



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WILMA RUDOLPH LEARNING CENTER NEWSLETTER MARCH

MARCH 6, 2017

Hello Rudolph Parents and Guardians!

February was a great month! We celebrated Black History Month with an African Dance performance and classroom activities. We celebrated Valentine's Day with an ice-cream social and exchanged cards with classes. We also had students take a field trip to see the Lego movie, where students were able to see what they have learned in math and science class on screen. The best part of the month was the collaboration between Rudolph and Al Raby. This was the first time that Rudolph has participated in an all-school service learning project. It was an awesome event. I am excited to share the photos with you! Students participated by packing personal care bags for the homeless, writing greeting cards to nursing homes and hospitals, as well as making placemats for the local shelters.

March is Women's History month, and there is a lot of learning going on

at Rudolph. We have rooms taking field trips to the Children's Museum and Shedd Aquarium. We will also be celebrating St. Patrick's Day and students will have fun making their own Shamrock Shakes, yummy. Students will also see Chinese Folk dancing.

Please make sure that you mark your calendars as we have an LSC meeting on the 13th, a parent meeting on the 17th, and student spring pictures on the 28th. Don't forget, students do not have classes on April 7th and Spring Break is the week of April 10-14th.

Please make sure to review the student drop off and pick up policy that was sent as a reminder. Please know policies are in the best interest of our students' safety and ensure that instructional time is not interrupted.





Hi Parents,

The February core vocabulary words of the month were **IN** and **OUT**. At Rudolph, we saw these words used during math activities (counting in a bowl), celebrating and sending Valentine's Day cards, circle time (in/out of school), art, science activities, etc. Rudolph staff members have been using aided language stimulation for these words and other core words. It is very exciting to see our staff pointing to pictures, saying the words and now watching our students communicate by using visual supports and systems.

March is now here and we are ready to change our words of the month. Our core vocabulary words of the month for March are **FEEL** and **WHAT**. We will continue to emphasize these words at school throughout the day. It is important that not only are these words modeled at school but are also modeled at home when requesting, commenting and asking questions. You can also utilize these words together when asking "what are you feeling?" Remember a great way to increase comprehension is to use aided language stimulation (touching pictures and saying the word simultaneously).

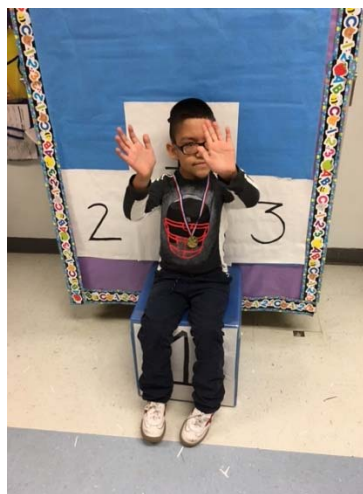
The pictures of **FEEL** and **WHAT** are attached and below are some examples of how and when to use the core words.

FEEL

Activities	Ways
Discuss Feelings	Discuss how your child is feeling: "I feel happy", "I feel tired". Ask "How are you feeling?"
Feeding/ Cooking, Play or Art Time	How do the food or play items feel? "This feels old/hard". "The glue feels sticky"
Story Time	Read a story and talk about how the main character is feeling. Some books suggested are "The Way I Feel" By Janan Cain, "Glad Monster. Sad Monster" By Ed Emberley and Anne Miranda or "I Am Happy" By Steve Light
Discuss Weather	When walking to the car, store, school, etc, talk about how it feels outside, "It feels cold/hot/wet". "

WHAT

Activities	Ways
After School	Talk about "what did you do today", "what happened", "what do we have to do".
Game Activities	Start off by asking, "what do you want to play?" "what do you want to play with?". Play object guessing games. For example, hide an item in a box and describe the object. "It is an animal that says woof. What is it?"
Story Time/ Looking at Photos	When reading through a book, you can ask "What is it?", "What is he/she doing?", "What is he eating?", "What happened first". Some suggested books are "I Went Walking" By Sue Machin or "Brown Bear, Brown Bear" By Bill Martin Jr.
Shopping Time	While shopping, ask "what do you want to buy", "what want", "what eat", "what one". You can also discuss opinions, "I like what I see!", "I like what I am doing", "I don't like what happened."





HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR ROOM 7 STEP TEAM

Room 7 students are part of a unique program called the SMILE program. Supported Multisensory Instructional Learning Environment. Our main focus is learning through a multisensory based curriculum. We utilize various materials and activities to increase exploration and strive towards independence based on students' needs and ability levels. Activities and goals within the program are individually based, but focus on experiences. Tactile, olfactory and auditory stimulation are a large part of the curriculum. We utilize various textures and work towards increasing sensory toleration and learning through the sensory rich environment. We follow thematic units which are based on the Unique Curriculum, seasonal and special events. Total communication is utilized on a daily basis and emphasis is based on the achievements the students can make on a daily and long term basis. Patterns in students' facial expressions, body language and vocalizations are observed and utilized as a response to instructors and activities. Communication devices are utilized throughout the day. Routines are established to help students adjust to various schedules and to increase anticipatory skills. For example, students are excited to participate in our circle time and anticipate activating a switch to say "Hi" to their peers. Student focus is on positioning and participating in a work break routine. Students are provided with breaks built into the schedule which encourage students to re-energize, maximizing the potential to focus and attend throughout the day.

In March, Room 7 will be focusing on spring activities and exploring those themes through the senses. Various textures, colors, smells and sounds will be utilized to learn about spring. Fans and water bottles will emphasize weather. Olfactory sensations based on flowers and St Patrick's day (mint and other green foods) will be another part of our unit. Various songs and poems about spring will be heard. Incorporation of the single message switch will emphasize the activation of a fan and repetition of our songs and poems.

TEACHER/SECA SPOTLIGHT

Janice Jamison-Wilson:

Wilma Rudolph Learning Center is a place where children with special needs can come and feel included. I work hard every day, with my nursing team, to ensure that their health needs are met and they are able to participate in all school activities. I lead a dedicated professional team of nurses that provide daily g-tube nourishment, respiratory care, seizure precautions and transport student safety to and from school each day. The nurses collaborate and consult with Rudolph's Multi-Disciplinary team to ensure continuity of care for all our students. The majority of all of our students have physical disabilities that require extensive nursing care. Most of them would not be able to attend school without a nurse. Hats off to all the nurses at Wilma Rudolph Learning Center.

RESOURCES

Easter Seals

Social activities, respite, consultants, sibling support and a resource center for Autism. Phone #: 312-491-4110. Website: www.easterseals.com/chicago

Epilepsy Foundation Greater Chicago

Comprehensive Epilepsy Clinic and parent education about epilepsy. Phone #: 312-939-8622. Website: www.epilepsy-chicago.org

Family Support Network

Advocacy and resource support. Phone #: 708-331-7370. Website: www.family-support-network.org

KEEN- Kids Enjoy Exercise Now

Free sports and recreation programs for young people with disabilities. Phone #: 312-876-2535. Website: www.keen-chicago.org

