



February 1, 2008

In the classroom this week...

It was potsticker cooking on Monday this week. With scissors in hand, children snipped green onions to add to a mixture of ground turkey, crushed garlic, grated ginger, and soy sauce as a filling for the dumplings. Several strong-muscled stirs later, we began filling the potsticker skins with the mixture, wetting the edges with water, and forming them into potsticker shapes using a press found by Jane.



They were very well received, and the dipping sauce of rice vinegar and soy was enjoyed too!



We are excited to begin 'Cooking with Claudia' every other Friday morning beginning February 8th. Shadow play continues to inspire children to use their creative thinking and dramatic play skills to invent shows to share with their friends. Themes have revolved around kindness and friendship, battles and fights, and adventure travel. We have seen a large number of children out of school due to



illness. We continue to reinforce the importance of handwashing and have had some nose-blowing demonstrations to help us move children away from the 'swipe and smear' method ('pinch, pull-away, pitch, and wash' is our method). In the spirit of keeping

things as germ-free as possible, we have set up the water table as a toy scrubbing station. Children have been easily enticed to scrub toys clean as they use their familiar construction materials to build water-based crafts. We are switching materials daily to give everything an extra sanitizing before the weekend's full sanitization of toys.



Karen Weston joined us on Thursday afternoon to help children mix up fresh new



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batches of play dough, to construct side-by-side with the children, and to read a plethora of books. The use of inks moved to a new level this week as children began painting crystal pieces to hang on an old chandelier that Jane secured on Craig's List. Once completed, it



the problem of biting insects they determined that doors that 'could be shut' and 'windows with glass or screens' were essential. Some children even talked of equipping their tree house with televisions, fireplaces & kitchens.



Toddlers and preschoolers alike enjoyed capturing their ideas on paper. Finally, the snow has buried

will add beauty to a child-determined part of the classroom. An exciting addition to the art studio this week was a florescent painting booth. Under a black-light, the children have been using "glow-paint" on black paper to create beautiful designs under the special light. This has added a new sensory twist to a familiar and valuable process. Following an



interest in tree houses, children began drawing simple concepts of their ideal tree house. There was some interest in sleeping outside in one, and when posed with



much of the playground, but this has not stopped our children from enjoying all that the equipment has to offer!

IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN ILL

We have had a great number of KKELC children away from school due to the recent illness that is affecting many people around Homer. In order to help your child, and the other children and adults at KKELC, please keep your child home to rest and recuperate until they show no more than mild symptoms (minimal cough and little or no nasal drainage). Also, children having run a fever of 100 degrees or higher, having vomited, or having had diarrhea must be free of these symptom for 24 hrs. before returning to school.



Kachemak Kids

Early Learning Center

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IMPORTANT - YOUR IDEAS ARE NEEDED!!!

As many of you have realized our current location is quite cramped, so the KKELC Board of Directors is actively looking into options for a new home for the center. At this time we feel that we need a minimum of 1700 sq. ft. with two toilet rooms, outdoor play space and frontage that can accommodate at least four cars - all within the bounds of "downtown Homer". If any family members have any ideas on how we can procure adequate space, or have leads on a good space, please contact the BOD Secretary Caroline Storm @ 235-0580 or caroline34@acsalaska.net

KKELC Community Service...

An important part of the 'social lesson' for children is talking about the ways that we can *give* to the communities in which we live. Over the next two weeks KKELC children and families are asked to bring in items needed for the Homer Animal Shelter. The lists of needed items are:

- *Baby blankets*
- *Big blankets*
- *Towels*
- *Cat litter*
- *Toilet seat covers (for cats)*
- *Pet food (no brand specified)*
- *Treats*

Please bring these to KKELC and we will be setting a time to travel to the shelter to drop off our donation.

WE NEED WOOD SCRAPS AND MORE

We are in need of some items that you may have:

- Small wood scraps (thin plywood, and multi-shaped pieces such as dowels, rods, square stock, etc.
- Colored Cellophane/Mylar
- Wires of all gauges

SAVE THE DATE:

On Mon., Feb. 25th, 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.