



KOCOMotions



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Important Dates in January

- 1/1: KOCO closed (New Year's Day)
- 1/2: KOCO open with *reduced staff*
Preregister to attend
- 1/7: Fundamentals 4 Kids Fitness Program
Preschool and Nursery School only
- 1/19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Public Schools closed
KOCO open, no Nursery School
- 1/20: Board of Directors Meeting
6:00-7:00 pm
- 1/22: KOCO Nursery School Fall Registration
3's and 4's AM programs only
10:00-11:00 am
- 1/23: Movie Night: Ice Age (PG)
Parent volunteers needed
- 1/28: Pizza lunch
Under 3, Preschool, Kindergarten only
- 1/29: Public Schools scheduled delayed opening
2 hour delay; KOCO AM students only



Kim Piscatelli paints the faces of TASC, Schoolage and Kindergarten students during Winter Recess.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity to the East Hampton Food Bank, the Junior Women's Club's Project Christmas Tree, and to KOCO's classroom programs and staff! Happy New Year!

The Waddler Room is in need of a used high chair. Please see Roxann or Janet if you can help.

From the Office...

We hope you all had a happy and healthy holiday! Everyone at KOCO is ready for a productive and prosperous new year!

Please remember that, although we are willing and able to take great care of your children, we are unequipped to safeguard their delicate and expensive electronic devices. KOCO cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged gameboys, ipods, or other devices. The same holds true for expensive jewelry or family heirlooms.

By the way, end-of-year tax statements will be distributed in early January to all families whose accounts are current.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support of our programs!

☺ Roxann, Janet and Krista

KOCO Facility Rental



The Board of Directors of Kids of Chatham Organization, Inc. invites KOCO families to use our facility during off hours for children's parties or other (non-alcoholic) events. For a suggested donation of just \$50 for 4 hours, your group may use our spacious Schoolage Room equipped with bathrooms, kitchen (no cooking please), tables and carpet area. For more information, or to schedule your event today, please contact Roxann in the Office.

Singing as a Teaching Tool

It doesn't take an experienced musician to sing with young children. Anyone can sing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," and make the motions of rowing a boat. Parents and teachers can lead many singing and musical games, even if they consider themselves nonmusical.

Music is a great way to engage young children because it is a natural and enjoyable part of their everyday lives. Children hear music or sing while watching television, riding in the car, at school, and as part of bedtime rituals. We often hear children creating their own songs and incorporating music in their play. Music is a socially engaging way to learn, and especially appropriate for the developmental levels of young children.

The concept of using music to teach is not new. Many young children learn to recite the alphabet by singing the ABCs, and educational television programs for young children, such as Sesame Street, use a lot of music in their programming. Researchers have found that music can help children learn multiplication tables and improve early literacy skills. Many adults still remember lessons connected to music from their childhood.

Music helps many children break information down into easily remembered pieces or associate it with previously known information, such as a familiar song. One study found that using familiar melodies helped five-year-olds learn phone numbers at a faster rate than using no music or unfamiliar melodies.

Singing with children can be an especially fun and valuable experience. When you sing with young children, you can adjust the speed and volume to fit their abilities. You don't need to sound like a professional singer. As long as you are enthusiastic, young children will enjoy it, and want to sing along.

You can also pair singing with movement or visual aids that stimulate the senses. This allows children to not only hear the music, but also feel and move to the rhythms, and see, touch, and play the instruments.

Singing also gives you lots of opportunities to teach new words to young children. By taking familiar songs (such as "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," "Frere Jacques/Are You Sleeping?" "Three Blind Mice" or other songs from your childhood) and changing or adding words, you can introduce new vocabulary in a way that makes it easy for children to follow along.

You can create individualized songs that will engage children and boost their memories. Fill your songs with people (for example, family members, teachers or friends), objects (clothing, furniture, cars or bikes), daily rituals (brushing teeth, bedtime), and special events (holidays, going on a field trip) that are an important part of children's lives.

While music is a great way to introduce new words, it can also contribute to children's progress and learning in many different areas. Music supports self-expression, cooperative play, creativity, emotional well being, and development of social, cognitive, communication, and motor skills. Music and singing are a fun and effective way to help young children learn.

Excerpted from "Music as a Teaching Tool: Creating Story Songs" by Shelly Ringgenberg - an article in the NAEYC journal, *Young Children*.

Early Years Are Learning Years[™] is a regular series from NAEYC (www.naeyc.org) with tips for parents on giving young children a great start on learning.