children for this event, and share in the excitement of these fall discoveries.



“Brush, Book, Bed”

Comes to Early Head Start Family Child Care



The tooth fairy is making a special visit to each Early Head Start Family Child

Care home to encourage families to adopt “Brush, Book, Bed” as their nighttime routine. Children come to these pajama parties wearing their favorite PJ’s. They are really excited to read a story with the tooth fairy, and take part in other fun art activities that promote good nighttime habits.

Julie Leopold, a registered dietician, and Amy Joyner, a registered nurse, with EHSFCC were inspired to adapt the American Academy of Pediatrics “Brush, Book, Bed” curriculum to use in EHS Family Child Care homes.

“Brush, Book, Bed” has a simple and clear message for parents of children ages 6 months to 6 years: help children brush their teeth, read a favorite book and get them to bed at a regular time every night.

Brush, Book, Bed” is being introduced through pajama parties at each Early Head Start Family Child Care home. Parents are engaged in discussion about current bedtime routines and how to improve them. Each family in the program initially receives a new book, a toothbrushing kit and guidelines for appropriate sleep and oral health routines. During the program year, families will receive reminders about the importance of brushing, reading and

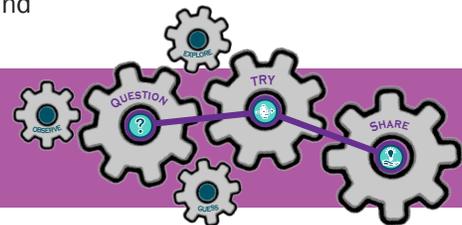


a good bedtime routine along with new toothbrushing supplies.

Joyner happily plays the part of the tooth fairy to get the children excited about taking care of their teeth. “This program promotes good oral health, early literacy and establishing healthy bedtime routines at an early age,” Joyner said. “Research shows that these healthy routines can have a positive effect on health over a lifetime.”

SACC On the Move!

New Curriculum Celebrates Children’s Explorations



The School Age Child Care program’s “SACC on the Move” curriculum is about nurturing children’s natural curiosity. At the end of last school year, children in SACC were asked to draw or write about how they move. Children’s submissions illustrated ways they move their bodies through space, and they described ways they see movement in the world around them. Their stories and illustrations included everything from the rotation of planets, their favorite hockey team gliding over the ice, to a dog running through the park.

As movement is in every facet of life, exploring movement is at the heart of this curriculum. This year, SACC centers are exploring the momentum of children’s lives – how their minds and

bodies are constantly on the move through their inquiries, explorations, problem solving and creative expressions.

With the SACC on the Move curriculum, SACC gives the scientific method a mini-makeover by launching the SACC Method of Discovery, a proactive approach to learning, creativity and fun. SACC teachers are working with children to develop their own **Questions**, figure out what to **Try**, and **Share** their discoveries.

Six focus areas will help to guide children’s experiences:

- Move Your Body–Sports and Adventure

- Move Your Mind–Literature
- Move Your Vision–Visual Arts
- Move to The Beat–Performing Arts
- Move Forward–Science Technology, Engineering and Math
- Move Together–Community, Culture and Society

Children will use critical thinking skills, take on new challenges, make connections, make an impact in their community and learn to embrace differences and respect others through engaging experiences shaped by the year-long curriculum focus.

SACC Annual Teacher Orientation

SACC's annual teacher orientation was a great mixture of learning and fun. Over 700 staff participated in this full day of professional development which offered hands-on opportunities to explore the new 2018-19 curriculum, "SACC on the Move: Question, Try, Share."

The curriculum encourages teachers and children to investigate the many ways that movement shapes our world. The orientation featured five workshops led by SACC Regional Supervisors. These interesting workshop topics related to the

curriculum focus areas including:

How Do You Use Your 5 Senses to Experience Language and Visual Arts?

SACC teachers explored how to use sight, sound, touch, smell and taste to make new discoveries. Through their experiences, they developed innovative ways to encourage children to use their senses to experience how we move through the world using language and the visual arts.

Who (Has) Done It? And How Do We Do It?

SACC teachers experienced a "Who Done It?" mystery and explored how the steps of SACC's Method of Discovery can be used to guide activities with children.

Discovering Cities of the Future

SACC teachers worked together using OZOBOTS to plan for new and innovative means of transportation. Teachers learned how these fun mini-robots can be incorporated into



SACC teachers proudly display their masterpiece embracing this year's curriculum—SACC On the Move!

the curriculum and used to introduce children to coding.

Trusting Relationships Are Key to Children's Learning

Teachers discovered new strategies for developing positive relationships based on what they know about each individual child and learned how to use that knowledge to enhance the experiences offered for children.

The SACC Method of Discovery & The Art of Asking

Teachers were introduced to a series of steps to help guide children's explorations and to answer questions about themselves and the world around them.



Staff work together to design roadways of the future using OZOBOTS.



A mystery unfolds as staff act out popular icons and onlookers use SACC's Method of Discovery to get to the bottom of "Who Done it?"!



Role playing child and teacher to uncover new ways to draw out intrigue and develop a scientific approach to discovery.



Nothing piques imagination and curiosity like a good story with humor and dress-up!

O F C Office for Children

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