

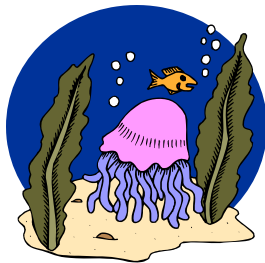


# Discovery Zone Gazette

## Toddler 2 Is Under the Sea

Over the summer, Toddler 2 started off with a long theme about the Ocean. Throughout the theme, the children engaged in several art projects involving making sea creatures and things you might find on a beach. The children

really enjoyed making the jellyfish that were displayed on the bulletin board.



Later in the summer the class did a theme on camping. The children enjoyed activities which

enhanced their math skills, such as counting logs and marshmallows. They also did several art projects involving painting as they made their own tents and campfires. The Rain Forest followed the theme on camping in which the children enjoyed learning about the different types of animals and other life in the rain forest.

To finish off the summer, Toddler 2 learned about shapes. The children spent the week learning all about the different kinds of shapes there are and what everyday objects have that shape. The children

worked on their motor development as they did many activities involving fine and gross motor. By the end of the week, the children really knew their shapes.

As the summer comes to an end, we welcome back Toddler 2's head teacher Jane! Jane had a very fun filled summer spending time with family. We also welcome a few new children and families to our class: Brooke B., Jenna L., Kalyani T., and Camden M. We're very excited to have these children in our classroom and to watch them grow!

## Discovery Zone Learning Center

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ 10/7 Preschool Field Trip to Hurst Farm
- ☺ 10/11 & 10/12 Fun Days for School Agers
- ☺ 10/20 Toddler Field Trip to Hurst Farm
- ☺ 10/21 We Got Rhythm will entertain the children with a movement and movement experience

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## Preschool 11 Belongs in a Zoo

To start off the month of August, Preschool 11 enjoyed a theme on bugs. During this week, the children learned about several different types of bugs. The children did a variety of activities involving fine motor skills,

such as coloring bug pictures, practicing writing and tracing the names of different types of bugs. At circle time, the class sang songs about bugs and played a creative game called "Bug-go" which the children really enjoyed.

During the second week of August, Preschool 11 did a theme on the zoo. During circle



## Preschool 11 Continued

time, the children sang many songs about animals you might find at a zoo. They also played a game of charades in which the children had to guess which animal they saw their friend acting out. Projects this week included making zoo animals with paper bags and paper plates. All of our artwork can be found on the classroom bulletin board.

Towards the end of the month, Preschoolers focused on the farm. During this week, the children learned all about the animals and

things you might see on a farm. A class favorite book was "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." The children also worked on math skills as they counted the spots on cows. To add to one of our bulletin boards, the children made their own pigs, sheep and roosters.

To finish off the month, the children learned all about safety. Circle time discussions focused on ways to keep safe. Throughout the week, the children learned about water safety, street safety, and fire safety. They practiced writing

their names and emergency numbers and learned that it is important to know that information. Art projects this week consisted of making traffic lights, police badges, fire trucks and life preservers. To build gross motor skills, the children also played the red-light-green-light game and practiced the stop, drop and roll routine. The children learned a lot about basic safety.

## Aloha from Preschool 10

August was a busy month for Preschool 10, still traveling around the world, the class went to China, Antarctica, Hawaii and Wild West. Preschoolers an exciting trip around the world this summer and were sad for it to come to an end!

First the visited China. The children had fun learning Chinese and examining Chinese writing. The children explored China through different books and activities. The children particularly enjoyed creative expression while making pandas and dragons. The children developed dramatic skills as they wore the masks around the class.

Next, Preschool 10 went to Antarctica and boy was it cold! The children used critical thinking skills to determine what articles of clothing would be appropriate for a cold climate. Preschoolers built self help skills as they tried the clothes

on. The class discussed the difference between birds and penguins then practiced fine motor skills as they created penguins and walruses for display.

Next, Preschool 10 moved from the freezing cold back into the sun of Hawaii!. There, the children had a luau in dramatic play.

The children made lei necklaces and grass skirts. The children loved playing with



them and pretending they were in Hawaii!. Also, Preschoolers got to

taste test pineapples which was a yummy treat that everyone enjoyed!

Our last stop on the summer journey around the world was the Wild West. There, Preschoolers pretended to be cowgirls and cowboys. The children learned how to make a camp fire and pretended to make their own in the sensory table with tissue paper and sticks. Of course many discussions were had about keeping safe around the camp fire. The children made cowgirl and boy hats and enjoyed wearing them throughout the day. The Wild West was a lot of fun!

Best wishes to all our friends who have moved on to Kindergarten. Preschool 10 is happy to welcome Shaila C., Madison S. and their families to our class. We had a wonderful summer and are ready to start the new school year with many exciting things to learn about!

# Preschool 12 Cooks Out

Preschool 12 started the month of August learning about picnics and barbecues.

During the first week, Preschool 12 practiced sorting skills by categorizing several picnic items. The children then learned more rhyming words while singing

the song, "Ants Go Marching" and practiced counting skills as well. Next, Preschoolers pretended to have a barbecue. The children rolled a die, identified the number, and removed that many grilled food items from the "grill" and place them on paper plates. Hot dogs were the favorite food. The last circle time activity for the week was a science activity. The children practiced critical thinking skills when they had to "Guess What's Inside the Bag." Then once they guessed it was a watermelon, the class enjoyed tasting and describing the treat. To build fine motor dexterity skills, the children first rolled dice, identified numbers and stamped that many ants on a pants cutouts.

Then they made checkered picnic tablecloths by weaving white strips of paper through colored strips. Next, the children colored watermelon slices cutouts and rolled a die and glued that many watermelon seeds to it. During sprinkler days, the children practiced self-help skills by putting on bathing suits, and then getting dressed again all by themselves. For center choice activities, Preschool 12 practiced more math. This time the children were engaged in learning one-to-one correspondence as they counted mini crackers and placed a black pompom one by one on each cracker. Then the class played, "Where's the Watermelon Seed?" This time the children practiced critical thinking skills by guessing which cup (numbered 1 to 5) had the watermelon seed under it.

During the second week, Preschool 12 learned all about birds. The class used their sense of hearing while listening to a bird clock at circle time. The children were able to decipher the owl and woodpecker. Gross motor skills were practiced while doing the motions to the song, "I Saw an Egg in the Nest Today." Next, Preschoolers practiced



math skills by guessing, "How many taps did the woodpecker make?" on the tree on the flannel board. Then the children practiced rhyming along with hand motions to the "Little Bluebirds" poem. The class practiced more math skills as they rolled a die to determine how many Cheerios to feed the parrot (saving some for themselves of course!)

The children had a chance for creative expression as they painted with feathers. The children learned about nests as they collected leaves, grass and other items from nature to make their own nests. Next, Preschool 12 made two bluebird finger puppets and sang, "Bluebird, Bluebird Through My Window." The class ended project activities for the week by painting parrot cutouts and gluing feathers onto them.

For our center choice activities for the week we practiced our visual discrimination skills by playing, "Color Match Bird Game." In the science center the children identified the bird cycle order then colored booklets. In the math center the children played, "Bird Shape Puzzle" where we reached into a bag, pulled out a bird card in the shape of either a circle, triangle, rectangle or square, identified the shape, and placed it on the matching bird picture.

To end the week, in the math center the class played, "Birds Like Worms." The children practiced number identification and counting skills as they took turns turning over worm cards and placing that many "worm" clothespins into egg carton homes.

The following week, Preschool 12 enjoyed a theme on Bears. Preschool 12 began the week practicing gross motor skills during circle time as they followed directions to the poem, "Teddy Bear, Teddy Bear Turn Around." Then the children used seriating skills as they sorted small, medium and large bears. Then, on the flannel board Preschool 12 practiced positional words, over, under and through, as well as gross motor skills by acting out the story, We're Going on a Bear Hunt. Lastly, the children graphed different colored bears by placing them in the correct

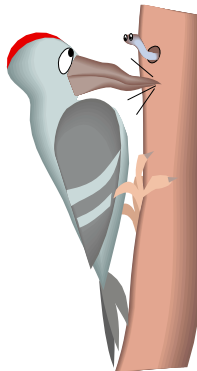
column on a chart. The children enjoyed creative expression as they made big brown and yellow bears. Then they made, "Teddy in My Pocket" after reading, A Pocket for Corduroy. Some center choice activities included matching teddy bears to different colored manipulative block patterns located in our math center. Then in the dramatic play center the children practiced social and pretend skills, as they became doctors in a Teddy Bear Clinic. The children enjoyed fixing boo-boos with real bandaids. The children practiced more social skills in the Teddy Bear Store. They children "bought" a bear from the "store attendant" with teddy bear money. In the block center, the children built houses for their bears, and in the math center they played a game called, "Teddy Bear Shape Match Up."

The last week of the month was a Hawaiian Theme. The children began the week by learning the word "Aloha" and what it meant. The class enjoyed listening to Hawaiian music while practicing gross motor skills while dancing the hula in grass skirts and Hawaiian leis. Preschool 12 then cut open a coconut and a pineapple and compared and contrasted the differences between the two. Then we had a taste testing and graphed which fruit we liked the best; the pineapple was the favorite. The class made beautiful Hawaiian leis, Hawaiian grass skirts, and a homemade paper mache volcano. The children also made delicious Volcano Fruit Punch and practiced math skills by measuring and pouring the ingredients into a punch bowl. During center choice activities, Preschoolers dressed like Hawaiian dancers in dramatic play and pretended they were hula dancers. They also learned how to do the "Luau Limbo." Next, the class watched the volcano erupt and learned what lava is.

Finally, Preschoolers were treated to an End of the Summer Celebration! There was a bubble machine, inflatable waterslide, and a yummy BBQ lunch. It was a beautiful day to end the summer season at DZLC.

Lastly, Preschool 12 friends would like to welcome Ella P. and family into our classroom.

Please note that now that the weather is changing, we are switching back to our normal schedule with our curriculum starting at 9 a.m. Please make every effort to arrive ahead of time so your child may receive the benefits of the program.



## Toddler 3 Shapes Up with Sports

Toddler 3 began the month of August with a week theme on, "Sports." Children enhanced their eye and hand coordination with a javelin throw. Fine motor skills were improved upon when the children made their own soccer balls and cardboard shoes. Gross motor skills were enhanced through an obstacle course and our weekly Sprinkler Day as well.

For the second week of August, toddlers learned all about what it means to be a friend during "Friendship" week. At circle time, the children enjoyed several activities such as a ball and shoe match game. Toddler 3 also worked on their sign language skills while



singing a classroom favorite, "The More We Get Together." Toddlers enjoyed a sensory experience when they made a friendship wreath. Social and emotional development was enhanced when the children made friendship art in pairs. The children learned how to work together through this activity to create their work of art. Fine motor and creativity were worked on when the classroom collectively put together a friendship mural. The finished product came out amazing!

For the third week of August, the children explored the world of "Camping." At circle time, the children learned various songs pertaining to camping such as, "Teddy Bear Picnic," "Open Shut Them" and "Camping We Will Go." Fine motor skills were enhanced when the toddlers made nature wreaths, star gazers and a camp fire. Children

enjoyed a sensory experience as well when they made fingerprint lightning bugs.

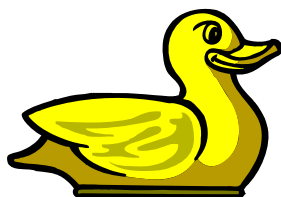
Toddler 3 finished out the month of August with a week theme on, "Shapes." Shape recognition was enhanced when the children went on a shape hunt and participated in a shape match. Spatial awareness was developed when toddlers played a game of, "Pin the Eyes on the Frog." Fine motor skills and shape recognition were enhanced throughout this week through circle prints, pizza creations, ice cream creations and a shape collage. Spatial awareness was again enhanced when toddlers created their own, "Sally the Square."

Toddler 3 is excited to begin work on our Alphabet Book. The sign up sheet is located by the sign in sheet in the classroom. We can't wait to see the finished result and begin our work on phonemic awareness.

## Infants are Just Ducky

The infant room would like to give a warm welcome to our new friends Mark, Tristan and their families!

During the month of August the infant room focused on picnics for the theme. The babies finger painted their own kites to fly during the picnic. The infants glued yellow



feathers onto ducks that swam in the pond. Lastly, using their hand prints, the babies all contributed to make a campfire.

For language and communication development the infants looked at books, read nursery rhymes, helped turn the pages, played patty cake, and made sounds to practice producing babbling sounds. As of cognitive development the babies explored balls to experience cause and effect, engaged in intentional be-

haviors by bringing over objects, clapping the cups together, moving the ducky to obtain a desired effect, and engaging in intentional behavior by finding a desired toy. For social and emotional development the infant room stacked rings, played hide and seek, rolled around, and peekaboo. Lastly, for physical development we practiced clapping, stepping up, filling and dumping the bucket, and developing a grasp by pulling toys.

## Toddler 1 Loves Their Pets

August was a month full of activity and the children were able to express themselves through music and movement. The children created new dance moves as they played different songs like the "Hokey Pokey" and "London Bridge." The children also enjoyed using the instruments to play along with CD's. They explored peer interaction as they attempted to teach each other the different dance moves. Toddlers worked on math skills by counting how many strings on guitars. To finish the week, the children enhanced their language and gross motor skills by reading My Daddy is a Pretzel and doing the yoga stands.

For the second week of August, Toddler 1 concentrated on pets and what they mean to families. The children discussed the appropriate way of taking care of them. The children explored with spatial awareness as they created their own pets by putting different

body parts together. Toddlers also enhanced language development as they looked at books that had pictures of pets or animals and named them. We wanted to create a pet friendly environment so we had the children bring in a special plush that resembled a pet they might have or wanted to have. We encourage the children to talk and tell us about them.

To end the month, Toddler 1 spent two weeks talking about the ocean and the different animals that live in it. The children experimented with science as they mixed hair gel and food coloring to make



different colored jelly fish. The children enjoyed the sensory table as they dove into the ocean and played with fish, sharks and plants. The children enjoyed books such as What's a Jellyfish? and Silly Octopus. To further explore the ocean, the class briefly talked about the different ways that we can keep it clean and why that's so important for the ocean animals.

To end the summer we had our first summer barbecue. We want to thank all of our parents for attending this event. The children enjoyed a day of playing in the sprinkler, tattoos, a bubble machine and a yummy picnic lunch. We hope to see every one next year! Toddler wants to welcome Zoey K., Grace K., Grace W. and Khris M. For the month of September, Toddler 1 will work on strengthening bonds with each other as we introduce a week on emotions and family and two weeks on dinosaurs, always a favorite in our room.

## Center News

Thank you to all who attended the End of Summer Celebrations. The children enjoyed all the fun activities planned by DZLC and the staff enjoyed all the smiles. We hope to make these celebrations an annual event!

Fall is here and cool mornings are as well. Please make sure your child's cubby is packed with extra clothes that are appropriate for this time of year. We always suggest keeping a sweatshirt or light jacket in your child's cubby to accommodate unexpected chilly fall weather.

DZLC is happy to announce our Fall Field Trips. Toddler classrooms will head to Hurst Farm on 10/5 and Preschool classrooms will go on 10/7. There, the children will enjoy a hayride, picking turnips, feeding oxen and goats, pumpkin picking, cider and cookies. Permission slips are out now! Don't forget that tuition is due weekly on Monday mornings. Payments received after 8am Wednesday morning will be subject to a \$20 late fee.

DZLC is in need of extra clothes for children who have soiled theirs and do not have extra. If anyone has extra clothes their child has outgrown and would like to donate, please give them to Christine. Please note that we are in particular need of pants. Please only donate clothes that are for Toddlers and Preschoolers. Thank-you!

