

June 2010

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SANTA FE

The Child Development Center

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Director's Corner

Dear Parents,

With this letter I welcome you all to the summer session, which begins on June 1st, and lasts until August 31st. Enrollment is full, and we look forward to teaching your children, and working with you.

Please remember that we have implemented a new door code system that also started on Tuesday, June 1st.

Friday, May 28th we had a great in-service day, and completed our CPR, First Aid, and blood borne pathogen training in the morning. Every teacher in the school is now certified in this area!

In the afternoon, we attended a workshop presented by the Santa Fe Community College Aim High mentors, Mary Ann and Annabelle. At this time, we learned how to "observe" children, and were given a very useful tool—a Developmental Checklist, from birth to age five. We discussed how observing children ties in with curriculum development, and the planning of activities in child development programs.

Another valuable component of this workshop was to look at "Types of

Play." A list follows that we considered and discussed for you to look at.

In other news, we are sorry to say goodbye to Vera, the 2's room teacher, resigned last week. We thank her for her contributions, and are now busy recruiting for a co-teacher to work with Lorena.

FYI—Did you know that we hold monthly fire drills and your children are able to successfully evacuate the building in 2-3 minutes!

Many thanks for the Teacher Appreciation cards and gifts. They mean a lot to our team, and it most generous of you.

Best Wishes to you all,

Andrea Williams

Types of play

Sometimes analyzing the types of play children engage in will help in learning more about the social experience of each child:

Solitary Play (Toddlers begin to play on their own independently of others.)

...Continue on page 2.

Classroom Corner

1's – Butterflies

Teachers: Nicol, Lourdes

Our little butterflies will be studying bugs, insects and spiders; where they live; and what kinds of food they eat. We have lots of interesting projects planned. As a reminder, please bring sunscreen and hats for your little ones.

2's – Ladybugs

Teachers: Lorena & Miriam

This month our little Ladybugs will be exploring the wind by making kites and windmills. We will also start enjoying the summer by having a picnic at the garden at least once a week.

3's – Caterpillars

Teacher: Trish & Jen

Although our school year is coming to a close we thank you for all your kindness, support and letting us enjoy your gems. Summer is around the corner and we plan on playing more outside, and having more art activities and summer fun. Don't forget to put sunscreen before arriving to school. We appreciate your cooperation.

4's – Busy Bees

Teachers: Anna & MaryJane

The Busy Bees are looking forward to a summer filled with learning and fun. We will still be following a written curriculum and special daily events. Please refer to your calendar of events so your child will be prepared to participate. We appreciate your cooperation. As always, thanks for sharing your kids with us.

5's – Dragonflies

Teachers: Sarah & Sylvia

This month we will be exploring volcanoes, and the ancient world of dinosaurs. At the end of the month we will conduct an experiment by building our own volcano. We will also be saying good-bye to Sofia and welcoming Angelina. Sofia's last day is June 4th and we'll be having a special lunch, *so no need to pack one*. Future dragonfly families, please feel free to stop by, so you can get to know us.

...Continued from page 1.

On-Looker Play Toddlers watch others playing, showing an interest but not entering into play.

Parallel Play As the child becomes more aware of others, s/he may engage in play alongside other children without really interacting. This is seen in older toddlers, as well as preschoolers.

Associative Play During preschool years, children's play becomes more connected to other children. They want to interact and create play episodes with others. The play is random, not seeming to have an organized plan among the players.

Co-operative Play In this stage two or more children have a play theme that they are developing. The sense of togetherness is very strong. Children are performing specific and scripted roles in the play. This type of play is a precursor of organized games with rules that emerge in middle childhood.

Adventures in eating

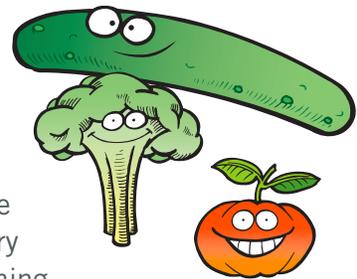
By Cullen Curtiss, Parent Volunteer

What do tilapia, tabouli, and tomato soup have in common? How about avocados and asparagus? Pickles, potato salad, and pinto beans? Burgers of veggie and burgers of cow? Not merely their first letters. This is just a sampling of the foods that have made their way past my son's lips and into his tummy for the very first time in the last several weeks.

My son's a picky eater at best—not that he won't eat enough good and nutritious calories to keep an elephant happy, but he has preferred only certain foods and we've pretty much allowed him that fancy.

Then we really examined the issue and considered its core—fear of newness? If so, we knew he could overcome it. He's a super adventurous kid, and is completely invigorated by new surroundings and events. Plus, he was already convinced that food has power—the power to fuel his body right or wrong. And if there were

more ways to fuel it right, then perhaps the new territory was something to explore.



So we launched a New Foods regimen at dinner time. (It is sadly without a better name if you have any suggestions.) The consistent and mildly pressurized event is pretty simply executed—I build our meal around a food new to him. Early on, I did my best to warn him what he could expect that night. Soon, he started asking what new food would grace his plate, and then he started offering suggestions. My cheese-pizza-loving boy now asks for a mushroom topping. Just last week, he saw the avocados stacked in a pitched and gleaming pile and grabbed three for our cart. A couple of days ago, he asked my husband, a professional fly fisherman, to catch a trout for his dinner. I'd say we're on to something adventurous...

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1		3
4	5	6	7	8 Canada Day	9	10
11 Independence Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

■ Closed - In-Service ■ Closed - Holiday

The content of this newsletter is compiled and formatted by staff and volunteers of the preschool for the benefit of all who interact with the CDC. For any comments, errors or issues please contact parent volunteer Cristina Arnal via email at cristina@arnaldesign.com or by phone at 983-6942.



Birdhouse success Thanks to all those who contributed and supported the 2nd Annual Birdhouse Benefit! We raised \$1,512.72!!