



Monday, March 23

Dear Preschool Families,

This has been an amazing week - full of connections in Google Photos, a little technology confusion, and really wonderful moments of joy. From talking with some of you at the end of the week, I know that our Mount Vernon Mindsets are in full force in your households right now. You are Solution Seekers, as you figure out how to navigate your home and work life together at the same time. You are Ethical Decision Makers, as you work through the balance of screen time for your children. Your children are Creative Thinkers and Communicators as they find new ways to request snacks from you at increasingly smaller intervals during the day. And we are all Innovators as we navigate how to manage this new normal together.

Goals for Home Learning

In Preschool, we have three primary goals during this home learning period:

1. Maintain connections with your children. We want them to see us, and to know that their teachers still love them and are thinking about them. This is the purpose behind our videos and invitations for Zoom calls.
2. Give you some moments and ideas for developmentally appropriate screen and playtime. We know that many of you will need your children engaged at home so that you can get things done. Whether by watching teacher videos, working with our play provocations, or engaging with [Khan Academy Kids](#), we hope that what we have provided is helpful.
3. Provide you and your children with activities and play provocations that will keep them growing, thinking, and happy. We know that many of you have not yet had time to engage in all of our suggested activities, and that is absolutely fine. They are there for you, when and if you need them.

To help us further as we develop our home learning plans, we would love your feedback. Please take a few moments to fill out [this feedback form](#) by Wednesday, March 25 at 11:00 am. It should take you less than five minutes.

Google Photos Links

If you haven't yet connected to your child's classroom Google Photos drive, I have included the links below. I know from many of you that your children love seeing pictures of each other:

- [Ms. Nicole and Ms. Chelsea's Class](#)
- [Ms. Chamyca and Ms. Sunshine's Class](#)
- [Ms. Shannon and Ms. Melanie's Class](#)
- [Ms. Molly and Ms. Ashley's Class](#)
- [Ms. Cheryl and Ms. Sarah's Class](#)
- [Ms. Liz and Ms. Ashley's Class](#)
- [Ms. Anne and Ms. Kate's Class](#)
- [Ms. Elizabeth and Ms. Mavi's Class](#)
- [Ms. Lanie and Ms. Brandi's Class](#)



Talking to children about COVID-19

We are also navigating uncharted territory in parenting. It is difficult to know what information to share with children and how to answer their questions about social distancing. I wanted to share some recommendations with you from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in 2019, young children around the world may have either experienced trauma (e.g., lockdown) from the coronavirus or have been exposed to scary images about the virus through media. It is extremely hard for children to understand why social distancing is happening, and why they can't play with their friends anymore.

When a scary thing happens, children need their loved ones to reassure them about their safety. Parents need to show more affection toward their children at this difficult time. We want to help children using social media to connect with their friends when they are doing "social distancing." Also, we want to empower children to look up to the many heroes and contribute to fighting this pandemic! After all, "taking good care of yourself and not spreading the virus" are heroic acts!

NAEYC has also developed [this storybook](#) for young children, to help you answer your children's questions, and to help them find ways to feel strong and empowered in this uncertain time. If it would be helpful to your family, please print it and read it at home.

Please fill out the survey linked above, and reach out if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to getting back to school and seeing you all again. In the meantime, please let me know if there is anything else we can do to help you!

Kelly Kelly
Head of Preschool