



February 15, 2008

In the classroom this week...

Valentine work continued this week as children created more Valentines for friends and family members. A favorite activity was watercolor painting of paper heart doilies. Children showed a tremendous amount of attention and



focus as they used small brushes to add detailed color to various parts of their paper heart. During the week, children brought in Valentines from home to give to friends. It was a great sorting activity as kids

matched names on the cards to names on the bags of their friends. On Thursday, the bags were sent home for children to open and enjoy.



Jane brought in a batch of lavender scented, purple playdough that sparked some detailed creation and exploration. Children practiced using coils and spirals to invent some interesting designs. A very detailed heart, a brain and spine with nerves, and a small human were



among the many sculptures arising from the dough. After creating a prototype, children

then used air-dry clay to re-create their designs using multi-colors. All children enjoyed practicing fine motor skills by using many tools to work with the playdough. Knives were among the most popular and even our youngest children



enjoyed honing their skills. Another activity introduced this week to enhance fine motor control was sewing. Using stiff plastic sewing board, needles, and yarn, children practiced sewing onto heart and other

shapes. Children showed great patience, and also handled well the times when the needle needed to be backed out and re-sewn to eliminate knots. It was fun to see the pride



in their accomplishments! We enjoyed celebrating Lindsey's birthday on Wednesday this week. Her mom, Julie, was in for Parent Time that day and helped the children to make smoothies. They also brought an Applesauce



cake to celebrate Lindsey's turning four!



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Children had fun taking turns attempting the limbo this week. Many were up to the challenge of passing under the ribbon as it moved lower and lower. Also enjoyed this week was acting



out "Little Bunny Foo-Foo". The roles of Little Bunny Foo-Foo, the Good Fairy, and field mice were easily filled, and beautiful singing accompanied the role-play. The weather had us inside for a number of days this week, and boat/submarine construction in the 'light and shadow' room was very popular. Children enjoyed constructing while using the overhead projector to cast an ocean-scape on their



stage. The construction became quite elaborate with many tunnels and rooms in which to operate the 'equipment'. Later in the week the construction

turned to the creation of habitats and homes for animals. Some very good negotiation and problem solving occurred as children worked to solve the problems of building together in a small space. We were pleased to hear some respectful language and see some good listening taking place. Along with this, some tall and balanced block construction took place that tested children's ability and steady hand as they created skyscrapers and

towers around the classroom. Further, we were impressed with the perseverance and skill that the children demonstrated when time came to disassemble and clean up their work.



Several other visitors spent some time in the classroom with us this week. Sabina's mom Shannon helped children to complete Valentine's bags along with some much needed organization in the art area. On Valentine's Day,

Lulu Small, a local entertainer, delivered a singing telegram to 'yours truly' and then played guitar and sang several songs for the children. They had a marvelous time singing



and dancing to 'Charlie Brown' and 'Puff the Magic Dragon'. Geoff Coble was also with us



as a reader. On Thursday afternoon, Jane's friend Eli joined us in the classroom to read, work with play dough, and just



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about anything else the children could dream up. On Friday morning, Cecilia's mom Erica joined us in the classroom to help us bake dog biscuits from dough provided by Homer Hounds. The children cut and rolled two



trays that we baked in the Head Start kitchen to donate to the animal shelter. Finally, on Friday afternoon, the children travelled to the Pratt museum for a look at marine mammals and other life of Kachemak Bay with Ryjil Christiansen. Through touch and feel, role



Play, and self-exploration, children learned about the sea life of this area. We had planned to explore the trail outside the museum, but weather did not

cooperate. The warm museum and interesting exhibits were enjoyed by all of us.

Parent Time Update

Thanks to those of you who are participating in Parent Co-Op Time! A few important updates:

6 hours per family of parent time is required as part of the Kachemak Kids co-op program (in the Parent Handbook). As stated in a letter home, starting this month: **if you're unable to**

fulfill your 6 hour co-op commitment, you may "buy out" any unfulfilled hours at the rate of \$20 per hour to be added to your next bill. Families are encouraged to participate in the program. Be sure to log your time in the sign-in book by the door. Sierra is helping keep track, and if hours are not logged, you will be billed. Or families may just choose to "buy out" their parent time hours. Participation working hours helping the program or buying out hours is necessary to keep Kachemak Kids operating.

Immediate Needs: Someone to create new Parent Time visual Bulletin Board sign up system contact Shannon McBride-Morin for details at 235-2604 or cmorin1111@aol.com. **Classroom aids for AM & PM, mid week cleaning, toy sanitizing, pet cage cleaning, snack, etc** (check the sign in book).

Work Party March 15 & 16th at Kachemak Kids! Mark your calendar, and join us for a few hours or 1/2 a day on Saturday or Sunday if you can. We will be moving things to a new storage unit, finishing some inside carpentry and fix-it projects, organizing and deep cleaning Kachemak Kids. This is a great way to earn a couple or even all your parent time hours in one shot! More to come on this later.

Thank You - Shannon McBride-Morin (Parent Time Co-Coordinator)

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,



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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

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 you joining us.

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 week KKELC children 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 before the end of the month. Donations can be placed in the basket on the table in the art studio.

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**