



Games & Giggles

"Friends, friends, one, two, three, all my friends are here with me"...many new friends were made this week and a variety of fun and lively experiences were enjoyed! Children had the chance to play board games, sports games, acting-out games, mystery games, outdoor games, waterplay, and more. They giggled their way through the week with funny books and lots of great jokes, rhymes and riddles. This was a great week of giggles, games and good friends.



The K-1 group used self-expression to celebrate the upcoming Olympic games.

Side Notes:

- *What a great summer this has been!*
We look forward to seeing many of you in a few weeks when our Fall sessions begin (August 25th).
- *Sale on POGO Cards: \$10 (exp. date 1-1-09).*
Call the office (476-8304) or pick one up (2045 E Street). It's not too late to pick up a POGO card and cash in all kinds of savings before they expire!

Summer Sessions Bookshelf

- The Ancient Greek Olympics* by Richard Woff
- Card Games (Games Around the World series)* by Dana Meachen Rau
- China* by Michael Dahl
- China* by Patrick Ryan
- China* by Susan Sinnott
- China (First Reports Countries series)* by Susan Sinnott
- Dominoes (Games Around the World)* by Elizabeth Dana Jaffe, Sherry L. Field, and Linda D. Labbo
- Dominoes Around the World* by Mary D. Lankford and Karen Dugan
- A Family from China* by Julia Waterlow
- Freeze Frame A Photographic History of the Winter Olympics* by Sue Macy
- The Gymnastics Book* by Elfi Schlegel and Claire Ross Dunn
- Look What Came From China* by Miles Harvey
- Play with Us: 100 Games from Around the World* by Oriol Ripoll
- Sidewalk Games Around the World* by Arlene Erlbach
- South Korea (Festivals of the World)* by Siow Yen Ho, Monica Rabe, and Ho Siow Yen
- Special Olympics* by Mike Kennedy
- You Wouldn't Want To Be A Greek Athlete!* by Michael Ford
- Wet Dog* by Elise Broach

Infants and Toddlers giggle through the week

Infants

The Infants ended summer sessions with a splash. Water in the texture table inside provided endless smiles while children watched pretend bugs in the water and played with formula scoops. This early dump and fill activity provided Theo P. a foundation for close observation and early math.



Theo P. uses a formula scoop to explore the texture tub of water.



Grayson S., Allison H., Jack B., and Abby O. have fun around the texture tub of water.

Early literacy emerged as 14-month-old Abby said "water" while Grayson displayed creative representation skills by using his hands to put water on his head as if in a bathtub. Later in the week, some of our infants had great fun joining the toddlers for a "car wash" experience.



Allison H. and Jack B. gather some suds for their "car wash."

We've had a lot of fun and learning experiences this summer and are looking forward to both familiar and new friends this fall.

by Joleen Podtburg
and Denise Topil

Toddlers

Toddler friends experienced games and giggles galore all week. Each day the Toddler B room was transformed into a game room for the children, complete with puzzles, balls and



Brooklyn P. loved hopping from shape to shape on the hopscotch mat.



Jack P. played tic-tac-toe with the bean bag game.



Bella M. practiced shapes using the shape puzzle.

hopscotch. Some friends enjoyed throwing and catching with each other. Other friends enjoyed the fishing puzzle with the fishing pole. Many toddlers learned to hopscotch and enjoyed jumping and skipping on the mat. The toddlers also practiced sharing and turn-taking when playing with the bean bag toss.

Outside, some friends played games like "Ring Around the Rosey"

Toddler friends ended the summer with a splash on the Nature Explore Classroom. They spent the week enjoying summer with water play, and some work, too.

Toddlers used watering cans and buckets to water the flowers, plants and trees to help them grow. The toddlers also used spray bottles to help with watering. The friends enjoyed running through the water from the garden hose and pretending to be a wet dog like in the book we read, Wet Dog.

A highlight of the week was having a car wash with some of our infant friends. The children used sponges and soap to wash the toy cars. Some friends even washed themselves! It's been a fun week and terrific toddler summer!

by Kristine Luebbe and Joy Ritchie



Toddlers and Infants staged their very own "car wash."

Preschool, K-1 children share their favorite memories of summer sessions

What did you like best about summer preschool?

Claire S. "In the House Area, read stories, playing with the babies, and giving mail to my daddy."

Owen H. "I like snack and those over there (points to magna tiles). I like the garden."

Ray R. "Playing outside, playing on the play structure."

Lewis R. "The favorite thing I like to do is when you turn on the water and we get to go in it."

Eli K. "I love this place and play in the House Area."

Tess H. "In the House Area, play with the babies, making food for them; I put them to sleep."

Henry M. "Playing in the Block Area and outside, going down the slide."

Charlie K. "Well, I like building rockets (the parachute). Yeah, that was so fun!"

Jack C. "I got to see new friends and I got to go to a new preschool. I wish that I could stay but I'm going to kindergarten."

Lauren B. "Playing outside on the structure. Play inside in the Block Area."

Zachary R. "That we're in the North Room. I didn't usually come in here. I was in the South Room. (What did you like to do outside?) The sticks, poles (to build with - he showed me with his hands how to carry them in front of your body)."

Cole C. "Play with the blocks, a ship."

Graham P. "Blocks, build rockets."

Sam H. "Building, rockets, I like to play outside, Kung Fu Panda moves (he showed me his moves as he was talking)."

Kael D. (talking on the House Area phone) "I'm busy, I'm on the phone." Mrs. Hoover interviewed him on another phone and he said, "bubbles."

Elena E. "Playing dress-up!"

Kyle D. "The parachute."

Kai K. "Play with the blocks, make a little Transformer."

Haven P. "Playing with dinosaurs, play on the slide, play with blocks, and play with Legos."

by Cindy Heinzman

Ms. Ragland asked her preschool group what they thought they would miss or what they liked best about the summer:

Poppy M. "Being outside because I was picking up wood chips to put in pretend soup."

Judson M. "I liked playing musical chairs."



Preschoolers listen to Mrs. Heinzman read.

Henry G. "Everything."

Parker M. "I graduated here in two days. I just built a freaking out car with Legos. I made pictures and batteries. We rode bikes in the gym."

Ezra P. "... making stuff like an obstacle course."

Leo P. "I'm going to kindergarten. I like this school better. I liked playing with Legos best."

Connor N. "I like making my favorite car out of my favorite color, red."

Savannah N. "... playing here in the house area because I dress up."

Levi D. "... gym time because we made an obstacle course. It had a balance beam, then it had stairs, then it had a thing that we crawled through, then we jumped on something - that was the winner."

Eti D. "I miss going to the South Room because I used to eat snack there and then I played. I like best running around in the outdoor classroom. One time I went down the slide on my back saying, 'Noodle, Noodle, Noodle'."

by Natalie Ragland

This is what the K-1 AM & PM groups said:

Karson H. "The teachers and I like playing games like tiddlywinks because I don't have it at home."

Luke M. "... water outside because I liked the water relay. I also liked worktime."

Cassie B. "I liked the water and the water squiggly worms (sprinkler hose)."

Kennedee H. "I liked all snacks, all sorts of snacks."

Alex K. "I liked water outside and shooting water. I splashed Michael."

Sara P. "... gym time because I played with Maisie. We liked everything together."

Benita C. "Drawing."

Ethan C. "I'll miss friends and worktime because we did funny stuff and played with magnet tiles."

Michael L. "I'll miss water outside because I liked the bubbles."

Michaela L. "I built a house."

Michael M. "I'll miss worktime because I made stuff in the art area."

Maisie M. "I'll miss this day because I'm here."

Sebastian N. "Gym time because I played with the purple ball with Michael."

Hana P. "I'll miss my friends Cassie, Kennedee and Alyssa because we always performed together."

Miriam S. "I liked when my mom saw what we were doing."

Alyssa S. "I'll miss friends because they played with

me a lot."

Talley W. "I'll miss worktime because we used the ramp and crash game."

Yueran Z. "Everything."

Grant S. "Playing with friends and playing games."

Elyssa P. "Making things everywhere."

Andrew P. "Worktime because of doing blocks and listening to music and outside because I'd go to the messy area to build things."

Delani L. "The House Area, playing with magnets and reading books."

by Katie Logan, Kathy Marshall and Joyce White



Waterplay was popular with everyone this week!

Chinese, games, H₂O

Our week began with a lesson in Chinese by Hana M.C. with assistance from Yueran Z. Learning to count to ten in Chinese led to a game similar to "Blind-Man's Bluff." Children created their own games using Art Area materials.

Some of the games we played were Tic-Tac-Toe, "Give-Away" checkers, Tiddlywinks and Dominoes. One day we had water play for both the morning and afternoon groups. Children ran water relays, played in a sprinkler, blew bubbles and enjoyed "cool-clean" water.

The afternoon children began the week by meeting the challenges of the 2-5 Group obstacle course. They tried several times to beat their own best times. They also danced to the "Limbo" to see "how low" they could go (they went really low!).

After reading about the upcoming Olympics in China, the children created their own flags and mascots, and made Jekis (JAE-ki), a Korean game which uses a homemade shuttlecock that children attempted to keep in the air using only their feet.

The week ended with all children receiving medals for their participation in our "Games and Giggles" week.

by Kathy Marshall, Katie Logan and Joyce White

2-5 Group captures aspects of Hazel Abel Park in their sketches



Jeewoo K. sketched Sunho posing as the Statue of Liberty.

Sunho L. stood at the top of the slide while Jeewoo K. sketched her as the statue of Liberty. Pencils replaced the torch and a pencil box

replaced the tablet of stone.

Julia M.C. said "It's going to take hours to do this. Maple leaves are hard to make. Wow, look at this Mrs. Murdoch. Look at all those little lines."



Julia M.C.'s maple leaf.

Madisyn S. sketched the gazebo where two little squirrels chased each other.

by Holly Murdoch



Madisyn S. and the gazebo at Hazel Abel Park.



Joseph C. sketched the play structure and its environment at Hazel Abel.



He also sketched the building to the left.



The K-1 group were introduced to the Chinese language this week by Hana with the assistance of Yueran.

Photographs contributed by Infant/Toddler teachers, Beth Pauley, Natalie Ragland and Joyce White.

Nature Explore™ Classrooms are part of a national initiative that we are working with in partnership with the Arbor Day Foundation.

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