



Huntington Beach

City School District



October 1st, 2015

Greetings!

We hope you have had an enjoyable start to the academic year, and that you are settling in to your new routines! This edition of our early childhood e-newsletter discusses the importance of open ended materials for young learners, and directs you toward a new local organization that does just that. You will also find a website that can help families track growth and development at home, and additional information about opportunities for early learners in the district.

Choosing Materials for Your Young Child

When considering the vast array of available materials, toys, and games for children, it can feel overwhelming! Walking down the aisles, you will find toys that can do almost anything. However, in early childhood, the less complex and more open-ended the materials, the better.

Toys that light up, make noise, or "do something" at the push of a button are teaching a child to push a button. That is a simple lesson to learn! Materials that can be used in a variety of ways, such as blocks, paint, playdough, clay and items from around the house that can be used in dramatic play will encourage development in all areas.

For example, when a child builds with blocks, they learn and develop:

- Motor skill strength
- Hand eye coordination
- Spatial awareness
- Cause and effect
- Geometry
- Physics
- Imagination
- Planning ahead
- Focus
- Collaboration with a peer
- Problem solving
- Oral language



The more time that children spend interacting with open-ended materials, the better! Find out more about recent research that has been conducted on the importance of block play here: [Playing with Blocks](#)

Now Open: The Depot for Creative Reuse



We have a new local resource for "loose parts" that has recently opened here in Orange County. Below, please find more information about the facility and what they can offer you and your family!

Excerpt from 9/1/15 Press Release:

On Monday, September 14, the Child Creativity Lab will open the doors to its Depot for Creative Reuse, a reusable materials resource for teachers, afterschool programs, community organizations, artists and families.

Located at 1815 E. Wilshire Avenue, Suite 906 in Santa Ana, California, the non-profit organization's newest program will be filled with reclaimed and reusable materials procured from businesses and individuals in and around Orange County - materials that would otherwise fill our precious landfills. Materials include unique and clean

manufacturing scraps, a variety of colorful fabrics and textiles, paper goods, decorations, coffee bean burlap sacks, school supplies, picture frame moldings, and many other items that can be repurposed for educational projects, arts and craft supplies, home décor and DIY needs. Because of the organization's focus on hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education, the Depot for Creative Reuse will also provide pre-packaged STEM-Based Challenge Kits that support the continued engagement and enrichment of STEM fields in our youth.

Materials Scholarships supported by grants and fundraising contributions will allow the Child Creativity Lab to distribute these materials free of charge to educators, afterschool providers, and other community programs serving underprivileged children. Materials can also be accessed through the Depot for Creative Reuse's membership program.

ChildCreativityLab Depot for Creative Reuse

1815 E. Wilshire Avenue, #906

Santa Ana, CA 92705

www.childcreativitylab.org

Mon-Thu 10:00am - 6:00pm

Fri 10:00am - 5:00pm

Sat 11:00am - 4:00pm

Read Aloud

Every child.
Babies are born learning; a child is never too young to benefit. Reading aloud teaches them new vocabulary, new concepts, and fosters a love of books.

Every parent.
You are your child's first and most important teacher. Read with enthusiasm, use funny voices and silly sound effects. Your child will love it!

Every day.
Make reading aloud part of your daily routine. (Bedtime is a great time to read aloud.) It will soon become a treasured part of your day.

Read Aloud 15 MINUTES

Every child. Every parent. Every day.

Learn more at ReadAloud.org

LET'S TALK

Website of the Month!



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a comprehensive website for families who are interested in tracking developmental milestones that we would expect for children to reach at different ages and stages.

Specifically developed for families with children between the ages of birth to 5, this site contains checklists and additional resources designed to help young children grow and develop. Please find out more here: [Developmental Milestones](#)

Early Childhood Opportunities in the HBCSD



THINK Together

Teaching Helping Inspiring and Nurturing Kids

Learning Link 2015-2016

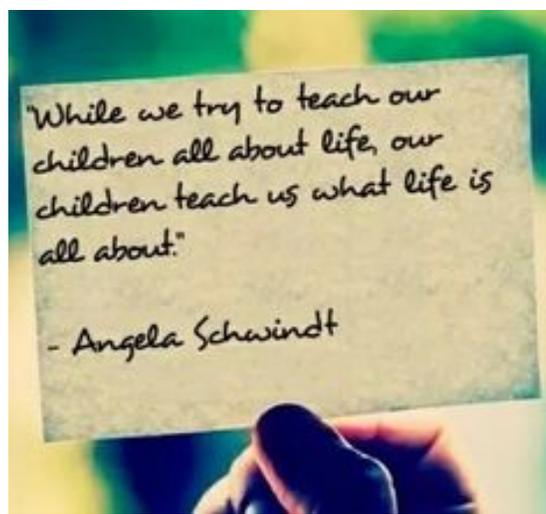
We are excited to re-open the Learning Link program on the campus of Perry Elementary, in Portable #33, beginning on Friday, October 2nd. If you have a child between the ages of 0-5 and you have some time on Friday mornings between 9:00am-noon, we hope you will join us! This is a no-cost program that operates on a drop-in basis. If you have questions about this program, feel free to e-mail us at earlychildhood@hbcSD.us. Please find our 2015/2016 Calendar here: [Learning Link Calendar](#)

THINK Together Early Literacy and Math Program

Our partners at THINK Together will be offering a no-cost program that specializes in Early Literacy and Math for children between the ages of 3-5. This is a participatory program with a Parent Education component and that follows the research-based High Scope curriculum for children.

Please find out more, including contact information, here: [THINK Together Flier](#)

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,

Jenn Kinkel

Director of Early Childhood Education, Huntington Beach City School District

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Huntington Beach City School District | 20451 Cramer Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646 | jkinkel@hbcasd.us