

WEATHER & SEASONS

Rain or shine, our classrooms are heading outside to watch the world change.

WELCOME TO OCTOBER

Dear Joyful Journeys Families and Friends,

This month our classrooms are stepping outside to explore **Weather & Seasons**. As the air cools and the leaves begin to turn here in Vallejo, children will notice how the world around them changes from day to day and season to season.

Through sensory play, movement, art, songs and plenty of outdoor time, our little ones will build new words, sharpen their observation skills and grow their confidence. For our enrolled families, it's also a big month for partnership: parent-teacher conferences take place **October 13–23**, and we can't wait to sit down with you.

If you're new to Joyful Journeys and exploring care for your little one, welcome! This newsletter is a peek at what a month in our classrooms looks like, and we still have **a few fall openings** in both full-time and part-time care.

With gratitude,
Mrs. Dionna Perkins and the Joyful Journeys Team

WHAT WE'RE EXPLORING

WEATHER

Looking up at clouds, feeling the wind and noticing what the sky is doing today.

SEASONS

Watching how trees, plants and the outdoors change as fall arrives.

CHANGES

Noticing that weather and routines change, and that change can be exciting.

STORMS

Acting out rain and thunder with our bodies, sensory bins and art.



Painting with fall colors in the Fox Room

FEATURED CONCEPTS

Ask your child about these at pickup. You may be surprised by what they show you!



Rectangles and squares, built tall

Letters & sounds

C, I and S. Hiss like a snake for "S" and spot C, I and S on signs and labels.

Shape & color

Rectangle and orange. Hunt for orange rectangles: a door, a book, a cereal box.

Number

2. Count pairs: two shoes, two mittens, two hands.

Character trait

Patience. Practice waiting with a short song or by counting to ten together.

Body stretch

Criss-cross. Sit criss-cross on the floor for story time.

Sign language

Flower, bear, hot, cold, path, sleep, rain, sun. Sign "rain" or "sun" when you check the weather each morning.

For currently enrolled families

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES OCTOBER 13-23

Conferences run **Tuesday, October 13 through Friday, October 23**. Each currently enrolled family will meet one-on-one with their child's lead teacher to talk about how your child is growing, settling in and learning.

How to sign up: Sign-up sheets are posted in each classroom and are open **now through Friday, October 9**. Once you sign up, your time will be added to **Brightwheel** for a digital reminder. Meetings are 15 minutes, in person or online.

How to prepare

- ☐ Sign up on the sheet in your child's classroom by Friday, October 9
- ☐ Jot down questions or concerns ahead of time
- ☐ Think about what your child shares from school, and anything new at home
- ☐ Arrange care for siblings if possible

No times work? Contact Mrs. Dionna at (707) 551-6152 or info@joyfuljourneypreschool.com.

What you can anticipate

- **A strengths-first conversation** about what your child enjoys, the friendships they're forming and the moments that make them shine.
- **A look at development** across social-emotional, language, early math and literacy, and physical skills, using observations, photos and work samples.
- **An age-appropriate focus.** Infants and young toddlers: routines like eating, sleeping and comfort, plus new milestones. Older toddlers and preschoolers: independence, self-help skills and school readiness.
- **An introduction to the DRDP**, the Desired Results Developmental Profile, California's tool for tracking each child's progress over the year.
- **Goals we set together**, with simple ideas to support them at home.
- **Time for your questions.** You know your child best, and we want to hear what you're seeing at home.

Conferences aren't a report card. They're a chance to celebrate your child and plan next steps together.

TOGETHER TIME AT HOME

Week 1

WEATHER SOUND RIDE

Name the weather on a drive or walk and invent a sound for it, like "whoosh" for wind.

Week 2

RECTANGLE HUNT

Search for rectangles on clothes, toys, furniture and buildings.

Week 3

LOOKING-FORWARD DRAWINGS

Talk about something you're looking forward to, then draw it together.

Week 4

APPLE EXPLORERS

Slice an apple, name its parts (skin, seeds, core), then eat it!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 5-9	Conference sign-ups (sheets in each classroom)
Oct 12	No school for students: Columbus Day and staff professional development
Oct 13-23	Parent-teacher conferences
Oct 30	Harvest Day activities, all day
Coming up	Campus Spirit Week, Nov 2-6

FAMILY REMINDERS

- **Dress for the weather.** We play outside daily. Please send a light jacket and a labeled change of clothes.
- **Stay connected.** Enrolled families receive daily photos and teacher messages in Brightwheel.

NOW ENROLLING: A FEW FALL SPOTS REMAIN

Openings for children ages 6 months to 5 years.

Full-time: five days a week. **Part-time:** 2 days (Tue/Thu) or 3 days (Mon/Wed/Fri) a week.

- California-licensed, infants through preschool
- Play-based learning with monthly themes
- Caring teachers in our Blue Jay, Squirrel, Raccoon and Fox rooms
- Daily photos and updates through Brightwheel

Schedule a tour (707) 551-6152 · info@joyfuljourneypreschool.com

Current families: Know someone looking for care? Please pass this newsletter along.



Story time on the rug



Snack time with friends