



November 2015

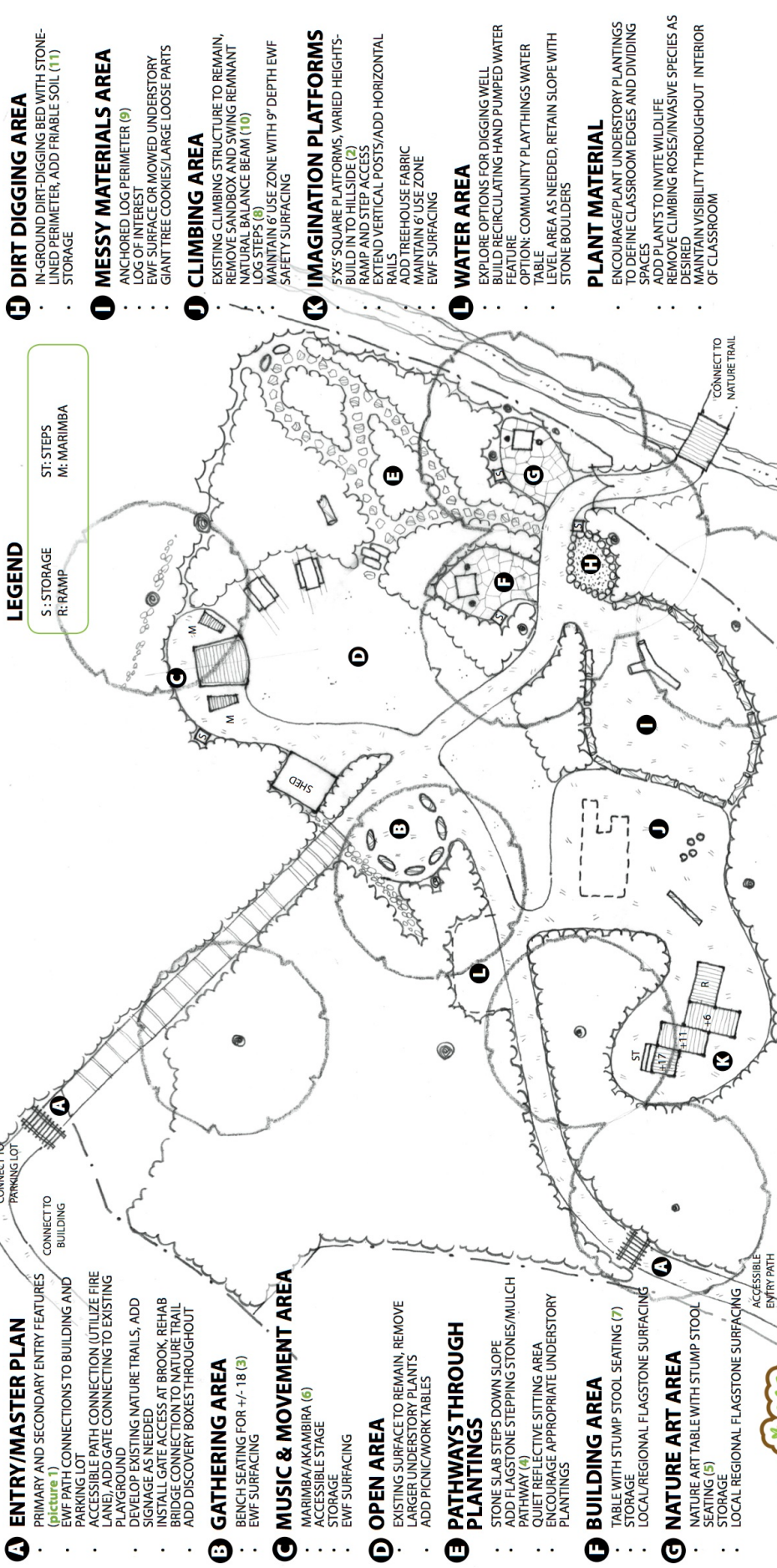
Tuesday, November 10	Second Year Trip to Plimoth Plantation
Wednesday, November 11	Veteran's Day, No School
Saturday, November 14	Admissions Open House 10-noon
Wednesday, November 18	Board Meeting 7:30pm
November 25, 26, 27	Thanksgiving Break



Notes from the Head of School

Last spring, a “Naturescaping Group” was formed at Berrybrook to evaluate Berrybrook’s outdoor environments. The group researched outdoor educational environments and gathered feedback from the school community regarding our current playgrounds and nature trails. Based on the group’s recommendation, the Berrybrook Board of Directors approved expenditures to help with the planning of an Outdoor Classroom to be located behind the school, extending down to the lower playground and the brook. *Nature Explore*, the company who designed the outdoor classroom at the Heritage Museum in Sandwich, was contacted for a consultation. They visited our proposed outdoor classroom site in June and at the end of the visit *Nature Explore* presented Berrybrook with a detailed plan for an outdoor classroom that includes a gathering area, music and movement area, open area, meditative area, building area, nature art area, dirt digging, messy materials area, a climbing area, and imagination platforms. Work on this exciting project has started and will continue through the 2015-2016 school year, with a tentative timeline of completion next summer. During our recent Professional Day, Berrybrook teachers attended a workshop presented by *Nature Explore* titled “Using Your Outdoor Classroom.” This training presented developmentally appropriate curriculum to connect the new space to the developmental goals teachers have for their students. Our discussion also discussed the science behind the benefits of outdoor, child based, experiences on a child’s development.

Extensive research has documented the powerful role of play in children’s development and the importance of getting children outdoors. Yet, in today’s culture both play and time in nature have become endangered species. There is a growing body of evidence that substantiates the idea that for young children, play is learning and intentionally designed outdoor spaces provide powerful contexts for growth and development:



- A ENTRY/MASTER PLAN**
 - PRIMARY AND SECONDARY ENTRY FEATURES (picture 1)
 - EWf PATH CONNECTION TO BUILDING AND PARKING LOT
 - ACCESSIBLE PATH CONNECTION (UTILIZE FIRE LANE), ADD GATE CONNECTING TO EXISTING PLAYGROUND
 - DEVELOP EXISTING NATURE TRAILS, ADD SIGNAGE AS NEEDED
 - INSTALL GATE ACCESS AT BROOK, REHAB BRIDGE CONNECTION TO NATURE TRAIL
 - ADD DISCOVERY BOXES THROUGHOUT
- B GATHERING AREA**
 - BENCH SEATING FOR +/- 18 (3)
 - EWf SURFACING
- C MUSIC & MOVEMENT AREA**
 - MARIMBA/AKAMBIRA (6)
 - ACCESSIBLE STAGE
 - STORAGE
 - EWf SURFACING
- D OPEN AREA**
 - EXISTING SURFACE TO REMAIN, REMOVE LARGER UNDERSTORY PLANTS
 - ADD PICNIC/WORK TABLES
- E PATHWAYS THROUGH PLANTINGS**
 - STONE SLAB STEPS DOWN SLOPE
 - ADD FLAGSTONE STEPPING STONES/MULCH PATHWAY (4)
 - QUIET REFLECTIVE SITTING AREA
 - ENCOURAGE APPROPRIATE UNDERSTORY PLANTINGS
- F BUILDING AREA**
 - TABLE WITH STUMP STOOL SEATING (7)
 - STORAGE
 - LOCAL/REGIONAL FLAGSTONE SURFACING
- G NATURE ART AREA**
 - NATURE ART TABLE WITH STUMP STOOL SEATING (5)
 - LOCAL REGIONAL FLAGSTONE SURFACING

LEGEND

S : STORAGE
R: RAMP

ST: STEPS
M: MARIMBA

- H DIRT DIGGING AREA**
 - IN-GROUND DIRT-DIGGING BED WITH STONE-LINED PERIMETER, ADD FRILABLE SOIL (11)
 - STORAGE
- I MESSY MATERIALS AREA**
 - ANCHORED LOG PERIMETER (6)
 - LOG OF INTEREST
 - EWf SURFACE OR MOWED UNDERSTORY
 - GIANT TREE COOKIES/LARGE LOOSE PARTS
- J CLIMBING AREA**
 - EXISTING CLIMBING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN, REMOVE SANDBOX AND SWING REMNANT
 - NATURAL BALANCE BEAM (10)
 - LOG STEPS (6)
 - MAINTAIN 6' USE ZONE WITH 9" DEPTH EWf SAFETY SURFACING
- K IMAGINATION PLATFORMS**
 - 5'X5' SQUARE PLATFORMS, VARIED HEIGHTS-BUILD IN TO HILLSIDE (2)
 - RAMP AND STEP ACCESS
 - EXTEND VERTICAL POSTS/ADD HORIZONTAL RAILS
 - ADD TREEHOUSE FABRIC
 - MAINTAIN 6' USE ZONE
 - EWf SURFACING
- L WATER AREA**
 - EXPLORE OPTIONS FOR DIGGING WELL
 - BUILD RECIRCULATING HAND PUMPED WATER FEATURE
 - OPTION: COMMUNITY PLAYTHINGS WATER TABLE
 - LEVEL AREA AS NEEDED, RETAIN SLOPE WITH STONE BOULDERS
- PLANT MATERIAL**
 - ENCOURAGE/PLANT UNDERSTORY PLANTINGS TO DEFINE CLASSROOM EDGES AND DIVIDING SPACES
 - ADD PLANTS TO INVITE WILDLIFE
 - REMOVE CLIMBING ROSES/INVASIVE SPECIES AS DESIRED
 - MAINTAIN VISIBILITY THROUGHOUT INTERIOR OF CLASSROOM



Berrybrook School | Duxbury, MA Concept Plan | 06.11.15



“Researchers have examined the cognitive, social, intrapersonal and physiological benefits of play and support the belief that young children learn best through play (e.g., Brown & Vaughn, 2009; Gellen, 2007; Ginsburg, 2007; Hirsh-Pasek & Golinkoff, 2003; Hirsh-Pasek, Golinkoff, Berk & Singer, 2009; Hohmann & Weikart, 1995; Linn, 2008; Paley, 2004). Play is a “fundamental component to the development of a healthy childhood” (Linn, 2008, p. 19) and is important to “every single developmental domain” (Hirsh-Pasek, et. al., 2009, p. xi). During the early childhood years play is “the dominant and directing mode of learning” (Elkind, 2007, p. 7), and “seems to be the driving force helping to sculpt how the brain continues to grow and develop” (Brown & Vaughn, 2009, p. 42). Hirsh-Pasek and Golinkoff (2003) suggested that “play is to early childhood what gas is to a car...It is the very fuel of every intellectual activity that our children engage in” (p. 214), and concluded that based on research examining the benefits of play “a new equation is in order: PLAY = LEARNING.”

Authors have also advocated for the need to get children outdoors because nature is a powerful context for learning. While many educators do not equate the outdoors with traditional academic learning, Broda (2007) suggested that “outdoor education is not a subject area, rather, it is an instructional tool that can be used to enhance instruction in a variety of disciplines” (p. 11). Keeler (2008) described the natural world as “a great friend and teacher to young children” because it “offers infinite opportunities for wonder and learning, with surprises around every corner.” (This Never Would Have Happened Indoors: Supporting Preschool-Age Children’s Learning in a Nature Explore Classroom in Minnesota <http://dimensionsfoundation.org>)

To expand on our current Nature Based curriculum, the Berrybrook Board of Directors, Administration, and Staff have decided to do the following:

- Make a long-term commitment to children’s learning outdoors
- Devote time and financial resources to the development of an intentionally designed, well-maintained outdoor space that will be used as an expansion of the educational facility
- Dedicate staff development time and financial resources to training related to children’s learning outdoors.
- Insist that the same high level of developmentally appropriate practice expected indoors occurs outdoors, regarding environments, materials, and teaching
- Assess natural materials in the outdoor space with safety in mind, but do not compromise opportunities for children to exercise age-appropriate risk taking as they discover and explore.
- Provide tangible support for teachers who are committed to taking children outdoors

I will be in touch with families over the next few months with updates and opportunities for you to join in this exciting project. Right now, if you have any rain boots or raincoats that your children are growing out of, bring them in! If you happen upon any unique natural items we’d love to have them. If you have resources for blue stone or stepping stones contact me. If you are cutting trees on your property we could use large pieces of hard woods like locust or cedar. Take a look at <http://natureexplore.org> to learn more about our outdoor classroom.

Mrs. Keeley

Beginners

The fall season is a busy one at Berrybrook, and in our Beginners class that is no exception! The children, and teachers have had some time now to get to know one another. We are now very comfortable with our daily routine and have been learning fall and Halloween songs at circle time. The project table has been a place of exploration, working together and on their own to create with glue, paint, yarn, and many other interesting mediums.

Now that the children have become comfortable, we have been expanding their environment at school. The children recently had their first visitor during classtime; a firefighter came in the classroom to visit for a few minutes to show everyone his helmet and special clothes. We also have begun to use the rocket ship playground exploring a new area of the Berrybrook grounds.

Going forward, into November, we will be talking a lot about family, and special people that are a part of our lives. We will be learning new songs and sharing new stories. The teachers will also be setting up conferences with every child's parents to have a chance to discuss how the children are adjusting to their mornings at Berrybrook. Please note that the meeting takes place during our normally scheduled mornings, and are a chance for the teacher and parents to chat for extended amount of time about any concerns or issues that need to be addressed.

The teachers are always amazed at the these beginners – they are an important part of the Berrybrook community and we are so happy to be able to guide them in their first steps of their school career!

We are very thankful to you for entrusting your children with us each day!

Happy Thanksgiving!
Mrs. Fosdick, Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. Piccuito and Mrs. Rosen



First Year Program News

During the month of October first year students learned about the season of fall. We tasted apples, went on nature walks, created nature collages from items we collected, explored acorns, and carved pumpkins! Through the year we will continue our nature walks, monthly, weather permitting. We will observe the beautiful Berrybrook grounds during different seasons. We also learned about fire safety. Some classes had a visit from the Duxbury Fire Fighters. For other classes, the Duxbury Fire Department plans to visit us during the month of November. Finally, students are beginning to learn about feelings. Throughout the year we will build on this knowledge to help children identify their own feelings and those of others, to promote successful interactions.

Parent-Teacher conferences have begun and will continue through November. Each class will have a sign-up sheet available. Conferences are a wonderful time for parents and teachers to have a conversation about each child.

As we head into November the weather will become chilly. Please remember to bring jackets, hats, and mittens. We plan

on going outside every day, weather permitting.

November will be a busy month for us. A favorite unit for the children is wood working. We will even use real hammers! Later in the month, we will begin talking about Thanksgiving. All classes will enjoy their own "feast" with items made by the children. One tradition at Berrybrook involves making our own butter. Children watch as the teacher pours cream into a bottle. With the cover tightly closed, we all take turns shaking, until it turns into butter. We sing...

Shake, shake

Shake the cream

Turn it into butter!

The children enjoy their butter with the feast!

We wish all of our Berrybrook families a Happy Thanksgiving. May you enjoy this special time with family and friends.

Mrs. Barlow, Mrs. Capasso, Mrs. Delano, Mrs. Dunn, Mrs. McDonough, and Mrs. Savoy

Second Year Program News

In the month of October, the second year classes have definitely settled into a rhythm. Say goodbye at the door, a quick kiss and hug and they are off.....to see what is in store for them this day at Berrybrook. At this point in the year, they have had a Yoga class with Miss Kim, and have had a visit from the fire fighters. All of the classes have made applesauce, and as the end of the month approached have been learning some fun, and not too scary, Halloween songs and stories. The children have been working for many days on a Halloween scene. There are many projects that have been created

and saved to put together the final piece, so please take a minute to talk about it with your child. The children will also be participating in a class play based on the book "The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything". At the end of the month, each second year class celebrated the holiday with a special snack – not candy..... pizza! Each child will be creating their very own personal pizza.

In the month of November, the classes will be going on a special traditional trip to Plimoth Plantation. Throughout the month, the children and teachers will be making connections with the meaning of Thanksgiving and discussing how life is different for us now as opposed to when the pilgrims settled here. After the field trip, the children will making their very own Plimoth plantation to take home. The classes will also participate in a feast, baking special snacks, and learning a special poem about being thankful. There is so much to be thankful for in our every day lives, and it is nice to take some to reflect about that and be thankful for all the special people in our lives.

Let's Be Thankful

Let's be thankful for this day,
For our friends and for our play.
Let's be thankful, let's be glad,
For the food and things we have.
Let's give thanks for you and me,
For our home and family.
Let's be thankful for this day,
For our friends and for our play.

We are all very thankful to you for entrusting your children to us every day.

The Second Year Teachers,
Mrs. Caddle, Mrs. Fosdick,
Mrs. LaForest, Mrs. Neal, Miss McNulty,
Mrs. O'Neil, Mrs. Piccuito,
Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Rosen

2015-2016 Parent Series



We began our new Parent Series in October. Thank you to parents who attended our orientation evening focusing on Parent Participation in Berrybrook Environments. Parents learned some tried and true *Berrybrookisms!* If you were unable to attend, copies of the Parent Participation Handbook are now available in the office.

Please note:

First Year Classes have posted volunteer sign-up sheets on their class bulletin boards.

Families of Second Year Classes can speak to teachers to arrange a time to share a hobby or interest, help with a cooking project, or volunteer in other ways.

The Beginners Class (Thursday and Friday, Room 3) continues to adjust to their daily routine, therefore teachers will let families know when volunteering and visiting the classroom will begin.

Thank you for your help and involvement in your child's class. It is very much appreciated and enjoyed by all of us at Berrybrook!

Kingston Animal Shelter Donations

November brings an annual Berrybrook Community Service Project started by Mrs. O'Neil many years ago. Families may bring in donations of supplies needed to benefit the Kingston animal shelter. To receive these donations, boxes will be decorated by the children with cut-out pictures of dogs, cats, and other animals glued onto a colorful background. These boxes will be placed

in the lobby and near classroom doors along with "Pennies For The Pound Jars". There will be class discussions about "What is an animal shelter?", "Adoption of pets", and "Being respectful of all living things." It is important for all children to develop empathy and practice kindness. Taking care of pets and other animals is a meaningful way for children to develop these traits.

Hurt No Living Thing

Hurt no living thing;
Ladybird, nor butterfly,
Nor moth with dusty wing,
Nor cricket chirping cheerily,
Nor grasshopper so light of leap,
Nor dancing gnat, nor beetle fat,
Nor harmless worms that creep

Christina G. Rosetti

Babies R Us!

Congratulations to the 3 families
in 2 Day-Room 1 on their new arrivals!

Welcome to
Maisie Hannon,
Gabriella Diaz,
and
Beaux Neville

Lunch Bunch News

Thank you to parents for carefully packing lunches that are safe for everyone. We appreciate your cooperation, understanding, and your attention to checking ingredient labels.

Berrybrook Parents Association

Thank you all for supporting this year's Harvest Festival. It was wonderful to see so many families participate and enjoy the beautiful fall air. A big thanks to everyone who volunteered their time or to those that donated a themed basket, silent auction item, refreshments, and decorations! We continue to be impressed with the generosity and support of our families. We also want to extend a special thank you to all of the high school students who assisted with crafts, hay rides, and face painting. It is always fun to see Berrybrook alumni return to their old stomping grounds.

Last month's Family Fun Friday at Sauchuk Farm also had a great turnout considering we had to switch the date and location. Thank you to our enrichment coordinators for making the event happen despite some unforeseen circumstances. Our next FFF will be held on November 6th at Berrybrook. **Lindsay and her Puppet Pals** will be performing two shows to accommodate everyone's schedules. The shows are each 45 minutes and will begin at **1PM** and **2PM**. The price is \$5/child and sign-up is at the BPA table.

Each year the BPA looks for ways to give back to the community. This year we are collecting donations for the Duxbury Interfaith Council. Their mission is: "Together, We can fill baskets." More than 100 Duxbury families look to the Interfaith Council to fill their baskets at Thanksgiving and the Winter Holidays. To help assist the Interfaith Council we will collect donations at the BPA table and we will deliver them for the holidays. They specifically need canned vegetables, brownie mixes, and in store baked goods. If you choose to donate please place

items in the box at the BPA table by Friday, November 20th. After Thanksgiving we will have more details about our next community partnership.

Join us **Wednesday, November 18th at 7:30** for our next BPA meeting. We will recap the harvest festival and plan for future enrichment and community service. All are welcome!

Lastly, thank you to all of the families who have already supported the BPA through dues this year. It is still not too late. Checks can be made out to the BPA and left in the basket by the BPA table.

Jill Cooney & Danielle MacKinnon

Co-Presidents



Sooooo Delicious!

The Berrybrook Staff would like to thank the Parents Association for arranging snacks for our monthly after-school meetings. Each month we have a 2 hour meeting to discuss curriculum and other matters. These meetings are scheduled from 4:15-6:15 and we appreciate having a snack to fortify us.

We are thankful for all of the support and encouragement we receive from parents. It is very thoughtful of parents to take time from their busy schedules to prepare refreshments for us.

Thank you very much!

Thank you to the generous families and businesses for their donations to our Harvest Festival.

MY GYM-Kingston

Tumblefun –Marshfield

British Beer Company

Milepost Tavern Restaurant

Not Your Average Joe's

Cellar d'Or Wine + Spirits

Sportsworks Ltd.

The McGraw Family
Nantucket Get-away & NannyTucket

The Hussar Family
Origin Beads

The Braga Family
Samuel Adams Brewery
Braga Photography Session

The MacKinnon Family
The Envoy Hotel
Residence Inn Marriott

Nessrallas Farm Marshfield

Sunshine Gardens

Jennifer Lightfoot Silhouettes



Rock Paper Scissors

The NeJame Family
Certa Pro Painters

Duxbury Fire Department

The Callahan Family
Callahan Construction

O'Connor Landscaping

The Bannon Family

UBH/Duxplex

The McFarland Family
Sullivan Tire

Lamberts

That Bloomin' Place

The Goldberg Family
Clarks Shoes

The Cooney Family
Sea Heritage

Purposeful Giving

During this school year, and especially during the holiday season, we will be given many opportunities to give to others. Berrybrook will conduct its annual drive for supplies for the Kingston Animal Shelter, an opportunity for giving that resonates with young children. Many of us will participate in book, coat, or gift drives, or other fundraisers for causes that we find meaningful. All of these types of opportunities give us the chance to help our children to develop a sense of generosity and empathy. Oftentimes, we can also use these moments to help our children to think critically about the world around them and create ideas to address difficult problems.

In recent years, there has been a shift in education from having students do community service to having students be active participants in service learning. It may seem like a subtle change, but it can be an important one. When students participate in service learning, they, along with adults, identify a problem in the community and work together to think of ways to address the problem. After the service project, students then reflect on the difference they have made and discuss next steps for addressing often systemic issues. An example of this would be, instead of conducting a standalone food drive at Thanksgiving, asking students why food banks are needed, having an age-appropriate conversation about food insecurity, letting students develop the plan to collect and deliver food, and reflecting on next steps, which could include more regular donations or promoting community awareness of the issue. Framing community service in this way helps children to develop problem-solving and advocacy skills as well as generosity and empathy.

Meaningful community service can happen without following all of the steps of service learning, and young children may not be ready to tackle some of the issues that arise upon discussion of these difficult societal problems. We can, however, work to ensure that each time we give, or ask our children to give, we are having a conversation about why giving is important and the difference we each can make. When children think about what others may be going through and what they, as individuals and collectively, can do to help, they learn that they are part of a larger community that shares responsibility for one another. One of Berrybrook's guiding values is "Interconnectedness", helping students to appreciate their place in the greater world. One way we can help to foster this value in our children is Talking the Talk at Berrybrook through purposeful, reflective giving to others.

Rachel Ezell
Berrybrook Board of Directors

Being Thankful: A Child's Perspective

Joanne LaForest

The idea of gratitude - being thankful for all the people in our lives, a home to live in, opportunities to provide for our families, the beauty in nature and animals, the true gift of time - comes naturally to children.

A child is thankful when...

... Mrs. Barlow greets them in the morning with a "Good morning! We've been so looking forward to seeing you today!"

...Mrs. Caddle talks with them and their grandfather who brought them to school that day to hear all about what they ate for lunch together.

...Mrs. Capasso gets out another paint color for the easel when they ask because they need brown to paint a picture of their dog.

...Mrs. Delano sings Jingle Bells at Circle Time because it's their favorite, even when they were just about to sing Row, Row, Row Your Boat.

...Mrs. Dunn takes the time to listen to their feelings of frustration even if that means stopping Story Time so classmates can help and talk about it, too.

...Mrs. Fosdick laughs and laughs right along with them as they tell her a very funny joke that they were so excited to share with her that day.

...Mrs. McDonough watches and smiles as they invite her to see how strong they are pumping on the swings and she says, "Look how strong your muscles are now!"

...Miss McNulty stops what she's doing and sits down next to them and listens quietly and patiently as they tell her all about their weekend trip to New Hampshire and all the fun things they did with their family.

...Mrs. Neal notices that they've been practicing so hard zippering their coat that she observes patiently as they do it themselves for the very first time and says, "Congratulations! You must be so proud of yourself!"

...Mrs. O'Neil asks how their pet rabbit, "Hopper", is at home because she remembers meeting him at their home visit and learned how much he loves carrots.

...Mrs. Piccuito tells their favorite story of the Dark, Dark Room more than once if they'd like to hear it again.

...Mrs. Richardson takes requests and plays their favorite song on the piano, then teaches them new songs and games they've never learned before.

...Mrs. Rosen receives their hug so warmly as they had been waiting to see her and hug her the whole drive over to Berrybrook.

...Mrs. Savoy lets them feel her tummy and talks all about the baby inside, listening intently to their stories of when they were a baby and how now they will be having a new baby in the family, too!

...Mrs. Keeley pops into the classroom to visit and joins them at the playdough table just to hear about what they're creating.

...Mrs. Watts smiles at them in the hallway and stops to listen as they tell her all the fun things their class is going to do in the Big Room.

...Dad picks them up from school and asks questions about the picture they painted that day.

...Mom plays I Spy with them on their ride to Berrybrook in the morning.

...Grandma hugs them at the door before they enter to start their day at school and says, "Think about which story we can read together at home when I come back to pick you up!"

These moments of time, moments of listening, moments of noticing, moments of being responsive, moments of respecting their ideas...that's what children are thankful for. That's why being at Berrybrook puts me in a state of gratitude every day. That's why I take this idea of gratitude with me and become thankful for all I have in my life.

Who and what are *you* thankful for?

Happy Thanksgiving!