



Your Weekly News & Updates

We are getting into the busiest time of the year for FPCDC. Thanksgiving and Christmas are approaching, and we just need to remember that toddlers and infants love predictability more than the surprises of the seasons. Some of the long time traditions might be a little scary for your little ones, but at FPCDC we will continue to love and nurture the children and hopefully take some of the stress out of the upcoming season.

Who are the people in your neighborhood?

We are learning all about community helpers.

Community helpers are part of children's everyday lives. When children interact with community helpers, they communicate and socialize. They learn new vocabulary, ask and answer questions, and gain knowledge about the world around them. In school, they look at books, sing songs, color pages, make crafts, and play dress up to learn about these workers. You can help your children learn about community helpers too. These are some activities we will be doing with your children and you might want to continue them at home.

- Name all the tools a community helper needs to complete the job.
- Draw pictures of community helpers at work.
- Ask questions like "What does he do?" "Where does he work?" "Who else works there?"
- Talk about what your children want to be when they grow up.
- Make lists of ways community helpers help, then list ways your children help others.
- Create a story about a community helper and help your children write it down.
- Pretend you are community helpers and role-play what to say and do.

- List all the community helpers your children know and talk about them and how they help.
- Read books about community helpers.
- Talk about what different community helpers have in common with each other.
- Make a map of your community and mark the places that have community helpers.
- Play dress up and act out community helpers' jobs.
- Put on a play with community helper dolls or puppets.
- Visit community helpers and have them tell your children what they do and what they like about their job.
- Group community workers by category, such as medical workers or outdoor workers, to practice sorting skills

Parents constantly warn children about the danger of strangers. In today's society, that is an important lesson. But what happens if the child is in an emergency situation? Imagine your house is on fire and someone in a strange uniform tries coaxing you from your home and your usual place of safety. You can understand why children sometimes hide from fire fighters under a bed or in a closet. These fears can be prevented when children meet community helpers in a safe and fun environment before being asked to trust them in an emergency. When we think like a young child, we realize how alarming an unusual uniform or vehicle might be perceived. Rescue vehicles are loud and fast. To see one up close and touch it while stationary helps children be less apprehensive when one speeds by with sirens wailing.

By participating in dramatic play with costumes and acting out behaviors of community helpers, children develop important social/emotional skills and are more comfortable with uniforms. It helps them understand the world around them and their place in it. It's important for children to learn their role in a community and that there are safe, friendly people to help them if they get sick or have an emergency. It's comforting for children to learn there are strangers outside of their family who have a concern for their safety and well-being and to understand who they can trust.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 4 Fundraiser

Deadline for turning in orders for fundraisers. Turn order forms into Tasha. Please help us with this effort to make playground improvements.



Wednesday, November 10

Parent work shop.

Vicki Hope a dietician from NEGMC will be presenting a seminar on creating healthy eating habits with your children. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. This starts around 12:15, and we look forward to seeing you.

Friday, November 13

Kids Night Out/Paint Party

Marriage Enrichment for Parents

Please [RSVP](#) by Wednesday, November 11 to ensure we have enough wooden door hanger crafts for the kids.

Wednesday, November 18

Pictures with St. Nick

6:30 in the parlor | \$5 for picture CD

Friday, November 20

Annual Thanksgiving Feast

FPCDC will be hosting a wonderful Thanksgiving meal for your families.

Please sign up in front office with Tasha so we can have a head count on how much food to prepare. Each class has different schedule, so please check with your child's teacher to see what time you should come.

ALL MONTH FPCDC WILL BE JOINING WITH GAINESVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IN A SERVICE PROJECT.

The project for November is a Toy and Clothing drive to benefit families in need. There will be a drop off box in the front hall.

Please help us welcome our newest staff member. Jenny Smith is now an assistant in Pre-K 1. Jenny actually is returning to us as she was a teacher at FPCDC once before. Jenny has a Bachelors Degree in Liberal Studies for Elementary Education from California State University in San Bernardino, CA. We are very excited and lucky to have her back!

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