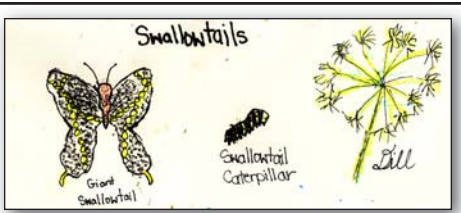




**2009 Summer Sessions
The Wonders of Water
July 7-10**



First-Plymouth Early Education Programs
Dimensions Research Classrooms
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Top: Swallowtails by Sunho L., below, Braydon M., Lily pond with sun, bottom, Josh L. Rainbow.

The Wonders of Water

We had fun investigating and experimenting with water throughout the week. Inside and outside from watercolors to watering the plants, our fun never stopped. We explored water in ways that many of us might never have imagined. It was a great week to get wet, cool off and enjoy the wonders of water!



Water + chalk = colorful landscapes and fun!

by Katie Logan

K-1 scientists experimented with water and sidewalk chalk throughout the week. At first, just wetting down the cement with water was enough to engage the children. Then Mrs. Marshall brought out buckets of water! The wall in front of the South Room was doused. Meanwhile, students drew with a rainbow of colors and discovered both the affects and effects of chalk plus water. Ms. Logan kept the scientific questions flying and the students' excitement began to increase... What happens when the chalk gets wet? "The color gets brighter!" What happens if you add dry chalk to the wet chalk? "The colors get darker!" "This is awesome!" "This is great!"



A rainbow of colors covers the sidewalk outside of the South Room.

"We need some more orange!"

"Look, we are making a rainbow!"

"Look, we made the Planet Earth!"

Next, enough chalk-goo prompted the children to cover the palms and soles of their feet to leave a monkey-walk trail!

Side Notes:

July 20-24... Closed

July 25...

Nature Explore Families' Club, 10:30 to Noon, Maxwell Arboretum, UNL East Campus

- Please wear socks and closed toe shoes that fit properly. No flip flops or Crocs—these are dangerous when children are running and using the climbing equipment.
- Please apply sunscreen to your child/ren before coming to summer sessions.

Donation Requests:

- 2 curly filbert plants
- 2 trumpet creeper vines to plant in the pots at the Nature Explore Classroom entrance by children and adult volunteers.
- a picnic table for outdoor meetings, small group projects, and for both children and adults to eat lunch.

Summer Sessions Bookshelf

- The Deep Blue Sea*, Audrey Word
- Fidgety Fish*, Ruth Galloway
- Five Little Ducks*, Anna Milbourne
- Hooray for Fish*, Lucy Cousins
- I'm the Biggest Things in the Ocean*, Kevin Sherry
- In One Tide Pool*, Anthony Fredericks
- In the Small, Small Pond*, Denise Fleming
- Rainbow Fish*, Marcus Pfister
- The Rainy Day*, Anna Milbourne
- Safely to Shore*, Iris Van Rynbach
- Stella, Star of the Sea*, Marie-Louise Gay
- Swimmy*, Leo Lionni
- The Teeny Weeny Tadpole*, Sheridan Cain
- Water Dance*, Thomas Locker
- The Water Hole*, Graeme Base
- Who Sees the Lighthouse?*, Ann Ferrington

Art and food part of water theme for older students

by Holly Murdoch

When preparing individual cuttings of basil from the garden for rooting in water, Jared playfully named his cutting "Tony." Logan carefully snipped away the leaves on the lower stem with scissors.

The 2-5 class is familiar with the possibilities for cooking with basil and is excited to be taking home plants in the future if they keep their cuttings in water and roots successfully develop.



Basil cuttings resting in water in anticipation of rooting.

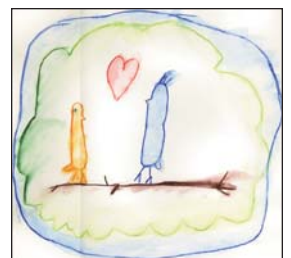
To create a refreshing beverage called basil fizz we made basil syrup which we added to club soda and served with lots of ice. Miss Hannah, who comes to us from Tennessee, helped us make mint syrup as well.

Water has been an important part of our impressionistic art this week as our class artists learned techniques with watercolor



Madisyn S. . . . giant swallowtail

pencil from Miss Hannah. With her help, students practiced using watercolor and tissue together. She taught about using watercolor and tissue together. Students also refined their use of watercolor paints.



Clockwise, top to bottom: Jackson B., Braydon M., Karson H., Logan Z.



Lucas B. noticed swallowtail caterpillars on the dill on the Nature Explore Classroom so he and Ms. Murdoch brought some inside to show the staff.



K-1 Group splashes and sails through week of water-themed fun

by Kathy Marshall

Morning K-1 children created their own books. They were inspired by Graeme Base's book, *The Water Hole*, as well as other books about animals and water. They used their own words and watercolor pencils in their books. Lewis R. spent more than an hour working on his book!

The children made watercolor drawings. Some of them made



Two pages from Claire E.'s book about animals.

paper sail boats and sailed them in the water.

In the afternoon, children began the week by predicting which items would sink or float. In teams of two, they separated their items (like corks, plastic figures, crayons, lids, etc.) and then listed how many items in their collection would sink and how many would float. They also created chalk drawings on the sidewalk.

We ended our week with lots of water relays and splash activities.

by Kris Van Laningham

During our "Wonders of Water" week the children have been sharing information based on their knowledge of water. Ethan C. told his friends what he learned on a family trip to the Platte River. He even saw deer tracks! Many of the children were thinking about water safety

and having an adult with them as they played in the water.

Using the book *Water Dance*, we specifically thought about water in nature... rain, streams, lakes, sea, mist, clouds, and rainbows. We then created watercolor pictures showing the type of water each child was thinking about.

The next day we used long strips of foam core board to make a "puzzle stream." Children created a pathway with the strips and used watercolor pencils to create a blue stream moving down the pathway. Brushes and water was used to blend the pencil lines. Next the children sketched the pathway. Luke M. drew a very representational sketch of the stream path with the pond at the end.

Paper boats were folded and tested in water outside to see if they would float.



Ethan C. paints with watercolors. photo by Kris Van Laningham



Left: Luke M. floats his paper boat on the "pond." Above: His sketch of the "stream."

Water is found everywhere!

text, photos by Nicole Carl

This week toddlers discovered that water is in the sea, lakes, rivers, ponds, and rain from the clouds! Some of this learning came from the books we read: *The Deep Blue Sea* and *The Rainy Day*.



Charlotte H. paints the storage box with water.

To learn more about water, the toddlers participated in painting with water on our Nature Explore Classroom by testing toys to see if they sink or float, by painting with colored ice, and by the end of the week, just having fun in the water!



Sophie J. and Maizie S. paint tree stumps.



Cody H., Levi P. and Jack B. discover which items sink or float.

Toddlers acquired many skills while working with water. Fine motor skills were learned by grasping paint brushes. Similarities and differences were recognized through sinking and floating objects. And science skills were introduced by studying animals that live in water.

Lighthouse replica buildings used to create watery landscapes

text, photos by Cindy Heinzman

We explored lighthouses (*Who Sees the Lighthouse?*) and then created our own with blocks, rocks and sea animals. We also: mixed water with sand

in the sandbox; used Marbleworks with water instead of marbles; sprayed lots of things with water, including our friends; painted with ice; blew bubbles; and, played in the mud!



Elena E.



Scoie D. and Alexandar V.



Cayden M.



Easton M.

Preschoolers create "Mud Art"

by Joyce White

Preschoolers experienced the properties of H₂O this week. We played with snow that we saved in our freezer from a snowstorm earlier in the year. We felt the steam off of the hot sidewalk on one of our 90° days. We mixed and splashed liquid all day long! "Water, water, water," chanted Charlie and Adam!

With the help of our K-1 friends, we constructed marblemworks and then poured water down (instead of marbles). We made a pond in a tub and filled with floating leaves and flowers. By spraying the sidewalk with water we were able to draw and paint pictures with chalk. We watered flowers and plants on our Nature Explore Classroom. Using natural materials we created large and small waterfalls both inside and outside. We mixed sand and water to create "food" and we made mud in the Digging Space. "All I see is mud, all I smell is mud!" said Ella S.



Rory R.



Magda M.

After making mud in the digging space, Ms. Frank suggested we walk our muddy feet across some paper. What could we do with all this paper? Well... after some discussion, Magda M. and Rory R. decided:

Dirt + H₂O = mud
Watercolor + H₂O = paint

Therefore...

Two artists + great idea = Fabulous Art!

Infants with water equals wet!



Sydney W.

text, photos by Denise Topil
Wet. That's what you get when you add infants to water.

At this age, water explorations is all about dry and wet, splashing, and learning it's okay if the water lands on your face.



Keller J.

Our 17-month-olds all had their own way of playing with water. Sydney W. was all about learning the words "splash,"

"swish," and "duck." Lily P. really wanted to put a doll in the water. Everett was happy to toss the ducks out of the texture table.

Audrey P., Keller J. and Danny G. (8-, 10- and 11-months-old) are still learning about balance, so besides splashings, they had to figure out how to balance against the table and still get their hands in the water!

We enjoyed singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat," and "The Itsy, Bitsy Spider." We also read the books *Five Little Ducks* and *Hooray for Fish*.