

Play, Play, Play!

First of all, I want to talk about the teaching conference Katie, Tara, and I recently attended. The focus was on the importance of play - unstructured, non-worksheet kind of play. More and more research is showing that playing and being in relationships with others is far more beneficial than crammed preschool schedules with rapid transitions throughout the day. But if kindergarten is now being referred to as "the new first grade", then preschool has to take on the role of the "new kindergarten",

right? I've found myself in this mindset. Studies are showing, though, that a lot of the social-emotional skills involved in play are very much linked to learning. For example, if preschoolers are building a fort, they are using more cognitive skills than they would learning at a table. They're using math skills, physics measurement, engineering, and the all important "getting along" skills. Katie and Tara are discovering how valuable this playtime is with friends and are allowing the kids more uninterrupted stretches of time to engage in this fantasy play. This year's group of preschoolers are especially good at imaginative play and are amazingly skilled at listening to one another, compromising with each other, and learning from each other. We just want you to know that it is our priority to continually grow and improve as teachers and as a school. Because of this, you may notice slight changes here and there, such as less structured art projects allowing the kids to really get creative.



Moving on to our Green Month, the kids will learn all about bugs, make their own personal cars/airplanes out of banana boxes, grow their own sunflowers, and learn about simple machines. We are so excited that Miss Rachel is back this week and every Thursday through the end of the year. It's hard to believe we only have a few months left of school. Our end of the year party will again be held at Portman's Community Center in Lakeside - the date is yet to be determined. Lastly, we have a few preschool openings for next school year. Please spread the news! I just found out that several websites had my old cell number. Ugh!

April 2016



Snack outside!

Weekly Themes & Letters of the Week

April: Green Month

No more letters of the week.

4/4 - 4/8 Bug Week

4/11 - 4/15 Things That Go (Transportation Week)

4/18 - 4/22 Garden Week (Earth Week)

4/25 - 4/29 Machine Week

