

Family Scrapbook

Family is important to all the children in P3. They love talking about their family and sharing their family stories and experiences with the entire group. The children enjoy discovering the many similarities and differences that exist between other families and their own. Each child experiences feelings of pride, belonging and uniqueness when they understand that their family is truly special.

Because of this, P3 has begun a family scrapbook. This book will go home with individual children and spend a week with them and their families. Families can read the scrapbook together and are welcome to contribute a personal family experience. Markers are provided. Collaborative family projects are encouraged. Upon its return to the center, children will have the opportunity to share any new additions to the scrapbook with the class.

We believe our family scrapbook will provide a learning experience for everyone. It is important for children (and adults) to understand what makes them special. It is also important to know and understand what makes other people special. We believe our family scrapbook will build a sense of community in P3 and help create an environment in which everyone (teachers, children, and parents) grow and learn together.

Homework

One teacher, Georgina Villarino, recounts, "I said to the children, 'This is your homework. Ask your parents where butterflies go when it rains.' When children answer questions in the group, they say what their friend said. When they bring answers from home, they're all different."²

Homework used to be only for big kids in schools, but now it begins in kindergarten. In our view, homework for young children is appropriate not as an extension of conventional school work but only if it is designed to generate genuine family discussion of topics being explored at school.

What ideas do the people in your family have? What experiences have they had? Go home and ask them; come back and tell us what they said. Asking questions, children can build bridges between home and school.