



## Family Fun Challenge

**Hosted by your Family Workers at Busy Little Bees!**

Our family fun challenge this month is having our families create their own Fall family tree! In school, your child is learning about their new school in this fall season and reading several books with corresponding activities. Active learning is at the center of the HighScope Curriculum. It's the foundation where young children gain knowledge through their natural play and interactions with the environment, events, and other people.

In support of the High Scope Curriculum, we are providing you with some skills to bring the High Scope curriculum home. The HighScope Curriculum's fundamental approach is an active learning model with five active ingredients: Materials, Manipulation, Choice, Child language & Thought, and Adult scaffolding. Attached to this flyer, you will find more information on the five ingredients to help explain how this can be implemented at home.

We have provided several materials and encourage you to use any you choose! The students can arrange the materials in any way they would like. Having a choice of materials allows the children to use their imaginations to create their Fall family tree! While you are making the Tree with your child, we encourage you to talk about the project and engage in a conversation that supports their understanding of creativity and creation.

Any crafts handed in after the 17<sup>th</sup> will be hung in school but will not be eligible to win the Prize of the Month.

September Theme is **Fall Family Tree!**

Craft Due: **September 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Two (2) winners chosen at random**

Prize of the Month: **Four (4) apple picking tickets, to Demarest Farm**

## High Scope's fundamental approach is an active model of learning with five key ingredients:



**Materials** - A child's home, culture, and language are reflected in a variety of age-appropriate, open-ended materials for them to explore.



**Choice** - Children choose materials and play partners, change and build on their play ideas, and plan activities according to their interests and needs.



**Adult Scaffolding** - Children gain knowledge and develop creative problem-solving skills with the help of well-prepared adults who support a child's current level of thinking and challenge them to advance to the next stage, also known as scaffolding.



**Manipulation** - Children make discoveries when they are encouraged to handle, examine, combine, and transform materials and ideas.



**Child Language & Thought** - Children communicate verbally and nonverbally - thinking about their actions, expressing their thoughts about what they understand, and modifying their thinking as they learn and explore.



## Tips for Interacting With Your Child

Young children are constantly learning — everything is new to them. Here are some adult-child interaction strategies that will help foster children's active learning and development.

- **Join children in their play.** Get on the floor with children, join them at a table or in the sandbox, play games with them — become engaged in what they are doing!
- **Imitate what the children are doing; that is, play with the same materials in the same way as the children.** For example, an adult gives Emma a portion of play dough that has marbles hidden inside. Emma squeezes the dough with both hands. The adult also squeezes the dough with both hands.
- **Make observations and comments about what you see the children doing.** While watching Emma squeeze the play dough with the marbles hidden inside, the adult comments, "It looks like you have lots of marbles in your dough." Emma responds, "Yeah, and I am going to pick them out and line 'em up."
- **Ask open-ended questions, but ask them sparingly.** Open-ended questions encourage children to talk more, because these types of questions cannot be answered by a simple yes or no. For example, an adult lays out puzzle pieces and asks Nathan, "What do you think this puzzle picture might be?" Nathan responds, "I think it's a bear because...look...it's furry." Rather than asking more questions about why Nathan thinks it looks furry, the adult waits until he completes the puzzle and comments, "It looks like you were right; it is a big, grizzly bear." Questions can help get a conversation going, but it is more important not to overwhelm a child with too many questions.
- **Follow children's pace and interests.** Belinda was measuring the number of giant steps to the garage at her grandma's house. She then turned around at the garage door and decided to make "tiptoe" steps to the sidewalk. Her grandma followed Belinda by making tiptoe steps to the sidewalk.