

### "Games Galore" Session

It's been a fun-filled week of games, games and more games. From group games to board games, to musical games and mystery games, there's been something for every age and interest. Younger groups enjoyed playing outdoor games with a parachute, while older groups played Chinese Horseshoes and baseball. Every age enjoyed this chance to have a great time together!

### Rainy Days and Mondays...

...didn't seem to get the Toddler A group down! Monday morning our group was running in the cool green grass when the sky let loose. Children began to notice "spots" on their clothes and arms as very large "rain plops" (Turner's description) began to fall.



Teachers and children ran for the shelter of the big oak tree nearby. "It's like a big umbrella!" stated Keenan.

Soon a real downpour started and the children took great delight in getting soaked. They splashed in puddles, licked rain from their arms and made hand and foot prints on the sidewalk where it was dry. It made such an impression on the children that they talked about it all week in the classroom.



*Contributed by Theresa Frey*



## Variety of Games Provide Daily Excitement

### Infants

This week we learned the sign for "rainbow" ("arco iris" in Spanish) and "ball" and read books about rainbows: "Caterpillar Spring Butterfly Summer"; "Panda Bear What Do You See?"; and "Can You Hop?"

During our music and movement time we made our own music with brightly colored shakers, rainsticks and small keyboards. We listened to a variety of nature sounds like sea birds, summer nights, song birds, sea waves, babbling brooks and windchimes. We also opened our windows to experience the sounds and smell of fresh rain!

During small group time we played "Peek-A-Boo" with multi-colored scarves by hiding rainbow colored items under the scarves for the infants to find. Children rolled rainbow colored balls around, prompting Hudson to say "ball." The children experienced blowing bubbles and seeing the rainbow colored prism effect they created. We looked at pictures of rainbows, too.



We took the infants on nature walks where they experienced their five senses by seeing, listening, tasting, smelling and touching. The day it rained, the infants saw a rainbow created by nature! Courtyard Lounge was a new area experienced by the infants. They explored this space, touched the plants and felt the hot sun.

The Podtburg family brought Pink Easter Lilly flowers to share with the classrooms and also a very curious looking bug with black and white checks that they found near Kearney by the Great Platte River Road Archway. Andrew (Toddler A) said "His name is Mr. Checkers." (The bug visited most of the Early Education classrooms this week!)



*Contributed by Joleen Podtburg and Denise Topil*

### Toddlers

Rain or shine Toddler A had fun this week! Our focus was on the sun and we began by mixing red and yellow paint and then painting circles to match the shape of the sun. Ella and Turner discovered that red and yellow mixed together make the color orange.

Even though it was hot and rainy this week we spent a lot of time outside. On one of our adventures it began to rain on us so we stayed out to play in it! (See photos in left column.)

During another trip outside we wore our hats and sunglasses. We walked in the sun and the shade. Being in the sun was very hot so we spent most of our time in the shade. We used mirrors to reflect the sun's light onto the ground. Keenan and Rory had fun chasing the sun spots on the sidewalk. We also discovered that the sun made shadows. We used chalk to outline the shapes of our bodies and other shadows we saw. A bench made a striped pattern and several of the children laid under the bench so they could have stripes on their bodies.

We had a great week and summer enjoying the wonders of nature!

*Contributed by Katie Sharp and Joy Ritchie*

It has been a very upbeat and bright week for our group. We have been focusing on the sun and having silly fun. To help us learn about the sun we have been reading the books "A Sunny Day" and "Under the Sun" along with our story book "Sun Song." We painted our own sun with a big yellow circle and lines (or rays) sticking out of the circle.



We have had tons of fun at Circle Time, too! We went on a musical bear hunt where we traveled through a candy factory, peanut butter river, jello swamp, and of course, the bear's cave. Next we sang and danced to some of our favorite summer songs like "Tooty-Ta", the "Chicken Dance" and "The Freeze". One day we engaged in one of our favorite activities, face painting, and continued our silliness and stretching our imaginations. It's been a great summer for Toddler B!



*Contributed by Amy Jensen and Denise Topil*



# Games Galore! Week Encourages Teamwork and Competition



## Preschoolers

We've experienced a variety of fun during our Games Galore! week. Children learned how to take turns and that everyone is a winner!

Monday the children worked on a variety of puzzles. They helped each other with the large floor puzzles and some even had races to see who could finish the fastest. Tuesday we played "Color-Shape Bingo" and at the end everyone got to choose a prize to take home!

On Wednesday we enjoyed parachute games. The popcorn game was a highlight. We put pom-poms in the middle and tried to pop them out by waving the parachute up and down. Then we put "oil in the pot" and let it get hot. Next came the "popcorn". Everything started to "sizzle, sizzle, sizzle, sizzle, pop!"



We explored picture pegs on Thursday. Some of the children made their own designs and others matched colors to pictures that fit on the pegboards. Andrew made an American Flag. Friday we plan to play large group games like "Doggy, Doggy Where's Your Bone," "Charades," "Duck, Duck, Goose," and "Red Rover, Red Rover" and then we'll enjoy

## Summer Sessions Bookshelf

*Caterpillar Spring Butterfly Summer*

by Susan Hood

*Panda Bear What Do You See?* by Eric Carle

*Can You Hop?* by Lisa Lawston

*A Sunny Day* by Robin Nelson

*Under The Sun* by Ellen Kandoian

*Sun Song* by Jean Marzollo

## Staff Birthdays

Tara Hild .....August 7

Kristi Reitz .....August 13

Chris Dickhaut .....August 16

Sue Erdkamp .....August 17

Jason Kelly .....August 17

Ann Watt .....August 19

Photographs contributed by Theresa Frey, Cindy Heinzman, Beth Pauley, and Kristine Roit.

popicles outside for a special treat on the last day of Summer Sessions.

We played games during our work time, too, like UNO, Go Fish, Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, and other memory games. Some children also brought

games from home to share with their friends.

The afternoon group continued in the gym with many of the games from the morning groups and other games like "Kickball." Some children even made up their own games. Zoey made up a tooth fairy game and Kataryna made a racing car game. The children also played a "Name That Sound" game. Everyone had a busy and fun week!



## Kindergarten – 1st Grade AM Combined with 2nd – 5th Grades

Games Galore! has been full of fun games for everyone (Kathy and Kris both love to play games)! The K-1 group combined with the 2-5 group for the entire week.

We began with name puzzles. Each child received his/her name on a sheet of paper to color and decorate to create a unique puzzle. Chinese Horseshoes became a new favorite during our time together. Logan's grandparents have a Chinese Horseshoe Tournament every summer. His grandfather made and donated a set to our school. Children score points by tossing a metal disc onto a raised board with the goal of landing in one of the three holes in it. Carson had two automatic wins when he tossed all three discs in a hole during one turn! (Thank you so much to the Seybert family!)



Another game we enjoyed was "Guesstures", a charade game where the person acting out the word raced the clock as the audience attempted to guess the word. Jackson acted out "Vampire" by putting a replica building with two sharp towers up to his face (the Petronas Towers of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).



Jacobson guessed correctly! The children also played "Nerts" (similar to Solitaire), "Twister" and did the "Limbo."

Children also brought games from home. Preston brought the fast-paced game



"Blink", taught Mrs. Van Laningham to play, and promptly beat her two times in a row! "Bingo", "Go Fish", "Old Maid", "Life", "The Allowance Game", and "Hens and Chicks" are just some of the fun games that we have



participated in this week. Logan and Karson brought baseball bats and tennis balls for afternoon play in the parking lot across the street. There have been many hits but luckily the tree in the parking lot has acted as an extra player for us by slowing down the balls. We have some home run hitters in our class and also some smart outfielders... Jacobson used his baseball hat to help catch a deeply hit ball!

We also spent time outside harvesting

tomatoes from the Nature Explore™ garden. The children washed and chopped the tomatoes to create a yummy fresh salsa to enjoy for snack time.

Games are a great way to bond...pick out a game for your family to enjoy!

Contributed by  
Kris Van Laningham  
and Kathy Marshall

Nature Explore™ Classrooms are part of a national initiative involving the partnership of Dimensions and the Arbor Day Foundation.

Newsletters and Program information can be found on-line ...

[www.dimensionsfoundation.org](http://www.dimensionsfoundation.org) or [www.firstplymouth.org](http://www.firstplymouth.org)