



Discovery Zone Gazette

Toddler A "Springs" Into Learning

Toddler A begins the month of May with a theme about pond life. The children will enjoy a walk to the pond and a sensory experience with fish in the water table. Toddlers will enhance their vocabulary by making a book about the pond. They will also have to use creative thinking as they make their own fish or frogs. The children will also explore different rocks and discuss sizes as they choose one to paint.

For the second week of May, Toddlers will work on enhancing fine motor and problem solving skills. The older children will practice cutting with scissors while the younger children practice putting puzzles together. Gross motor skills will be developed through activities such as jumping over a rope, bean bag toss, and kicking a ball. Toddlers will work on listening skills while playing a game of mu-

sical chairs. The children will enhance cognitive and science skills by hypothesizing and experimenting which items will float or sink.

The third week of May will consist of learning all about Spring.

The Toddlers will enhance scientific knowledge through growing green beans and planting flowers. They will learn about what is necessary for plants to grow as they watch their plants sprout. The children will enjoy a sensory and fine motor experience by creating fingerprint flowers and "puff dough." Toddlers will also make duck creations with a mixture of paint, shaving cream and glue.

Toddler A will end the

month of May learning about creepy crawly bugs! Children will enhance math skills by creating ladybugs and counting the spots.

They will also enhance science skills by making caterpillars and placing them into a "cocoon." We will discuss how these caterpillars will turn into butterflies. Toddler A will also be able to enjoy a delicious treat of "dirt cups" in which they will

practice cooking skills. Children will make inkpad ants and learn through this activity about the head, thorax and abdomen. Lastly, Toddlers will develop fine motor skills by making colorful butterfly paintings.

Toddler A wishes Jakob R. a happy birthday! We are also happy to welcome Colby D. and family to our class. We wish everyone a Happy Spring!



Discovery Zone
Learning Center

Volume 3, Issue 5

May 2009

Important Dates:

- Picture Day is 5/14. Please return forms by 5/12 to your child's teacher if you would like to have photos taken.
- 5/25 DZLC will be **CLOSED** in observance of Memorial Day.
- 5/26 Cinderella will entertain the children with stories.
- 5/26-29 Toddler Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 6/1-6/5 Preschool Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Inside this issue:

Preschool A News	2
Preschool B News	2
Infant News	3
Toddler B News	3
Center News	3



Preschool A is "Udderly" Cool

May is a beautiful month and Moms are too, so Preschool A is going to celebrate Mother's Day by making a secret gift to give on Mother's Day. Along with our gifts, we will talk about what we like to do best with our Moms and practice writing by printing "I Love You, Mom."

For the second and third weeks of May, Preschool A will explore farms. We will talk about what responsibilities a farmer has. We will also discuss the animals and crops often found on farms and the different items the ani-



mals and crops can produce. Preschoolers will even get the opportunity to make some of those items in class. The children will also learn science skills as they plant their own garden to grow vegetables and to see on a small scale some of the responsibilities of the farmers. The children will practice patterning with adult and baby animals. Language skills will be built as the children create rhymes with a "To Market..." Song. Scientific exploration will be encouraged as the children explore fruits and vegetables with magnifying glasses.

For the last week of May, Preschool A will focus on Fairy Tales. The children will build language and lit-

eracy skills as they listen to a variety of stories and build math skills as they graph favorites. Comparative language will be the focus as the children analyze the graph to see which as the most and least votes. The children will also be encouraged to seriate by size the chairs, bowls and beds from "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Cinderella will visit DZLC on 5/27 to entertain the children with stories.

Preschool A is happy to welcome Matthew J., Alex B., and their families to our class. We are also happy to welcome Ms. Jamie to our class. Happy Birthday wishes to Owen B., Devin L., and Luke M. this month.

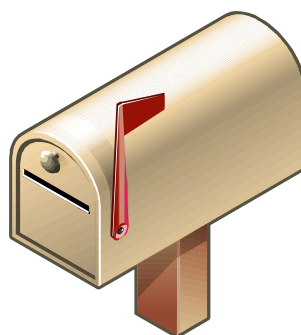
Fun is "Delivered" to Preschool B

Feliz Cinco de Mayo! Preschool B will party into May with our third annual Preschool B Fiesta. We will take two days to learn about the Mexican holiday. The children will have opportunities for gross motor development by salsa dancing and playing "Luz Rojo, Luz Verde (Red Light, Green Light.) We will also practice all the Spanish that the children have learned throughout the year. Tuesday 5/5 will be filled with Mexican foods, dancing and fun as the children enjoy a fiesta.

Next, Preschool B will celebrate our Mothers. We will take several days to honor our Mothers and all the wonderful things they do for us every day. The children will work on fine

motor skills as they make Mother's Day cards by drawing, cutting and writing. On Friday 5/8 don't forget to pick up your Muffins for Moms. The children will bake an assortment of muffins to start your day with a smile.

Next, Preschool B will have a two week theme on mail. During these weeks, we will respond to letters received from 2nd Graders at Nathan Hale School in



Manchester. The children will work on writing skills, learn the parts of a letter and (with your help!) receive some mail from home. We will discuss the different ways mail is delivered and have a field trip to the Columbia Post Office. Please feel free to write letters any day throughout the weeks of 5/11-5/22.

Lastly, we will wrap up May with a four day theme on the USA. The children will work on patterning skills with a red, white, and blue flag project. The children will also review the "Pledge of Allegiance" and listen to a recording of the "Star Spangled Banner." The class is going to be introduced to a map of the US and find places they have visited.



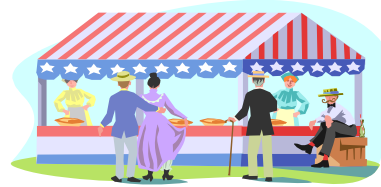
Infants Go To the Carnival

It's a Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Infant Room. To start the month the children will be exposed to Spanish words throughout the day, color sombreros and dance to Spanish music. Towards the end of the week, the Infants will make a Mother's Day gift that blooms with love for all our wonderful Mothers. The gifts will not only express love but also be a fun sensory project.

During the second week of May, the children will build phonological and

numerical awareness. The children will enjoy books such as "My First ABC's" and "My Ten Favorite Things." The children will also enjoy songs that introduce new words, sounds and number vocabulary. The children will have opportunities to explore magnetic letters, painting names, and counting cheerios.

For the last two weeks of May the



Infants will be at the carnival! The children will enjoy face painting, wacky mirrors and cotton candy for the older children. Be on the look out for pictures! Gross motor skills will be the focus as the children participate in a bean bag toss and obstacle course.

We are happy to welcome Zachary E. and family to our class. Happy First Birthday to Arianna E., Bailey E., and Kyle D.

Toddler B Has Frog Fun

May will start out with a week on caterpillars and butterflies. Fine motor and creative expression is the focus as the children paint caterpillars and butterflies. Science will be the focus as the children attempt to match or sequence the life cycle of a caterpillar depending on their developmental level. The children will sing new caterpillar and butterfly songs as they build language skills. Toddler B ends the week with our annual Mother's Day Luncheon. Hope to see

you there!

Next, Toddler B will focus on farms for two weeks. Throughout the first week, the children will focus on animals, and produce during the second week. The focus will be on numbers and counting as the children count the spots on cows. The children will also attempt to match adult and baby animals. The children will enjoy the song "Old MacDonald" (a classroom favorite!) as well as new farm related finger plays. The children will learn how

a farm impacts our daily lives as they make butter and "Stone Soup" using milk from a cow and vegetables from the farm.



Toddler B ends the month with a unit on pond life and frogs. Creative arts and science skills will combined as the children add frog eggs, tadpoles and frogs to a pond. The children will count frogs on lily pads and have fun making frogs using spatial awareness.

Center News

It's time again to sign up for Parent-Teacher Conferences. These conferences are a great opportunity for you and your child's teacher to discuss your child's growth, education and any questions or concerns you may have about your child's development. Please sign up for conferences that will best fit your schedule. Toddler conferences will be the week of 5/26-5/29 and Preschool conferences will be the week of 6/1-6/5. Sign Up sheets will be located next to your child's sign in and out



sheet. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child and all of his or her accomplishments.

DZLC is happy to welcome Ms. Jamie to our teaching staff. Jamie comes to us with her Associate's Degree in Psychology from the University of Hartford and is continuing to work towards her Bachelor's. Ms. Jamie also has previous experience working in both Preschool and Toddler Programs. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Jamie to our Center.

We are happy to announce that the

building project will be picking up steam! The loan officially closed last month and the builders plan on "breaking ground" the week of 5/11.



Thank-you to all the children and families for participating in "Jump Rope for Heart." With the children's GREAT jumping and your generous donations DZLC raised \$765.00 for the American Heart Association. Way to go!



