



Kachemak Kids

Early Learning Center

April 2009
Volume 1, Issue 7

Director's Note

A busy time is upon us with new staff hires, a recommitment to parent service and the increased day light. Energy is pumping, a little shaky here and there but a real sense of collaboration and unity towards a common goal: Keep KKELC going. I am thrilled to say the direction we are moving in feels right. I see parents coming in, getting to work, tending to their routine. Please let me or any staff know if you are struggling or uncertain. We want you to feel comfortable. A heart felt "Thank you" for instilling new hope....Bobbi

April Themes

Chickens and other life cycles

Farming

Plants and Seeds

Focus Concepts:
Patterns and numbers

Reminders:

Toys and Candy at School

A unanimous vote from staff is NO Toys from home or Candy at school. We know kids love to share; however, toys are lost, broken or fought over. Therefore, we would appreciate all toys stay at home. The only exception to this is sharing books or items related to our themes. Some examples of desired sharing: Bjorn brought a book about skeletons that we read as a class. Payton left a Sea Star at the science table for everyone to look at. If you are uncertain about a sharing item, just ask one of the teachers first. The other exception is during nap time. We know a cuddly toy is comforting; napping toys are fine.

CANDY: gives such an energy boost and then a crash; all staff see the negative effects it has on the kids. Please save candy for home. Thanks

Parent Service Board aka: "The White Board" is now secure in its permanent spot: The Office. Stop by and check it out.

And PLEASE, return the parent service contract. You will save me extra work by filling them out and returning them to the KKELC folder. THANK YOU!!

March Review

That is why we do it.

Often getting the kids ready for our monthly senior visit, I wonder why are we doing this? The children's voices and bodies amp up as our daily routine is drastically changed. I feel like I'm rushing kids to get dressed. It takes longer to load and unload car seats than the visit itself. However, on our last visit I sat with Seamus and a grandma. Her hands trembled as she tried holding the book and turning the pages. Seamus picked up on her struggles and started turning the pages for her. Her voice was barely audible but you could hear the faint words if you listened closely. Seamus leaned closer. The Friendship Center worker sitting closer leaned over and whispered in my ear, "In all the time I've known Phyllis, I've never heard her read." I knew right then, that is why we visit the grandmas and grandpas every month. **Our April visit is: 4/17/09**

Recipe of the Month:

Green Eggs and Ham:

We read the book then made Green Eggs and Ham....thank you Alison Gaylord for the 36 fresh eggs. The kids ate them all! You can do this at home and even dye them other colors. Make scrambled eggs add chopped ham and a few drops of food coloring! You have colored eggs. Cook over med heat until eggs are firm. ENJOY!

Visitors:

We had some awesome guests visit and share their knowledge with the kids. Greta a nursing student visited with a horse heart and demonstrated how our heart works. It was amazing.

Ted Otis shared his knowledge of the salmon cycle. Kids are so engaged when visitors come. I hope that others may be inspired to share a passion or profession with the kids.

*Welcome New
Kachemak Kids*

*Beatrix Strobel-
preschool*

Excerpt from Just Playing by Anita Wadley

"When you see me up to my elbows in paint, or standing at the easel, or molding and shaping clay, please don't let me hear 'he's just playing'. For you see, I am learning as I play. I'm expressing myself and being creative. I may be an artist or an inventor someday."

Try this at Home:

Interview your kids about a family member. Ideas:

1. What is something mom always says to you?
2. Where is your mom's favorite place to go?
3. What's the goofiest thing that your mom does in her free time?
4. How does mom make you laugh?
5. What was your mom like as a child?
6. How tall is your mom?
7. What does your mom do when you're not around?
8. If your mom becomes famous what will it be for?
9. If your mom was a cartoon character, who would she be?
10. How are you and your mom the same/different?

This Month:

Board of Directors

Chair: Lolita Brache
299-0694

Vice-Chair: Marlena
Hogdgon
235-6414

Treasurer: Jenny Martin
235-9727

Secretary: Emilie Otis
235-0706

Members: Shannon
McBride-Morin
235-2604

Thank You!

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Parent Meeting in March. We appreciate your input and ideas and we look forward to the next meeting.

Announcements:

Screening for Paul Banks Kindergarten takes place in April! For more information, contact the School District.

KKELC will host the annual Yard Sale in May! Please save items for the event! More info to come.

April Wish List

Western/Farm clothes. Dress-up for April is a western and farm theme: clothes, horses on a stick and related items are in need.

Our Boom Box died. If you have a spare at home to donate to KKELC, we would appreciate it.

Pool Party

In celebration of our beach theme; Kachemak Kids is going to the Homer Pool.

On: April 8th at 9:00AM. Every child needs an adult, so I am looking for additional volunteers. Volunteers may be a relative or friend. Please check the appropriate box on the participating sign-up sheet. If you prefer your child **NOT** go swimming, I will have a staff person and volunteer at the center available.

Spring has sprung at Kachemak Kids:

The month of April brings our spring themes to life and that means hatching chicken eggs. This is one of my favorite themes and to watch the kids experience this process is thrilling. We will be digging and mulching to prepare our garden spaces. Anyone able to donate dirt or planter boxes, or other garden related items, please inform the staff.

Mark your calendar for Monday April 20th for our second parent meeting.

Topics will include:

- “Banking” parent service hours
- Kachemak Kids Web-store
- Summer program
- Introduction to new staff
- Approval of new parent policies
- Distribution of substitute phone list

Conscious Discipline:

Classes are held on the second and fourth Saturday's of the month. Session 3 is on 4/11 & Session 4 on 4/25. Child care is provided for a donation and families are asked to sign-up. Child care is limited to the first 15. We have a mix of families from Head Start and Kachemak Kids. Class cost is \$20.00 for all eight sessions. If you miss a session, you'll have an opportunity to make it up. Sessions will be repeated.

Our Mission: To provide a safe, nurturing, cooperative-style preschool and child care program that strengthens families through the education of parents and staff. We strive to provide awareness and role modeling for the Homer community regarding safe, nurturing child care, child development, and integrated learning for children, their families, and other community members.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 9:00 Pool Party at Homer Pool	9	10	11 Conscious Discipline 10-11:30
12	13	14	15	16	17 Senior Center Visit	18
19	20 5:30-6:30 Parent Meeting 6:40-8:00 Board Meeting	21	22	23	24	25 Conscious Discipline 10-11:30
26	27	28	29	30		

*Extra hands are welcome for field trips, but please check with the staff if you want to come on a day that your child normally does not attend and/or bring siblings.