

THE TEDDY BEAR POST



A NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Back To School... Cool!

Sunscreen bottles are nearly empty, our children are just about sick of peanut butter sandwiches and our cars now carry more sand between the seats than we did between our toes during the last three months. Yes, summer is officially over!

It is with a mix of happiness and anxiety that we watch our offspring load their new backpacks and head off to school. Whether it is your child's first or last year of school, many of the thoughts crossing your mind are still the same... Will he play well with others? Will she like the new teacher? Will this be a better year? Will this be the year when I am finally able to keep up with all the paperwork the school sends home?

Throughout the year we often wonder about one more thing: What is my child learning at school? This year I challenge you to ask yet another question: Who is teaching my child outside of the classroom?

It has become alarming that the same children who can name the entire cast of *The Jersey Shore* will have a hard time naming the last two US presidents! Many children are lucky to have coaches, aunties, tutus and other relatives who are all part of their education process. Learning how to throw a ball or how to make a lei can be just as important to a young child as learning how to read.

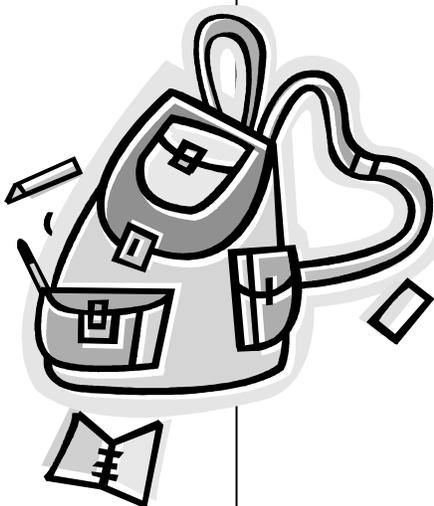
The skills they learn while involved with a responsible, loving

adult can help them develop more than a sense of community but a considerable increase in their self esteem.

By simply reviewing homework together and encouraging your child to talk about topics covered in class, you will be broadening their learning experience. Your attitude towards learning is contagious; teach your child about the fun of learning by being positive and appreciative of their efforts. Not every child is a *straight A* student but everyone can become a life-long learner.

Here are some ideas on how *you* can contribute to your child's education this year:

- Make dinner together (measuring, counting, reading)
- Make leis for special occasions (tradition, art, culture)
- Play board games (strategy, patience, reading)
- Collect shells and other beach treasures (organization, research)
- Play an instrument (math, diligence, appreciation)
- Learn or practice another language (memory, speech)
- Make up stories or silly songs (imagination, fun)
- Read to each other (endless learning possibilities)
- Organize old family pictures (history, values)
- Work together in the yard (science, diligence)
- Shop for groceries (math, sorting, reading)
- Make bubbles (chemistry, fun!)
- Sing : You don't have to be good at it, you just have to enjoy it
- Dance: Whether you are a great hula dancer or just silly, have fun!



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"A PARENT ASKS"

Q: My twins have been together in preschool and kindergarten; they are about to start first grade. Should I keep them in the same class or separate them?



A: There are different schools of thought regarding this matter. Those who believe that it is a good idea to keep them together defend the fact that aside from being easier for the parents, twins are simply happier in the same classroom. Others will argue that twins enjoy enough togetherness everywhere else, and that they should be allowed a chance to become independent individuals.

Each child is different and so are their needs. Here are some questions worth answering before you choose the best alternative to *your* unique children.

- Do they have similar learning styles?
- Do they get along?
- Has it worked to keep them together in the past?
- Are they easily distracted by each other's company?
- Are they too dependent on each other?
- Is there a difference in abilities that may attract comparison?
- Are both classroom options equally suitable to each twin?
- Will they socialize only with each other or make new friends?
- Have they expressed preference for one option or the other?
- Will they be disruptive to the class?
- Will you be able to dedicate equal amount of time in each classroom?
- Which scenario will promote a healthier relationship between your children and learning?

SAFETY WORKS!

Top tips to keep kids safe on Halloween:

- Choose light-colored costumes that can be seen in the dark.
- Decorate your children's costumes with reflective materials. Give them flashlights and glow-sticks to carry in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.
- Cross the street safely at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Walk only on sidewalks or paths.
- Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Slow down and stay alert - watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint, make-up, and wigs instead.

Drivers:

- Slow down in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
- Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m. so be sure to turn on your full headlights.
- Be especially alert and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Slowly and carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

Treats:

While pedestrian safety is a main concern on Halloween, parents and kids should also be careful when dealing with candy. Remind children to only eat treats in original and unopened wrappers.



The Parent Line:

Free statewide phone line for parents and others caring for children. Call for support, encouragement, information, and ideas about handling behavior or about community resources.



Mon- Fri, 8:00am- 6:00pm and
Sat, 9:00am-1:00pm.
Oahu: **526-1222**.
Neighbor Islands toll-free:
1-800-816-1222

SUGGESTED READING

Some excellent books available at the State Libraries:

A Vampire Is Coming To Dinner (10 Rules To Follow)

By Pamela Jane

About Twins

By Shelley Rotner

BOO!

By Robert Munsch

By My Brother's Side

By Robert Burleigh

First Art: Art Experiences For Toddlers and Twos

By MaryAnn F. Kohl

I'm Absolutely Too Small For School

By Lauren Child

Little School

By Beth Norling



Mark Your Calendars

September 9th—Teddy Bear Day

October 28th—Statue of Liberty's Birthday

October 31st—Halloween

November 26th—National Cake Day

Last Thursday in November—Thanksgiving Holiday

