

Yellow Afternoon Newsletter-April

Dates for your Calendar

Conference Dates-4/15,/4/21,4/27. No School these days. I am looking forward to meeting with parents, learning from you about your child, and sharing growth from the classroom.

April 10-Judson Fundraiser

May 5-Bus field trip to Dodge Farm. Closer to the trip, we will have a lottery for parent volunteers.

March Favorites

Woodshop—pounding nails!

Lots of 3D sculptures-gluing wood, painting birdhouses

Blowing bubbles with a friend—dish soap in pie tins with straws. Lots of fun and very calming.

Song-A Hunting We Will Go—Kids like rhyming the various animals

Puddle play—lots of digging. Wheelbarrows are a big hit and great for strength and balance.

Clay-rolling balls, snakes, texturing a tile

March Learning

Continuing rhyming, numerals 1-5, counting

More partner work during small group time—working together

We'll try large group without our mats with names on them

Putting on spring jackets independently

What's Coming Up in April?

Spring Theme—Flowers, Rain, and Wind. We'll sing some spring songs, observe plants and grow some grass, read a windy story (with a fan turned on). Trikes on the playground. Check in sticks with first name (picture on back for help).

A note about fine motor skills-Throughout the year we help children develop strength and control of the muscles in their fingers. This is a preparation for writing letters in kindergarten. You may want to offer fun activities at home that promote this. Here are a few:

Playdough with tools, cutters. Roll balls and snakes. Cut snakes with scissors.

Puzzles; Drawing-help your child to hold pencils and crayons with fingers rather than a fist.

Lacing a shoe (tying shoes happens a little later when fingers are stronger); stringing beads.

Using tongs to pick up any small object. If your tongs are plastic, you even try them in the bath.

Dressing dolls; building legos or any toy that requires some strength and precision to push together.

Fastening buttons, snaps, zippers.

Eating—spreading peanut butter or jellies; cutting bananas or sandwiches (try a small plastic knife); picking up small foods like cheerios;

Fingerplays and songs with hand motions—Eensy, Weensy Spider, Where is Thumbkin

Putting small lids on containers. If plastic, use in the tub for filling and emptying. Let your child open and close the toothpaste.

Scissors-snip strips, cut out pictures in magazines or newspaper. Cut out shapes.

Playdough Recipe

This is the playdough I make for the classroom. This recipe makes a grapefruit size ball.

1 C. flour

_ C. salt

2 tsp. Cream of tartar

1 T. cooking oil

1 C. water

Optional-food coloring, extracts (for a nice smell), can use a package of kool-aid w/o the sugar

Combine dry ingredients in large pan. Mix. Add water, oil, and any optional ingredients. Cook over medium heat and stir constantly until mixture sticks together to form a ball and is not sticky. Remove from pan and cool. Knead well when cool. Store in airtight container.

As always, do not hesitate to call me at school if there is anything you want to talk about. Thanks! -Barb