



Upcoming Events

Preschool Valentine Celebrations

Wednesday, Feb. 14 and
Thursday, Feb. 15

All Welcome

Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

February 16, 2018
No Preschool

President's Day

February 19, 2018
No Preschool

Preschool Play Dough

We made play dough at preschool and then let the kids take a stab at inventing their own recipe. Here's the real one:

In a medium-large saucepan whisk together
2 cups flour
1 cup salt
4 tsp. cream of tartar

In a large cup or small bowl, mix
2 cups water
food color, liquid watercolor or Kool-aid
2 1/2 TBS vegetable oil

Stir liquid ingredients into dry ingredients and stir over medium-high heat, pressing out lumps with spoon, until mixture resembles mashed potatoes. Remove from heat, cool and knead.

Letter from the teachers:

Hello Everyone,

We've been back just two weeks from winter break as I write this but it seems like much longer. Most of the kids hit the ground running; some of us older folks were a bit slower to hit our stride. We've enjoyed making play dough, invention centers, and sewing projects along with all the usual preschool centers. We work hard to provide engaging activities. Some bomb and some are highly successful. No matter how compelling the activity though, there will come a moment when one or three or five children will ask us, "When is the climbing room going to be open?" And once it opens, it's a sure bet that a large part of the class will spend a good bit of time playing there.

Sometimes parents tell me they're concerned that their child just wants to play. Part of JCP philosophy is that children learn a great deal through play and that it's worth paying attention to. Here are just a few of the benefits children derive from free play:

*Play allows children to represent and consolidate their experiences. They will often play at doing real world tasks like cooking and shopping and will take on different family roles. Many experts think play helps children deal with common life events such as the birth of a new sibling, the death of a pet, or an illness in the family. We once had a student whose cabin had been hit by a mudslide while he was there and for many weeks he played "911" every preschool day until he worked through it and eventually moved onto other subjects.

*Play allows children a safe way to explore fears and to experiment with the need to feel powerful. Preschool children know that they are relatively powerless and dependent; play gives them an avenue to be in charge, to be invincible, to be superheroes or bad guys or doctors or moms. It allows them to try on the skills and competencies they imagine adults have and which they hope to assume in the world one day.



*Children learn a lot about themselves and others through socio-dramatic play. This learning is not always comfortable or easy. It creates cognitive dissonance when another child's version of how to play doctor or princess is not the same as yours. Since preschool children imagine that everyone sees the world as they do, evidence that this is not the case helps them learn perspective, they begin to see things from another's point of view. And if they're motivated to keep the play going, it can help them learn negotiation skills and impulse control too.

* Construction play, in which children build with blocks or loose parts, teaches children problem-solving, persistence, and the foundation for concepts like stability, balance, and symmetry even if they can't yet articulate those concepts.

In short, learning is imbedded in play. It's not the only kind of learning but it's a valuable kind. It has it's problems; it can be loud, messy, and chaotic, especially when a large number of children are involved. Next time we'll talk about some play problems and solutions.

Until then, hope to see you around preschool,
Mary, Linda and Hosanna

Looking Back

Preschool Ice Rink
Invention Centers
Sewing Work

Looking Forward

Preschool Roads and Carwash
Cooking Projects
Valentine's Day Celebrations

January Collage





Kid Quotes

Hiram to Mary: "I'm a spy puppy that got zapped with a gadget that makes me do break dancing."

After reading *Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett, we asked the MWF class what they would knit with extra yarn:

Audrey J. "A water bottle cover."

Mary H. "a flower"

Matteo: "little baby animals"

Nehir: "a skeleton coat"

Rilyn "a pizza"

Juniper: "a pirate hat"

Evelyn "a pouch"

Owen: "a cat jacket, a hat and a tutu."

Mason: "a house"

Ava: "a sweater"

Liam: "water bottle cover"

Daniel: "a pizza"

Sigrid: "scarves for dollies"

Esmè: "Two hats for my mommy and daddy"

THANK YOU * SPASIBO * GRACIAS * GUNALCHEESH * TAKK * SALAMAT *
GRAZIE * TESEKKUR EDERIM * KHX KHXBKHUN

Many thanks this month to:

Ben and Rachel Disney (Xenali's parents), and their anonymous friend, for toy and equipment repairs. Never in the history of preschool have repairs been accomplished so quickly.

Shannon Seifert (Calder's mom) for offering an awesome sewing project to our classes and for subbing when other work parents needed someone to fill in.

Selena Hanvold (Elias's mom) for graciously offering to do work days when other parents were in a jam.

Taylor Beard, (Otis's mom) for filling in on a tricky preschool day.

Rachel Disney (Xenali's mom) and Teacher Linda for filling in while Mary was in Seattle.

Sion Songer (Rilyn's mom) for exemplary care of Stumps over the holiday break.