



# Huntington Beach

## City School District



December 1st, 2016

### Greetings!

*Happy December; we hope this message finds you relaxed, thankful and enjoying the anticipation of the upcoming holiday season.*

*In this edition of the Early Childhood Newsletter, you will find a few gift ideas for young learners, and our monthly read aloud message. You will also find a comprehensive parenting resource that has been developed by the Child Welfare Information Gateway. We have included additional information about our Extended Kindergarten program that has been designed for children who will be five years old before February 14, 2017; please find more information regarding that program below.*

### A few of our favorite things...

*As we enter this season of giving, we want to share a few of our favorite vendors and materials for early learners. Perhaps you will find gift items below that your child will enjoy for years to come!*

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***Magna-Tiles**, while pricey, can last years. It has been our experience that children will play with these materials in increasingly complex ways as they age and mature; we have found them to be a solid investment! Find out more here: [Magna-Tiles](#)*



***Wedgits** items are appropriate for children between the ages of 1 and up, and encourage both open ended exploration as well as directed play. You can explore their products here: [Wedgits](#)*



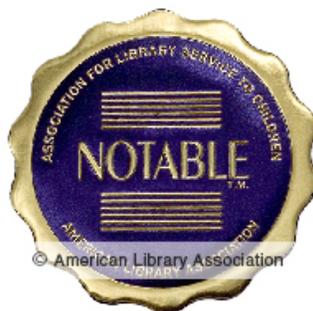
If you have been in our early learning spaces, you have likely seen children highly engaged with the ramps, tunnels and pathways products from **Kodo Kids**. The company offers a variety of materials designed to elicit tinkering and engineering behaviors, which allow children to explore trial and error, cause and effect, and cooperation and collaboration with peers (or siblings/parents/caregivers). Visit their website here: [Kodo Kids](#)



**Kiwi Crates** (for ages 5-8), **Koala Crates** (for ages 3-4) and **Cricket Crates** (for ages 0-2) arrive at your door monthly, and come packed with "the materials and instructions for hours of hands-on fun." Children are invited to explore science, technology, engineering, art and math (often referred to as STEAM) in these kits. Check out their site here: [Kiwi Crate](#)



**Community Playthings** is one of our favorite vendors for materials, specifically the sets of wooden blocks that are integral in all of our early childhood spaces. Here is the link to their block options: [Community Playthings - Blocks](#)



If you're looking for a fresh set of books to enhance your child's well-loved library, the **Association for Library Service to Children** has published a guide to "Notable Children's Books - 2016." Find the list here: [Notable Children's Books - 2016](#)

**The School of YOU**

**Before elementary school. Before kindergarten. Before preschool.**  
Your child is learning. Not just learning – learning at lightning speed, from the day he or she is born.

- From birth to age 5, your baby's brain will make trillions of connections between billions of neurons. Brain size doubles during the first year, and by age 3, a child's brain has nearly reached its adult weight.
- Your baby's ability to learn language will be unprecedented. Her vocabulary will grow at an exponential rate.
- Your child will learn new concepts. She will gain pre-literacy skills. She will build the foundations for her future knowledge.

But just how much she will learn will be up to you. If you waste this window of opportunity, she may never catch up. If you wait, it's too late.

Nobody is in a position to teach, nurture, talk, sing, or read aloud like YOU can.

No matter your job or your education level. Whether you are the mother or the father. The grandmother or the nanny. The caring neighbor or the family friend. You are the person who can make a difference that will last your child's lifetime.

**You can – you must – be your child's first and most important teacher.**

**Start today. Start now. Read Aloud 15 MINUTES, today and every day, and grow your child's brain.**

 **Read Aloud 15 MINUTES**

Every child. Every parent. Every day.



Learn more at [ReadAloud.org](http://ReadAloud.org)

Website of the Month!



# Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being

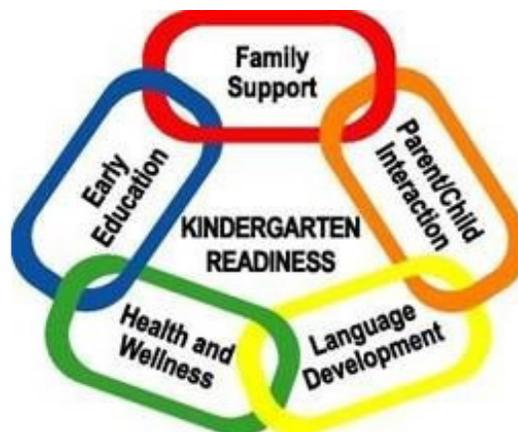
*Have you heard about protective factors? Protective factors are defined as "conditions or attributes in individuals, families, communities, or the larger society that, when present, mitigate or eliminate risk in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families. Protective factors help parents to find resources, supports or coping strategies that allow them to parent effectively, even under stress."*

*This site includes resources on topics such as:*

- *The protective factors framework*
- *Nurturing and attachment*
- *Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development*
- *Parental resilience*
- *Social connections*
- *Concrete support for parents*
- *Social and emotional competence of children*

*Find out more about this site here: [Protective Factors to Promote Well-Being](#)*

## Early Childhood Opportunities in the HBCSD



### Extended Kindergarten: Huntington Beach City School District

Will your child turn 5 by February 14th, 2017? Our district is proud to offer an opportunity for your child to enter an early learning program prior to their Kindergarten year. Tactile, developmentally appropriate activities are provided in an engaging and enriched learning environment for children who were not yet five years of age at the start of our regular Kindergarten program.

Extended Kindergarten will be held on the campus of Perry Elementary from 8:05am-1:25pm M, T, W, F and 8:05-11:50am Th.

Online registration will open at 8:00am

### School Readiness Nurse

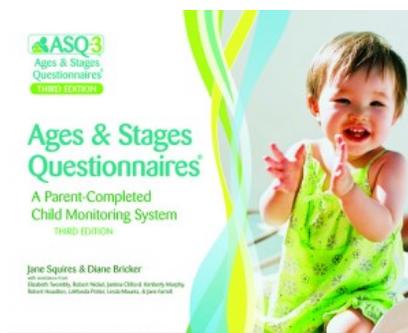
The Huntington Beach City School District offers health and wellness screenings to help ensure that every child enters school healthy and ready to learn. Screenings include dental, vision, hearing, BMI and developmental progress using the research based Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3).

Please contact Nurse Jeanne to schedule an appointment!

**(714) 962-3348 x2345**  
**[jreinhardt@hbcasd.us](mailto:jreinhardt@hbcasd.us)**

on December 5, 2016 and registration will close at 4:00pm on December 16th. Spaces are limited; we recommend early registration for those who are interested.

Click here for current registration information:  
[Extended Kindergarten Registration Information](#)

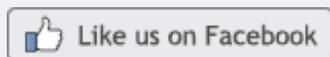


*We hope you have found this information to be of value. It was sent to you because you provided your e-mail address to the Huntington Beach City School District in order to receive periodic updates and information related to Early Childhood Education. The content provided within this e-mail is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an endorsement of any person, program, agency or organization. The Huntington Beach City School District (HBCSD) is not responsible for the accuracy or content of information provided. If you would like to forward this on to others, or if you do not wish to receive future e-mails, please use the links below.*



*Sincerely,*

*The Early Childhood Education Department  
Huntington Beach City School District*



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