

September 1, 2020

Dear Families:

Welcome to the Big Seed room! Here is what you can expect every month in your child's new classroom.

- Our monthly curriculum is centered on a study that is developmentally age-appropriate which includes centers and activities that build skill sets in the five domains: physical, language, cognitive, social-emotional and mathematics.
- Monthly newsletter that highlight what the children learned and what piqued their curiosity in that month. It includes a brief overview of what we will study the following month. This includes the study, books, songs, and a written description of our American Sign Language (ASL) signs. These signs are everyday words that complement our monthly study.
- Circle time which is a great tool to help build connections between children and teachers. We practice mindfulness activities which is an aspect of Conscious Discipline (social-emotional development) throughout the center.

We live in a busy world full of triggers that engage our senses and at times be over stimulating, especially for children. Mindfulness activities allow children to center themselves and focus on one thing at a time. Even if for only a few minutes throughout the day, it will help develop a child's self-regulation skills and build their self-confidence.

Everything we present to children is done with the intention of developing your child's mind and body. We look forward to working with you in accomplishing goals that together we have set for your child.

This September come "Bust-a-Rhyme" in the Big Seed room with some "oldies-but-goodies" nursery rhymes! Thank you and have a fun and safe Labor Day!

Jessica, Chloe, and Melissa

**See attached bios*

Books:

Mother Goose: *Book of Rhymes; Itsy Bitsy Spider and More, If You're Happy and You know It*

Signs:

More- Use both hands and on each hand connect the tips of all four fingers to your thumb. Then connect both hand by the fingertips and then separating. Repeat at least two times.

Please- take your hand with fingers extended and all together, and thumb extended and sticking out. Take the hand with palm facing in and rub it in a circle on your chest.

Thank You- touch your fingers to your chin and move that hand out and down into your other hand. It is almost like you are blowing a kiss to someone.

A Few Reminders:

- Growing Tree will be closed September 3rd and 4th for our in-service days and on September 7th in observance of Labor Day.
- If your child is already attending Growing Tree, your child's teacher will move your child's belongings to their new classroom.
- If new to Growing Tree, please make sure your child has the following items in a labeled bag for easy transport between school and home:
 - Diapers, wipes, creams/ointments (if any you would like us to use)
 - Blankets for naptime
 - Extra clothes (please put your child initials on clothing tags)
 - Please feel free to bring in a pacifier, lovey, etc. anything you think will help your child feel more secure and relaxed in their new environment.

Songs:

The Itsy, Bitsy Spider

The itsy, bitsy spider
Went up the waterspout.
Down came the rain,
And washed the spider out.
Out came the sun
And dried up all the rain.
And the itsy, bitsy spider
Went up the spout again.

Baa, Baa Black Sheep

Baa, baa black sheep
Have you any wool?
Yes, Sir, yes, Sir, three bags full.
One for my master, one for my dame and
One for the little boy who lives down the lane.
Baa, baa black sheep
Have you any wool?
Yes, Sir. Yes, Sir, three bags full.

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high.
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle little star.

I'm a Little Teapot

I'm a little teapot, short and stout.
Here is my handle, here is my spout.
When I get all steamed up, hear me shout
Tip me over and pour me out!

Wheels on the Bus

The wheels on the bus go round and round,
Round and round, round, and round.
The wheels on the bus go round and round
All through the town.

Additional verses:

Doors on the bus go...open and close
The people on the bus go...up and down
The babies on the bus go...waa, waa, waa
The parents on the bus go...I love you
The wipers on the bus go...swish, swish, swish
The blinkers on the bus go...blink, blink, blink

My name is **Jessica Freitag**, I have worked at Growing Tree for thirteen years. I moved to Bend after graduating high school in Bandon, Oregon, where my family grows cranberries. I first came to Growing Tree because my older sister was teaching here and spoke very highly of this amazing school. Growing Tree was my first job and I still love it here. I started out as an aide while I went to school for massage therapy at COCC and shortly after finishing my degree I was offered a full-time position working with the older children. Since then I have gradually taught younger and younger until February of 2016, I was offered a teaching position in the Big Seeds. I love working with this awesome age group and I am excited to begin working with our new Big Seeds and you, their parents. Thank you, I look forward to seeing all of you.

My name is **Chloe Carey**, I have worked at Growing Tree for two years now! I have lived in Bend with my parents and two siblings all my life. I am now married and have two sweet kittens named Maize and Honey. I love yellow; it just makes me smile! Outside of work I play the drums (my favorite instrument), piano, and sing on our Church worship team. I also enjoy running, and hiking. I first came to Growing Tree as an aid, then worked up to being a full time aid sharing the Little Seed Room, and the Big Seed Room, which perfectly prepared me for another year teaching in the Big Seed Room! It has been a dream working with this age group and working for Growing Tree over the last few years. I am excited to meet and work with our new Big Seeds and their families!

Hi, I am **Melissa Keiry**! I joined Growing Tree in March working with the school aged group through COVID. In June I joined the Seedling and Big Seed classrooms. I am looking forward to the start of a new year, new faces and getting to know you and your child. I have a Master's in Early Childhood Education and have been working with young children for the past five years. I grew up in Medford, Oregon and moved to Bend in August of 2018. In my personal time I enjoy time with my family, my dogs, and my cats. I love hiking, camping, and exploring all that Central Oregon has to offer. Thank you!

Bust-a-Rhyme

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 "I'm a little teapot..."	2 "Tip me over and pour me out."	3 CLOSED In-Service Day	4 CLOSED In-Service Day
7 CLOSED Labor Day	8 "Pat-a-cake"	9 "Bake me a cake"	10 "Mark it with a B"	11 "Bakers Man"
14 "The cat and the fiddle..."	15 "The cow jumped..."	16 "Over the moon..."	17 "The little dog laughed..."	18 "And the dish ran away with..."
21 "Humpty Dumpty"	22 "Sat on a wall"	23 "All the Kings Horses"	24 "All the Kings Men"	25 "Couldn't put him together again"
28 "The itsy, bitsy..."	29 "Down came the rain..."	30 "Twinkle, Twinkle"		

Notes:

This Month's Books:
<i>Mother Goose: Book of Rhymes</i>
<i>Itsy, Bitsy Spider and More</i>
<i>If You're Happy and You Know It</i>
This Month's Songs:
"Itsy, Bitsy Spider"
"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"
"I'm a Little Teapot"
"The Wheels on the Bus"
"Baa, Baa Black Sheep"
This Month's Signs:
More, Please and Thank You

Big Seeds