

Reminders...

... Do not leave children **unattended** in your vehicles when picking up other children. Other parents have experienced vehicle breakins in the past and we want to make sure all children are safe!

... **Dress children in layers** so they are able to stay warm when we go outside. Provide coats, hats and mittens and suitable footwear.

... **Dec. 5-7:** Parent/Teacher Conferences. Be sure to sign up on the sheets provided.

... our offices **will be closed** Nov. 22 & 23 for Thanksgiving Break.

Mark your calendars

Dec. 5-7... Annual Book and Toy Fair. This is a great time to do some holiday shopping. We will be featuring Scholastic Books and Discovery Toys. The annual pizza lunch will also be available on Friday!

Toddlers Listen to the Leaves

*Listen to the Leaves
falling one by one
(t-shh, t-shh, t-shh, t-shh)
When we rake them up
We're gonna have some fun
(whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh,)*



*Listen to the birds
in the trees so high
(chirp, chirp, chirp, chirp)
Don't you wish that you
could spread your wings
and fly?
(who, who, who, whooooo!)*



A Time for Being Thankful at Dimensions

As Thanksgiving nears, we have an opportunity to help children think about what it means to be "thankful." As families and teachers we can help children think about the non-material gifts that they have in their lives...like friends and relatives, a beautiful fall day to explore, or even a chance to sing songs! Children (and teachers) were asked what they feel "thankful" for. Here are some of their responses:

- Mrs. Guess: *my family, including our newest addition, Giselle, our 6-week old rescue kitty*
- Mrs. Heinzman: *the sunshine*
- Mrs. Hoover: *all the wonderful children and families!*
- Miss Denise: *my family*
- Katie P.: *the trees and the grass and the flowers and the butterflies and my mom and dad and two sisters*
- Abby M.: *my mom, trees and flowers*
- Cooper W.: *my dad, sister, brother and mom*

- Nolan H.: *his tree*
- Cole D.: *my sister*
- Sam H.: *my sister*
- Lauren B.: *playing on the (Nature Explore™) playground and Cooper and Katie, too*
- Mrs. Burchett: *my family*
- Anika J.: *Chicken*
- Ava P.: *my Barbie head*
- Will A.: *marble sets*
- Leo P.: *mixing up colors*
- Ms. Ragland: *my animals, dogs California and Grizabella, and cats Peanut and Noodles*
- Will L.: *my family*
- Elaena S.: *my mommy*
- Mrs. Haley: *I'm thankful to be able to work at a place like this, and also for Mrs. Watt and the way she helps*

- children express themselves through art experiences*
- Mrs. Murdoch: *for the spirit and wonder I see in children's eyes*
- Miss Theresa: *all of my Toddler B friends and families and all my wonderful blessings*
- Ella S.: *when I sleep at night with my blanket*
- Andrew B.: *Daddy makes me happy*
- Keenan L.: *my new (bunk) bed*
- Jack P.: *Miss Amy and Miss Theresa and playing in the gym*
- Mac P.: *being with Mommy, Dad, Katie and Sam*
- Erick B.: *My Mommy and Iti*
- Helen J.: *my mommy, Copper, Sadie, Quinn, Daddy, Scout my dog, and my bookie and kitty (blanket)*

Infants Experiencing Life Down on the Farm!

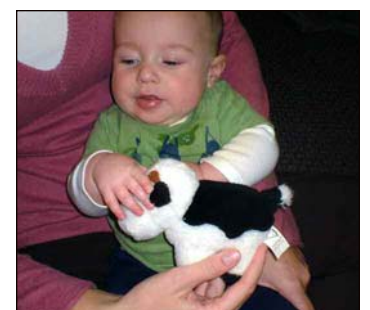
Infants are enjoying learning about farms...
...by pushing and pulling toy trucks and tractors
...by looking at books and pictures showing life on a farm. When Bella sees cat pictures she says "meow." They have been matching stuffed farm animals to a fabric mural of farm animals on the wall
...by placing farm animals in a barn and putting together farm animal puzzles

During Music and Movement time we sang "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and "Going on a Hay Ride." The infants used scarves and bells while manipulating farm animal puppets. Drew said "moo" when the cow puppet was used. Hudson was



tickled when he tried the duck puppet. It made him laugh!
Outdoors we explored corn stalks and how kernels of corn feel.
Our new signs this week included those for cow, pig, horse and duck. We learned the spanish word for duck, too (pato).

contributed by Denise Topil, Joleen Podtburg and Kris Sieckmeyer-Hajny



Preschoolers Learning By Playing

Three friends attempted to draw their shadows using chalk on the Nature Explore classroom. They stretched tall and made a beautiful pose with their bodies. As they leaned down to draw their shadows they discovered their shadows disappeared. Discovering the problem, the three friends decided to ask for Ms. Ragland's assistance. She traced their shadow poses with chalk as they stood very still.

They danced around their

drawing, and then hopped to a new place on the ground. They then repeated the process two more times each.

After completing three beautiful poses out of chalk, the girls jumped onto one drawing and imitated its shape. They repeated this pattern creating a three-pose dance.

Their creativity was beautiful to watch but also significant in many areas of learning. A few of the skills learned were:



experimenting with patterns (literacy), positive and negative space (art), sunshine vs. shadows (science), collaboration with friends and teacher



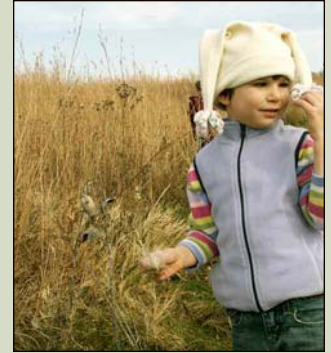
(social), large and small motor skills (movement), self-initiative (self-concept), imagination and creativity.

As you can see, free time used for PLAY is a powerful learning tool for your children.

Contributed by Joyce White

NEFC Trip to Park

The Nature Explore Family Club last event was at the prairie at Pioneers Park. We had another wonderful fall day to play together outside! We found an area full of milkweed pods and spent time releasing the soft little seeds and then watching them float away.



Sophie (above) remembered doing this at Spring Creek Prairie (Preschool groups visited Spring Creek recently) and making wishes as they floated away. Her wish was that she "can do this again tomorrow!" Children helped each other along the path (below) – teamwork is a great thing!



To learn more about our next event email Chris Kiewra at chrisk@dimensionsfoundation.org.

Have You Seen the "Leaf People"?

Children walked around the block to look for leaves to make their own "Leaf People." They were inspired by author Lois Ehlert and her book *Leaf Man!* (Check them out on the bulletin board on the way to the gym.)

Contributed by Kris Van Laningham



Bookshelf

Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
Baby Farm by Priddy Bicknell
Prairie Day by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Giving Thanks by Chief Jake Swamp

*Newsletter photos contributed by
 Kris Sieckmeyer-Hajny, Chris Kiewra, Beth Pauley, Denise Topil, and Joyce White*

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 or www.firstplymouth.org