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Auglaize County Educational Service Center

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Providing expert educational mentorship, innovative support services and dynamic customer relationships.

New Teaching Staff

My name is Bo Frye, and I am the Wapakoneta Middle School ED teacher. I live in St. Marys and enjoy coaching sports, boating, and fishing. I went to college at the University of Saint Francis.



My name is Becky Teman and I am the Autism teacher at Project Independence. I live in Delphos with my husband, Jason, and my two dogs, a Golden Retriever and a Saint Bernard. In my free time I enjoy cooking, traveling, photography, and going to the Wapak YMCA. This is my first year in a full time position and I love it! I was a substitute teacher for 5 years and an aide in Gretchen Schmitz's class for 2 years.



My name is Abigail Knapke and I am the Autism teacher at Wapakoneta Elementary. I previously taught at Ottawa Hills Elementary in Toledo for 2 years. I live in Minster with husband and we enjoy camping, being with family, and working with children.



SST6 Professional Development Opportunities:

- Begins Oct 1—OIP Webinar Series—check for dates & topics
- Oct 1—Early Childhood Education & Preschool Special Education Fall Webinar
- Oct 4—Essential Strategies for Supporting Students with Classic Autism/Low Incidence
- Oct 5—Essential Strategies for Supporting Students with Asperger’s Syndrome or High Functioning Autism
- Oct 11—Extended Standards: Curriculum Access Planning for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities
- Oct 12—Ohio Accommodations for Special Education Instruction & Assessment
- Oct 16—Vantage Lite with Unity Training
- Oct 22—Preschool Supervisors Network
- Oct 24—Advancing Co-Teaching Practices
- Oct 26—Related Service Q & A with ODE
- Oct 30—Special Education Supervisors Network EMIS



For more information, check out their website at www.sst6.org, and view the *Event Calendar*. You can also call them at 419-738-9224.



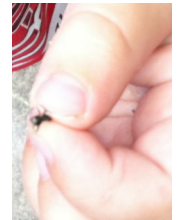
Embrace Dirt, Mud and the Environment

By Gretchen Leppla, Preschool Director

Everyone is excited to begin a new school year, catch up with friends and get back into the routine. Long after the new mechanical pencils, the backpacks and the new first day of school outfits fade, the excitement in the preschool classroom is mounting! Why?? Because this school year our preschool teachers are all about bringing nature into the classroom and bringing the classroom outside so that children can learn using the most basic items . . . nature itself!



Remember when we were children and there were no cell phones, computers, iPads/iPods and anything else electronic you can think of? Where did you play? What did you play with? I know that I especially enjoyed the fall when we could search for the most beautiful colored leaves, the weeds that produced seed pods, the interesting insects and sometimes a prize find like a cocoon! We hauled the spiders and praying mantis to school in jars and passed them around so everyone could see our treasures! I remember gently letting my prize insect go after school and happily going on another search for something even better to take to school the next day. Children today have not had to be as engaged with nature as we were, and it is our job, as educators, to reintroduce nature as a part of their classrooms.



Most recently our preschool parents received a list of thematic units that will be the basis of lessons this fall. Children looking into colors, forest animals, camping, apples and fall will be embracing nature in the classroom on a daily basis. Math Centers will be filled with rocks to sort, seeds and nut pods to crack open and count, dried flowers to examine and plenty of sticks to use in building something. In the Dramatic Play area some of the same materials can serve different functions, like sticks for stirring stew made of seed pods, fresh herbs, dried flowers and pebbles. Decorating tables and benches with gourds, driftwood and rocks look especially home-like and serve to bring nature indoors in a creative way! Certainly the Art Center is a spot where children can use all of their artistic qualities to make tons of beautiful creations to decorate their cubbies, use as wall decorations in their classrooms, take home to parents and give as gifts. Baskets of pine cones, bowls of fall fruits and vegetables, feathers, grasses, shells, acorns and nuts along with all the most beautiful colored leaves inspire children to get their creative juices flowing.



What can you do as parents, family and friends to help encourage preschoolers to enjoy nature in their world? Take a walk in nature during an evening at home or a weekend and enjoy what you see, smell, feel and touch. Writing a short story about what you did. Everyone can benefit from “getting back to nature!” Everyone can also benefit in getting involved in their child’s classroom. Remember this time in the life of a child goes so quickly and is so magical!



Don’t miss one minute of it and join in the preschool experience!



This is Natalie at SM Head Start painting with ferns. We just finished our unit on forest animals and will be starting our unit on camping. They had lots of fun!

