



SJSU Lab Preschool Newsletter

March 2008

Parent Reminder

Parents, please remember to bring a change of clothes for your child to be kept in your child's cubby. With this warm weather, we have been elbow deep at the water table and knee deep in sand when we add water to our sand creations.



Circle Time Activities

Our student teachers have been very creative in sharing new songs and games with us as they lead circle time. We

thought you might want to know the words to some of our favorite songs.

Alligator Pie

Alligator Pie, Alligator Pie
If I don't get some I think I'm going to cry
Take away the green grass
Take away the sky
But please don't take away my alligator pie

Tiny Tim

I had a little turtle
His name was Tiny Tim
I put him in the bathtub to see if he could swim
He drank up all the water
He ate up all the soap
And now he's sick in bed with bubbles in his throat ...Hiccup
Bubble, bubble, bubble, hiccup
Bubble, bubble, bubble hiccup
Bubble, bubble, bubble, bubble, Hiccup
Bubble, bubble POP!!!

His mama called the doctor
The doctor called the nurse
The nurse called the lady with an alligator purse
She opened up her purse pulled out her magic wand
And abracadabra the bubbles they were gone!

Slippery Fish

Slippery fish, slippery fish, sliding through the water,
Slippery fish, slippery fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by an ...

Octopus, octopus, squiggling in the water
Octopus, octopus, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Tuna fish, tuna fish, flashing in the water,
Tuna fish, tuna fish, Gulp, Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Great white shark, great white shark,
lurking in the water,
Great white shark, great white shark, Gulp,
Gulp, Gulp!
Oh, no! It's been eaten by a ...

Humongous whale, humongous whale,
spouting in the water,
Humongous whale, humongous whale,
Gulp! ... Gulp! ... Gulp! ... BURP!
Pardon me!

Games

Find the Letter Game:

Ms. Chanchan made letter cards on ribbon for each child. The children then went out into the yard to find two letter matches that the teachers hid. We were excited to see how many letters the children knew, and thrilled when we saw how determined they became to find their matches.

Musical Squares:

Instead of musical chairs, we played musical squares. Our children sit on carpet squares for Circle Time and we placed the carpet squares throughout the room, put on some music, and every time she stopped the music, the children had to find a carpet square on which to stand. It was a twist on a classic game.

Parenting Tidbit:

Making Positive Requests

What's the difference between "Stop hurting the dog!" and "Pet the dog gently, like this."? One tells a child what NOT to do, and the other tells him what TO do. There are several reasons for forming your request positively. When we tell a child what to do, instead of what not to do, we

- ♣ Make compliance more likely as kids are less likely to become defensive because they think a restriction's coming before we've even given it.
- ♣ Make it easier for kids to comply because they actually know what to do (It honestly doesn't occur to kids that closing the door gently is the alternative to slamming it, that leaving shoes outside is the alternative to tracking mud in, that asking quietly is an alternative to shouting...).
- ♣ Teach kids the appropriate or desired behavior so they'll know it for the future.

- ♣ Save our "no" for the time we really need it. Kids can easily become "No Deaf" and tune out what we say when we always say it.
- ♣ Maintain a more positive, warm environment for both of us, and avoid chipping away at the relationship that is the source of our influence over kids.

It's easy to do, but you will have to figure out what you actually want, which may be harder than you think (so no wonder kids have trouble figuring it out!).

"Don't hit!" becomes "Tell him how mad you are!"

"Don't stand on the bike, you'll fall!" becomes "Sit down on the bike so you won't fall."

"Don't bump into him." becomes "Ride your bike around him if you need to go faster."

"Quit slamming the door!" becomes "Close the door gently, like this."

"No bike riding without shoes becomes "Shoes on to ride the bike."

"That is NOT OK!" becomes "Rocks stay on the ground."

You'll feel better when you say it, your child will feel better when he hears it, and you'll be teaching him (by modeling, the most powerful teaching tool) how to speak positively with you, too.

Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Joy Foster, Preschool Lab Instructor

jfoster.sjsu@sbcglobal.net

924-3727 office

924-3726 **kitchen

**If you need to get in touch with me during class time, please call the kitchen phone.

