

Early Education Curriculum

Happy November! Below, please find the curriculum planned for the month.

UPK/Preschool

Bruins and Celtics: Finishing Unit 1 - **Together in Our Community**

Beginning Unit 2 - **Building our Working City** on 11/13

Unit 2 will focus on children learning to observe their city. When listening to its sounds, and seeing its people, they may wonder about its functionality, organization, and the roles people play. This unit builds upon the community and systems introduced in Unit 1 to explore the structures, features, and people shaping the city.

Big Ideas:

- The city where we live is full of interesting people and things.
- People design and build what their community needs.
- The work people do is interconnected and contribute to how our city and neighbors function.
- What we build and how our city works depends on the resources available in our environments.
- People use tools and materials for specific purposes.
- Understanding materials help us decide how to use them.

Maple, Celtics, and Red Sox: Finishing Unit 1 - **Family and Friends**

Beginning Unit 2 - **World of Color** on 11/13

In Unit 2, children will explore colors and their role in communication, art, and nature. They learn about color functionality, engage in color mixing, discuss skin tone, and melanin's role in unique hues.

Big Ideas:

- Color is a property of many natural and human-made things.
- There is an infinite variety of colors.
- Colors can be mixed to make new colors.

Toddlers

Exploration Unit - **Our Bodies**

In this exploration, children will learn about their bodies and all the amazing things that their bodies can do.

Big Ideas:

- How are bodies the same and different?
- What are all the ways I can use my body?
- How can I keep my body safe and healthy?
- How does my body interact and other bodies?
- How do I use my body to express my feelings?

Infants

Our youngest scholars are growing and learning so much!

You will be receiving your child's **individual curriculum** so you can try the activities they are doing in the classroom at home.

Please check in with your child's teachers if you with any questions.

Social Emotional Development

This month the children will continue to work on identifying their feelings. They will be labeling feelings and recognizing how others feel by looking at facial and body cues.

Classroom Requests

1. Please send in a photo of your family to display them in the classroom.
2. Please ensure you have extra clothing and cold weather gear for your child in their cubby.
3. Please make sure your child's hands are washed prior to entering the classroom
4. Submit your ASQ or need assistance, please reach out to Cherish. ccasey@ellisearlylearning.org
5. If you are still holding onto your CACFP food program forms please give them to Nik. You can drop them off at the front desks.
6. Food Drive Boxes are located in the lobbies of all our programs. Please feel free to donate non-perishable items if you are able.

Music Classes with the New England Conservatory

Our partnership with NEC has started and our first week was a big success, the students had so much fun!

Below is the schedule by site and classroom.

[Schedule attached here](#)

Dates to Remember

November 2nd- Celebrating Ellis and the Strength of Families

November 9th- Caregiver Community Connections – Stress Around the Holidays 3-5 pm

November 10th- Professional Development Day- Ellis Closed

November 22nd- Ellis Closes at 3 PM

November 23th- and 24th Ellis Closed for Thanksgiving Break

November 28th- Screening for Children 3-5 for BPS –please see [attached](#) flyer for details, [attached here](#) is additional school enrollment information


November 30th- School Resource Fair 3:30-5 pm

Beginning in Nov, BPS welcomes families to explore their schools. [Attached](#) is a list of all BPS programs and dates you are invited to go explore. Please note you will need to contact the listed schools for more information.


November [Menu](#)

November [Vegan/Vegetarian/Allergy Menu](#)

November Birthdays




Kiara 11/1	Nicolas 11/16
Malakai 11/1	Olive 11/16
Kairi 11/2	Bowen 11/17
William 11/2	Alyssa 11/24
James 11/3	Calvin 11/24
Kidus 11/3	Xavier 11/26
Bailey 11/5	Abraham 11/27
Kryo 11/10	Henry 11/27
Parker 11/10	Theo 11/29
Andrew 11/14	Gianalis 11/30
	Henry 11/30



November Anniversaries

Ms. Mavis 11/2
Mr. Tom 11/5
Ms. Liz 11/7
Ms. Sarah 11/7
Ms. Nikaule 11/7
Ms. Maryann 11/8



Family Resources

Positive Behavior Support (PBS) at Home Series by Liz Muscolino, M.Ed., EdS UPK Behavioral Health Services Liaison

What Is Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and why should I care?

Positive Behavior support, or PBS, is an approach to interacting with children that has been shown to improve child behaviors and adult feelings of well-being. All behavior is communication. When we acknowledge our child's behavior, even behaviors like tantruming, as communication, we can move away from snap judgements and knee-jerk reactions and start to use every situation, no matter how unpleasant, as an opportunity to support a "child's capacity to love, trust, explore and learn". Although most parents (91% from a large, diverse sample) find parenting to be a source of great joy, they also report having many questions about child-rearing practices. PBS, Responsive Caregiving, and Positive Parenting can offer some answers on the journey of parenthood. Each month in this year's family newsletter, we will share, review, and provide examples of one of the nine key elements of Positive Parenting.

Watch this 5-minute video <https://vimeo.com/136542836> from Zero-To-Three about Positive Parenting.

The full original article can be found here - <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/nine-elements-that-power-positive-parenting/>.

Notice and celebrate your child's strengths, abilities, and capacity to learn and develop

Element description: This element of Positive Parenting is all about taking moments to notice who your child really is and celebrate whatever you find. Is your child someone who boldly explores new places and gets into everything? Is your child someone who likes to stay close to familiar people until he gets comfortable? There are lots of qualities that may be easy to celebrate. It may be easy to celebrate that your child is curious with toys or sensitive to the feelings of others. There are also lots of qualities that may be difficult to find a positive perspective on. No matter what qualities we see when we make observations about our children, we can find something positive to celebrate. Celebrating who our children are can be a great opportunity to stretch our creative muscles.

Ideas for using this in everyday moments: Notice that your child bosses other children around? A positive perspective may be that they are a natural leader. Notice that your child cries a lot? A positive perspective may be that they are really expressing how they feel! Notice that your child touches everything? A positive perspective may be that she is curious about how things work.

Additional Resources: If you want to learn more about noticing children's behavior and celebrating what you find, check out this free 30-minute webinar from Conscious Discipline on perception and attention - Tools for Your Parenting Toolbox <https://consciousdiscipline.com/e-learning/webinars/tools-for-your-parenting-tool-box/>.

This school year, Ellis is continuing its partnership with The Housman Institute, an early childhood education training, professional development, curriculum, and research organization that promotes the development of emotional intelligence from birth.

In this partnership, our staff will be a part of the research-based begin to ECSEL (Emotional, Cognitive, and Social Early Learning) Educator Training Program. Teachers and administrators will take courses and work with Housman Institute Coaches to teach children how to effectively identify, understand, express, and regulate their big emotions.



The program teaches educators and children to:

- Understand the cause and effect of emotions
- Develop empathy and prosocial skills
- Gain problem-solving and conflict resolution skills to support healthy development, emotional well-being, and academic success

You, as your child's first teacher, will be working together with their classroom teachers to ensure collaborative communication continues in the best interest of your child's ongoing growth and development.



Throughout the year, our team will complete ECSEL courses and receive ongoing support and feedback from ECSEL coaches. We will utilize ECSEL language, tools, and techniques in our classrooms with your children. We will continue to provide families with updates and additional information in the coming weeks.

We are so excited to see the impact that this program will have on children, classrooms, staff, families, and on the Ellis community!

