



**In the classroom this week...**

Many exciting things happened this week at KKELC! On Monday, the children opened a box containing our new overhead projector. There was much speculation about the machine and its function. Some thought it was a copier, others a video player. We worked together to set it up in the 'light and dark' room, and, after installing a shadow screen the children began exploring the concept of projection. It was fascinating to watch them work through challenging concepts. One that presented itself immediately was wondering why a



wooden triangle set upright on the projector did not project as a triangle on the screen. One child discovered that laying the triangle down caused the shape to project

as intended. Once this was discovered, the children worked throughout the week; dancing in and out of colored light and patterns, practiced color mixing by overlapping translucent colored pieces, and performing shadow dances for an audience on the other side of the screen.



The projector also supported our exploration of space as children did dramatic play as

astronauts in front of a background of the Moon and stars. Owen Glasman loaned a poster of the Sun and planets to us. Some children spent time observing this and dictated the things they noticed about the planets. Shannon McBride-Morin offered



her Parent-time this week to help interested children to continue the paper mache work on the Sun and Mercury.

At weeks end, Sierra demonstrated the creation of shadow puppets, and children worked with Erica Fitzpatrick to create a variety of animals and elements. Following this they performed shadow-puppet plays for eager audience members. You may notice that many materials and processes are continually



available to children. Clay, sand painting, drawing and painting materials and processes are ever present to give children the opportunity to become fluent with, master, and then to create in new and unique ways. It has been wonderful to watch children develop skills in their work with these, and to see how they have mastered the



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materials. The result has been a great deal more focus and attention span, a higher level of detail, and a greater level of satisfaction with outcomes of their work. Blocks are an 'always present' material in the classroom and new play themes are constantly emerging. A resurgent



interest in airplanes sparked the development of an airport on the light table where the under lighting was the 'runway lights to guide the planes to land'. Later in the week, children used a juicer and their upper body



strength to squeeze themselves a cup of fresh orange juice. They enjoyed the mechanics of the juicer, and they really enjoyed the product of their hard work. Outside

play has been especially enjoyable this week as the temperatures warmed and we were able to spend ample time playing in the snow. Sledding has been great fun, and 'mountain climbing' on the 'Kachemak Kids Range' has been very challenging and Exciting! When



we arrived Friday morning we discovered that the peaks had expanded to 3 times their original height!

Our resident climbers could hardly contain themselves!

Finally, the children enjoyed some spontaneous bouts of ring-around-the-rosy. Out of doors, Sierra used watercolor paint to delineate a circular path to challenge children to move in prescribed ways. Tip-toe, heal-toe, hopping, and other forms of movement challenged them to follow direction and use various muscles and skills as they circumvented the course.



**<<<THINGS WE NEED>>>**

We are in need of a few items that you may have:

- **A Queen Sized, White Flat Sheet**
- **A very large Appliance Box**
- **Colored Cellophane/Mylar**
- **A brooder-type reflector lamp**

**FOR CONSISTENCY SAKE...**

We have been working diligently to help children gain self-help skills related to dressing themselves for the outdoors. While we always help them with the most challenging tasks such as tucking mittens under their sleeves, zipping, and pulling snow pants over boots, we do ask kids to put on their own coats, pants, boots, and hats.





# Kachemak Kids

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## Early Learning Center

January 18, 2008

### **NUEFELD BOOKS ARE HERE**

If you ordered a copy of Gordon Neufeld's book, it has arrived. Ask Jon, Jane or Sierra for your copy and please provide your email address on the sheet attached to the Parent-Time book so that Paula can send reading reminders and provoking questions. The cost is \$14.21. Checks can be made out to Paula Kulhanek. We also purchased an extra copy if you did not request one earlier.

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

On **Mon., Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>**, Paula Kulhanek will lead a **book discussion on Dr. Gordon Neufeld's book "Holding On to Your Kids"**. Books can be purchased at the Homer Bookstore or online. We look forward to your joining us.