

Community Resources

Apex Parks and Recreation has a full schedule of classes and opportunities for your children. There are gymnastics classes, dance classes, drama classes, swimming lessons, and sports activities for children of all ages. Go to "<http://www.apexprd.org>" for details.

Once again, the Majestic View Nature Center has nature exploration classes for children of all ages, four and up. See "<http://www.arvada.org/nature>" for more information.

Your local library and the Arvada Center are other great resources for fun things to do this summer.

Remember to give kids plenty of time to play outdoors and just enjoy being kids.



KIDS' DISCOVERY DAYS Newsletter

May, 2009



Director's Notes

Calendar

May

Throughout the month, we will do spring activities in all of our classes. Those children going on to Kindergarten in the fall will be honored at this time of transition with special classroom activities.

6 - 22
Thurs. - Sun.

Plant Sale -buy great patio pots, hanging baskets, and geraniums for your yard and garden. Deliveries begin this week.

20 - 21
Wed., Thurs.

After School Picnic at 11:30 at Robby Ferrufino Park at 74th Ave. and Carr, just north of the school.

Have a good time visiting with your KDD friends. The children will enjoy this end of the year chance to play with their classmates on the playground. Bring a picnic lunch and a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy!

21 **Last Day of Classes**
Thurs.

The Power of Play

Play has many benefits for children. Play enables intellectual, emotional, social, physical, and language development.

When children are at play, they are actively involved in creating themes, exploring and establishing environments, solving problems, and developing shared understandings.

Children play in many ways. They play independently as well as cooperatively with others. As they get older, they are capable of more cooperative, coordinated play. But all kinds of play are valuable.

As kids play with each other, they learn to see other children's points of view, and

Toddler News

This is our final newsletter for the year. I can't believe how fast time has flown by! We want to thank everyone for sharing their wonderful children with us throughout the year.

Thank you, also, for all the parent volunteers! We have enjoyed getting to know you all and working with you and your families!

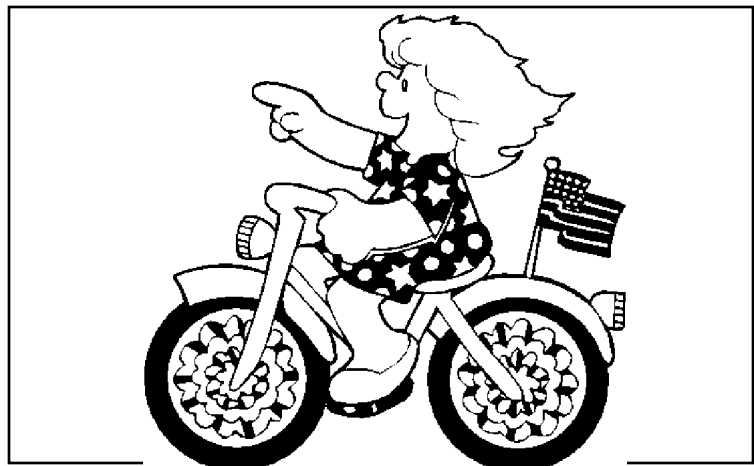
In April, we did some crafts and talked a lot about springtime. We made umbrellas and rain pictures and decorated ducks, butterflies, squirrels, and kites!

During May, we will focus our theme around transportation and getting ready for summer. Some of our activities will include painting and decorating buses, trains, cars, and airplanes. We will also make flowers and play with some colorful play dough.

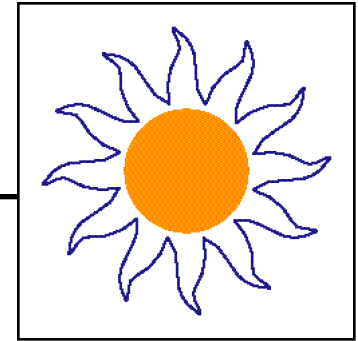
they begin to become more empathetic and caring. They come to understand the customs and rules in their own families and to appreciate those of others.

They learn to use language in new ways to describe their play and to interact with others. And in play, children develop their muscles and coordination.

Continued on Page 3



Continuation from page 2



Jennifer Potter 303-422-2784

If anyone has any old cookie cutters they would like to donate, we can always use them for playing with play dough.

Since the weather is warmer, we will spend more time outside. Please remember to apply sunscreen to your children before coming to school. They also seem to love wearing their sun hats!

Join us on the last day of school for the end of the year picnic.

Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns. We hope that you all have a fun and relaxing summer!

Preschool 4/5

Continued from Page 2

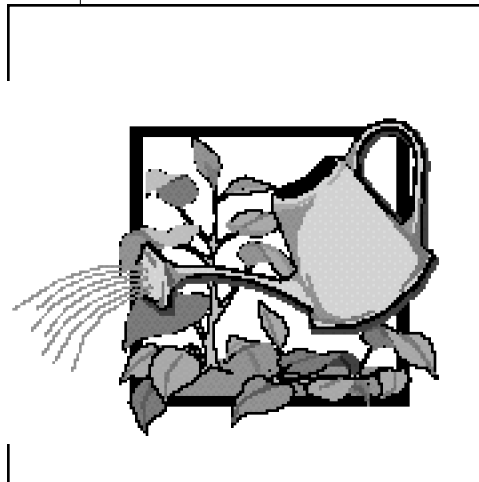
The children are doing a great job of creating pages for their nature/science/math journals. They're drawing and writing about each activity. They have created front and back covers for their books; we will bind them to send home before the end of school. In the meantime, I'll send home copies of all the pages they make.

We've planted our seeds, including orange, date, avocado, a strawberry, Indian corn, and an unknown seed. (The Indian corn wins the prize for first sprouted!)

Thank you all for your help this year. This has been a great class to teach, very interested in learning (and having fun doing it!). You are raising wonderful children.

Shirley Pierce 303-420-8353

As a parent, you can support children's play by providing space, opportunities, and materials. When you provide them with simple, interesting materials--no "newfangled," expensive gadgets required--kids take it from there.



Play is fun. But it is also serious business that pays big dividends to its eager young investors.

Make time for free and joyous play this summer. You'll be amazed at the results.

Preschool Two/Three

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. Our last day of preschool will be May 21. This month, we will explore Mother's Day, butterflies, land flowers.

May Finger Play

A seed is planted in the ground.
Rain falls softly all around.
The sun shines brightly down below,
Helping all the flowers grow.

May Song (tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Hoe, hoe, hoe your garden,
Up and down the rows.
See the sun come shining down,
And watch your garden grow.

We would like to thank you for all of your help and support during the past year. We know that it can be difficult to find time to volunteer in the classroom, but your participation allows us to maintain a high quality environment for the children.

Thank you for sharing your amazing children with us. We have loved our time together and will miss them. Plan on joining us at the picnic after the last day of class, and have a wonderful summer.

Cindy 303-469-1160
Suzanne 303-424-5806

Preschool 3/4

Lisa Newkirk 303-420-2888

April was certainly a month of crazy springtime weather! We decorated our plant pots and planted seeds that we hope will sprout before the end of school. There is an extra surge of energy in the classrooms, and you can be sure that spring fever is in the air!

This month, our themes will be Mother's Day, the five senses, and nature.

We will also continue our Treasure Box activity since we got a late start.

If weather permits, we will participate in field day activities during our music class time at the end of the month.

Please continue to send a sweater or jacket with your child, just in case!

Thank you to all of the family members who have helped out in our classroom this year. We couldn't have done it without all of your help!

Have a great summer!



Preschool Three

The children recognize their first and last names in print. They can tell who is sitting where at the snack table by recognizing their friends' last names, also. Several of the children are writing their names and many other words by sounding them out, copying from print, or asking an adult. The class is exhibiting a tremendous interest in letters, sounds, and words.

In April, we had fun with the veterinary hospital. The children enjoyed caring for a variety of "sick" animals and learned to use and name several medical instruments. Everyone had a chance to listen to their own heartbeat with a stethoscope. During May, we will enjoy more science activities and plant a garden pot for the children to take home.

We appreciate the very supportive parents, grandparents, and friends who have helped in our class. Children feel special when adult volunteers help at school. We wish you a fun and playful summer with your families and all the best for the coming year.

