



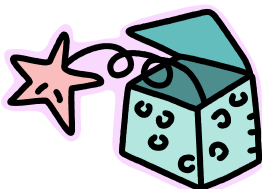
SJSU Lab Preschool Newsletter

February 2008

Welcome Back to Preschool!

A Note from Joy

Welcome back! I have really missed all of the children and their families. It was apparent that the children also missed their Lab Preschool when it was clean up time on the first day of school and they gave me a look that said, "No, I want to keep playing!" We have many exciting weeks ahead of us!



Theme Boxes

We have Theme Boxes which include everyday objects that

allow children the freedom to explore. We feel that a child's developmental growth is enhanced by this small step into the world of adults provided by this opportunity to touch, compare, sort, and manipulate "real things."

The first box we introduced last semester was our "Doctor Box." It was a wonderful addition to a discussion by two children and their teacher. Alex from our afternoon session had just gone to his routine pediatrician appointment and was telling us about his experience.

When the Doctor Box was introduced to the children they became engrossed in what doctors do for people and animals. Before we knew it, children donned white doctor coats, stethoscopes, and kit bags. We observed lots of cooperation, improvising, sharing, questioning, and vivid imaginations.

Other themed boxes we have are:
Hair Salon, Camping, Post Office, Beach Day, Birthday Party, Carnival, Construction, and Restaurant.

Reminder

March 24 – March 28

Spring Break

March 31

Cesar Chavez Day

Do's for Preschool

Do bring a full change of clothes in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. Leave this in your child's cubby, please.

Do keep personal toys, jewelry, and other play things at home it is hard to share personal toys.

Do wear play clothes we play hard, so wear things that can get messy.

Playing to Learn

Are you wondering what kind of learning is happening in our environment? Our curriculum is developmental, hands-on, sensory, and active. We have seen a lot of this type of play and learning in the Lab Preschool this past month.

In the Dramatic Play Center:

When I act out real-life or imaginary experiences...

I learn to make sense of and feel in control of my world.

In the Block Center:

When I put the blocks away on labeled shelves...

I learn to use size and shape concepts to match, sort, and classify objects in sets, which are important concepts in mathematical reasoning.

At the Sensory Table:

When I play beside my friend...

I develop skills in social conversation and interaction.

Outdoors:

When I play "Duck, Duck, Goose" or "Musical Chairs"...

I learn and enjoy some games with simple rules.

At Circle Time:

When I listen to my friends without interrupting...

I learn to be considerate of the rights of other children and to adapt my own needs to the needs of others in the group by sometimes taking turns or sharing attention.

In the Reading Corner:

When I answer questions about "what might happen next"...

I learn to comprehend the sequence of ideas in a story and to use reasoning to anticipate upcoming events.

In the Manipulation Center:

When I string beads of different colors and shapes...

I learn about the mathematical concept of patterns that I can copy, extend, or create.



Parent's Corner

"The Power of Play"
by David Elkind, Ph.D.

This is a wonderful book about how spontaneous, imaginative activities lead to happier, healthier children. The author assesses media impact, misunderstanding about how children learn, and gives descriptions on how children learn about math, reading, and science through play. My favorite section of this book was the chapter on Lighthearted Parenting. I've read it quite a few times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns.

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**If you need to reach me during class time, please call the kitchen phone. I do not answer my office phone while the children are present in the classroom.