

Discovery Zone Gazette

Infants Splish Splash!!

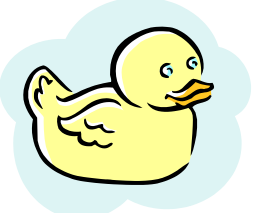
During the month of April the infants learning about ducks. We read Webster J. Duck and Little Quack Loves Colors. We sang songs and finger plays such as "Five Little Ducks" and "Birds in the Spring". For the infants cognitive and physical play we made Duck footprints and practiced walking like a duck, or

Easter, and sang "Five Little Easter Eggs". For their cognitive development we stamped their palms inside an Easter basket which they all enjoyed very much. Next we learned about the Easter Bunny. We made bunny foot and palm prints to create different size and shape bunnies, which also worked on their sense of touch. We read the book My First Easter and read "Little Rabbit Action Poem". For their physical and social play we encouraged them to hop like bunnies and helped guide them if needed. The younger ones enjoyed watching some of the older ones, who just couldn't stop hopping!



played around the room and also practiced their physical play by using their fingers to make raining motions.

During May we will learn about May flowers, Mother's Day, Rainbows and Bumblebees. We would like to wish Austin a Happy first birthday and congratulates to Drew and Tyler on moving to toddler land! We would also like to welcome, Jack, TJ and their families to the room. We will be going outside now that the weather is nice so please bring in spray sunscreen for your children! Thank you and Happy Mother's Day to all! :)



younger infants, reaching for the duck. For the next week we started our Easter theme. The infants loved learning about eggs, especially the older infants practicing their physical play by rolling the plastic eggs back and forth to one another, which is similar to most of their favorite toy, a ball. We read Clifford's First

Discovery Zone Learning Center

April 2011

Important Dates:

- 4/29- green summer/fall plans form due
- 5/9- Special
- 5/16-5/20-Toddler Conferences
- 5/23-5/27- Pre-school A Conferences
- 5/31, 6/1, 6/8-6/10 - Preschool A Conferences
- 5/30-CLOSED

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April Showers Bring Preschool A More Knowledge!

April was a great month for Preschool A. They started the month off with two weeks of dinosaurs, one of their favorites! The first week preschoolers learned about plant and meat eaters

(carnivore and herbivores) as well as fossils and archeologists. The children did well with our dinosaur teeth project, where they had to choose a dino head and the type of teeth that would go with either a meat or plant eater. This project worked on fine motor and recognition skills. Their favorite center choice was the dinosaur dig. The preschoolers were given archeologist tools, such as paint brushes and spoons, to dig up hidden objects in a bucket of sand.

During the second week of dinosaurs the children learned about three different dinosaurs; T-Rex, Brontosaurus and Stegosaurus. During circle time preschool A learned special facts about each one and had to decide if they were plant or meat eaters and why. The children worked on their creative thinking skills and knowledge of dinosaurs when they created a story about dinosaurs. To work on creative art and large motor skills the children created dinosaur feet to tromp around in. Being "archeologists" during another center choice, was a real hit. Each child was given treasure stones to hammer



and chisel and explore what they found inside. Once they found what was inside they had to identify it.

After dinosaurs we moved onto an Easter theme. Preschool A learned about the various animals that grow in eggs and what the center of an egg was called. The children died eggs which was messy but fun. During this process it was discussed how to mix and create other colors. At snack that day the kids were allowed to try a hard boiled egg and there was surprisingly a lot of kids who like them. The big finale of our week was the egg hunt on Friday. Each child had to find four eggs on the playground. They were so excited to practice their egg hunting before the real Easter Bunny came.

To wrap up our month we learned about April Showers.



The water cycle was learned and explained, talking about evaporation. To help preschoolers understand this concept a picture paste project for a visual explanation was made. After rain, comes sun and then a rainbow! Preschool A learned how rainbows were formed and did a project, using fine motor and scientific inquiry. A tear shaped crystal was used as a raindrop to hold up to the sun and see how rainbows were made all over the

classroom. Fine motor skills and color recognition was used when putting pieces of yarn on a rainbow pattern.

We would like to wish Nathan and Brandon a happy birthday, both turned five this month! There are many of our older kids who visited kindergarten recently and they are very excited to be moving up! With the upcoming month we will be welcoming two new friends! We would like to welcome Aidan, Jonathan and their families to our classroom. Preschoolers would also like to welcome Ms. Sarah and a few friends that started a month ago, Isabella and Heather!

We'll be starting off May with flowers and fairy tales, and finishing up with transportation and space.



Toddlers Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!!

The Toddler Room would like to congratulate Connor on starting potty training! We would also like to wish Tiernan a happy birthday and wish Aidan and his family the best as they move to Preschool A. We would like to welcome Drew, Tyler and their families to our classroom as they start to transition and move over.

The first week of April the toddlers dud into the theme "Gardens". The toddlers used their



matching skills to match vegetables. They observed real live night crawlers in the sensory table and followed directions in making a delicious snack - dirt pudding.

The second week of April, the children loved to play in the "dirt and mud". Toddlers used their large motor skills to jump over "mud puddles", use creativity in making muddy hand and foot prints and followed directions when planting flowers.

The third week in April, the children used their counting skills for Bunny Counters and Number Eggs. They

enjoyed dyeing Easter eggs and loved going on an egg hunt.

The last week of April the children learned about Earth.

They made a bird feeder out of recycled soda bottles, used large motor skills to hump over garbage and matched items that had to do with recycling.

The month of May the toddlers will be learning about Nursery rhymes, boats, Mothers Day and the Alphabet.



Kindergartener's Wiggle into April and Hop Right Out!

During the month of April, the Kindergarten class explored "Changes Around Us" and began using their scientific reasoning skills to learn all about the world around them.

The first week of April, the students learned about Insects & Spiders. Ants, worms, ladybugs, and spiders were the focus of the week, with a large jar full of earthworms and dirt being the focal point of the science table.

The classroom observed how the earthworms tunneled through the dirt, and were able to learn how worms moved. Did you know that earthworms do not have eyes or ears? During the week, the students also learned about ladybugs and discovered that there's a HUGE difference between a baby ladybug and a full grown adult. Using ladybug templates, kindergartners honed their fine motor skills as they



weaved yarn through spots on the ladybug's back. The classroom also learned about honeybees and made their own honeycomb using egg cartons, paint, and their imaginations.

The second week of April, the classroom got their hands dirty as they learned about plants and how they grow. Students discussed and discovered the different parts of a plant as they made collages of plant parts and dissected growing plants in the science table. The students also planted their own flowers in their own flower pots, discussing the different steps required to successfully grow a garden, and picking out their own seeds as they buried them in the dirt. Lastly, the children used their mastery of sorting skills to sort different types of plant seeds and count out how many of each were in front of them.

After a week of vacation from school, the Kindergarten class 'jumped' right back into the Changes theme with a week-long study on frogs & tadpoles. Welcoming three

large bullfrog tadpoles into the science center, the class worked together to observe the tadpoles and take notes on their behavior.

The class decided to act like frog themselves during the week, and played leapfrog to stretch out their large muscles and learn how frogs travel. The week also held some illustration and vocabulary exercises as each Kindergartner completed their own book on the life cycle of a frog. The class looks forward to watching the big changes in store for their three tadpole friends. Make sure to ask your Kindergarten students all about it, they're sure to be experts on the subject!

Next month, the theme of Exploration will be studied with weeks full of adventures including excavating dinosaur bones, traveling into outer space and camping in the wilderness!



Interesting Information

Tips on Helping Your Child Learn to Cooperate

Cooperation is the ability to balance one's own needs with someone else's. We often think of cooperation as children doing what adults want. That is compliance. True cooperation means a joint effort—a give and take that is mutually satisfying. To develop a cooperative spirit in children, we need to help them understand how our requests and rules are good for everyone.

Following are examples of ways that cooperativeness grows across the first three years of life:

- A 3-month-old wakes and begins to cry for milk. His mother, who is just putting the last dish in the dishwasher, says, "I'll be with you in one minute, honey. I know you're hungry." The baby quiets a bit and sucks on his fingers. This baby is learning that while he may sometimes need to wait a bit, his needs are important and will be met.
- A 14-month-old happily drops socks and t-shirts from one laundry basket into the other. His grandmother says, "Thank you for helping me sort the laundry. Why don't you come while I put it in the washing machine? I'll lift you up so you can press the button. Then we'll go for a walk." This young toddler is learning that part of being in a family is working together to complete daily chores.

Two 30-month-olds reach for the same bright red shovel in the sand box. One grabs, the other grabs. Tears follow, while each assures the other: "Mine!" One child's father steps in and gently separates the two, handing a red shovel to one and a plastic bulldozer to the other. He shows them how one can bulldoze a pile of dirt, which the other can shovel into a bucket. These children are learning how to resolve conflict, cope with disappointment, and build relationships through cooperative play.

Below are ways you can help your child experience the rewards and develop the skill of cooperating.

Take turns. Between 6 and 9 months, babies can begin to engage in back-and-forth interactions. They also learn to imitate. This is a great time to encourage turn-taking as you play with your baby. When you place a block in the bucket, give him time to copy you. Take turns putting objects in the bucket and dumping them out. As he gets older, take turns putting pieces in the puzzle, or shapes in the shape-sorter. When it's time to clean up, make a game of taking turns placing toys back on the shelf. These experiences are opportunities for him to feel the pleasure of accomplishing something as a team.

Explain your reasons for limits and requests. At three years old, most children use and understand language well enough to handle simple explanations. Point out how rules benefit the whole family. "We all help clean up. Then we don't lose our toys and we can find them again." "When you help me put away the laundry, I finish quicker and then we can play."

Take time to problem-solve. You can help your older two- and three-year-olds come up with solutions to everyday dilemmas and encourage cooperation at the same time. Here are steps to try to help you teach problem-solving skills to your child:

- State the problem. "You want to draw on the wall but mommy says no."
- Ask a question. "Where else could you draw?"
- Try a solution. Offer two options, both of which are acceptable to you—perhaps either paper or a cardboard box. If she insists she wants to draw on the refrigerator, set a limit. "I'll put the crayons away until we agree on a place to draw."

Then re-direct. Most young children need help finding acceptable ways they can channel their desires. "You can

put magnetic letters on the refrigerator."

Do chores together starting at an early age. Let your child grow up experiencing the benefits of cooperation. Together you can set the table, clean up toys, or wash the car. Point out the advantages of cooperating. "Look how fast we set the table. Now we have time to read a book before dinner." "Boy was it fun to wash the car with you. You are a great scrubber! Look how bright and shiny you made our car!"

Give specific praise for cooperative efforts. Point out why and how their contribution was important. This helps them recognize and value their skills. "You picked out all the white socks and put them together. That helped me finish the laundry quicker. Now we have more time to play." "You put the books away on the shelf. Now it's easier to choose one. Would you like me to read to you?"

Offer suggestions, not commands. Suggestions elicit cooperation. Commands often evoke resistance. "It is cold so you will need to wear a hat. Would you like help putting it on, or do you want to do it yourself?" This is likely to bring about a better response than saying, "Put on your hat."

Give your child choices while maintaining the rules. "Teeth need to be brushed at bedtime. Do you want to do it before we read books or after?" Of course, they almost always choose to do it after, but they're less likely to protest and the rule is still adhered to. Offering choices shows your child respect, and respect creates a sense of collaboration.



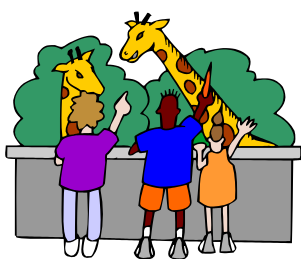
Center News

- If your child is going to be out or late for the day, please call/email the center to update us.
- Please turn in your summer/fall plans ASAP!
- Please change your children's extra clothes to match the season.
- Reminder: If your child has a temperature of 101 or higher/ vomiting/diarrhea they need to stay home and rest for 24 hours.
- DZLC is continuing the major maintenance plans. The preschool step will be fixed soon, along with the fence and a few other things that old man winter took down!
- Please turn in your green Summer/ Fall changes form ASAP!

Preschool B Sat on a Wall

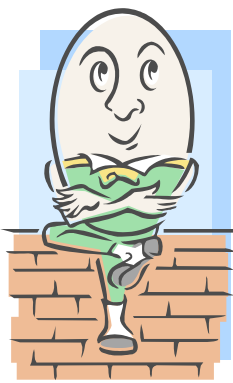
To start off the month of April, Preschool B learned about wonderful works of weather! The week included learning songs such as "My Raincoat" as well as "Five Little Raindrops". All of the children were engaged in conversations such as talking about what they knew about weather and how to dress in different types of weather. To exercise their science and sensory skills they painted using shaving cream for tactile exploration and used straws to blow "wind" onto different objects like a cotton ball, pom-pom, and a feather through a block maze. To work on fine motor skills, the preschoolers traced and cut out their own weather shapes such as rain drops, clouds, and suns. For practice with math, they chose a kite and color/place that many bows on the string of the kite.

Zoo Animals was a big hit with Preschool B! During circle, the children learned rhymes about alligators, lions, and monkeys! The preschoolers enjoyed reading Tiger Can't Sleep and Giraffe's Can't Dance. The preschoolers got wet and wild during water table play, where they had to



see how many toy zoo animals could fit on an "island" before it would sink! The children worked in pairs to measure themselves using giraffe cutouts and played a matching game using animals and their shadows. Their favorite was role-playing a zoo keeper, as well as pretend to walk like all the different types of zoo animals they loved!

The next week was full of reciting and rhyming while learning about nursery rhymes. Each day of the week was devoted to a different nursery rhyme, such as Hey, Diddle Diddle, Humpty Dumpty, Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, Jack Be Nimble, and The

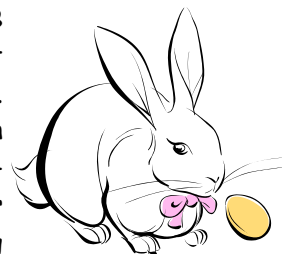


Muffin Man. Preschoolers worked on recalling a rhyme when they colored a picture of a dish and a spoon and used their imagination to tell me where they went. They enjoyed improving their spatial awareness skills by building a wall for Humpty Dumpty to fall off of, as well as using their gross motor muscles to be like Jack and jump over a candle stick. They loved pretending to be a muffin man and using fine motor skills to trace, cut, and decorate their own muffin as well as backing chocolate chip and blueberry muffins for snack time!

Easter spirit was in the air and all of Preschool B was hoppin' around! They enjoyed reading The Biggest Easter Basket Ever, Happy Easter Mouse, and Jack & The Jellybean Stalk! During circle, the children got to hop like bunnies when they heard two words that rhymed and they worked on their science skills by observing a raw egg in vinegar. Each day they looked at the egg and talked about what had happened to it. Again, they were back at the sensory table working on their coordination skills and color recognition by using a slotted spoon to pick up an one egg at a time and place it in the

right colored bucket! They worked together on letter formation in "The Jellybean Scene" by using jellybeans to form letters. The preschoolers got crazy during their egg hunt and enjoyed coloring eggs as well as a treat from the Easter Bunny - egg salad and carrots! Yum!

Closing out the month of April, Preschool B learned about April Showers. The children got to replicate thunder and lightning using aluminum pans and pencils as well as singing "I'm A Little Umbrella". The preschoolers also got to make rain bottles to explore their senses. Using water bottles, water that was tinted blue and filled with blue and silver items such as glitter and sequins to make a rainy sight! They started recognizing rhyming words when it started raining rhymes! They played a game where they matched words on rain drops to the proper umbrella endings!



Next month, Preschool B is going to kick it off learning about May showers! Also, transportation, dinosaurs & gardens!