

ACCC Newsletter August 1999

Thank You

Earthling:

Searby/Derby: Flowers & Strawberry Shortcake, batteries, assortment of pens

Freeman: Flowers

Tu: Baby food

Austin Duniphin: Toy

Bebout: Infant Activity Gym

Hines: Colored pens, highlighters, etc

Timothy Farnham: Lots of baby food

Pioneer:

Woo: Swim diapers, cups

Hooten: Vinyl pillow covers

Viking:

Korsmeyer: Gifts and treats to the

Vikings, tools and tool belt, teacher gifts

Mariani: Bagels for breakfast

Gemini:

Taylor Chan: M&Ms on sharing day

Apollo:

Machak: Film canisters & spools

Ally Hacker: Loaning her sleeping bag for camping week

Maier: Loaning their tent for camping week

Duniphin: Marshmallows & crackers

WISH LIST

Earthling:

*Batteries – AA

Pioneer:

*3 Pillows

Viking:

*Old/used calendar w/ animal pictures – big ones please!

*Old /used paint brushes for small hands

Gemini:

*Story Tapes

*Puzzles

Vanguard:

*Dress up clothes

*Costume jewelry

*Bubble wrap packaging

The ACCC is looking for a non-electric carpet sweeper to use in the classrooms, or if you have a working electric vacuum cleaner that you would like to donate, we would happily accept that as well.

Classroom Happenings:

Earthling

The Earthlings have been enjoying the warm weather by taking many walks. They have spent some time on the deck as well. It is a time of exploration in the Earthling Room as the babies are learning about their bodies and what they can do. They are rolling, crawling, holding toys, and chewing, chewing, chewing. We look forward to more news about the children's activities as the babies become more and more active.

Pioneer

The Pioneer parents were really interested in watching their little ones enjoy sensory activities. It is messy, but it is fun! The Pioneers welcomed new additions Kathryn, Caroline, Miles, and Joseph. They sent Natasha and Jared off to the Mercury Room and are happy for a chance to see them every once in a while. The teachers enjoyed giving the graduates a gift entitled "I Am Special". It is a book made up of the children's art and pictures of their time in the Pioneer Room.

Next month the Pioneers are planning to go on walks and have even more water play if the weather is nice.

Mercury

Viking

The Vikings learned all about what their feet can do, this month. With some help from the teachers the children traced their feet and cut them out. Then the children painted the cut out feet with watercolors and glued yarn and eyes on

them. The Vikings spent lots of time discussing the words behind, under, and top, and they are even starting to use them in a sentence. The kids enjoyed tactile experiences by tearing and gluing tissue paper. The Vikings also did some sorting out of beads by color. They had a blast doing water play with the Mercury children and watering the bushes with their water sprinklers.

In the coming month the Vikings will focus on "facial awareness". They will practice naming all the parts of their faces and putting face parts on cut-outs. They will also explore faces/bodies with flannel board pieces. For enrichment they will have "mirror magic", learn the song "I'm Me" and finish it with ice cream making!!

Gemini

The Gemini classroom had lots of good-byes, hellos, and adjustment times the last month of the summer. They sent off graduating Geminis to the Apollo and welcomed a whole truckload of classmates from the Viking Room. Sadly they wished Julian Olynick, a friend that goes all the way back to the Earthling Room, a big goodbye as he and his family moved out of town. They would like to send a warm welcome to Dana Shaviv and her family who are new to ACCC.

The Gemini class enjoyed watching their seeds grow and their bean plant sprout. They also spent lots of time getting acquainted with colors and all their names. Sharing day is turning out to be a HUGE hit on Fridays!

This next month the Geminis will spend more time adjusting to the new room and schedules. They plan lots of art to decorate the walls! The teachers have also planned a parent meeting to

help the new Gemini parents learn the classroom routines and all about the development of their children.

Apollo

With the new school year beginning, the Apollos are busy welcoming new classmates and getting their routine established. They are in the process of creating an attendance board for the children to check in on each day. They are very excited to begin using it. Other activities have included discovering where things in the classroom belong, making new cubbies for the new Apollos, and red painting activities.

They will be continuing to emphasize the color “red” for the month

of September. They will also be learning about ways that each person is special. This includes acknowledging differences and similarities with others.

Vanguard

Oh, how the Vanguard Room has changed! There is lots of talk about where all of our Vanguard friends have gone, the ones left behind are trying hard to understand the mysterious concept of Kindergarten, and boy is it tough! The Vanguards have begun to explore the first letter of the alphabet and there seems to be a lot of enthusiasm. They look forward to having a great time getting to know one another in the coming months.

<u>AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!</u>			<u>Congratulations</u>
<i>Mara Dominguez</i>	<i>1 year</i>	<i>8/18</i>	<i>Kaiser, Judy, Anika, and Kelsen</i>
<i>Sarah Jensen</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>8/8</i>	<i>It's A Girl</i>
<i>Keely Corral</i>		<i>8/15</i>	<i>Sonja Brigitte Adeni</i>
<i>Brad Switzer</i>		<i>8/17</i>	<i>August 2, 1999 7:54 am</i>
<i>Preston Hernandez</i>		<i>8/23</i>	<i>6lbs. 14 oz. 20.25"</i>

The Internet Connection

Following are a couple of web sites that were found to have good information or entertainment value for parents and families.

/Please note that the ACCC does not endorse, or claim knowledge the advice or products on these sites. As with any internet information check out these sites before sharing them with your children./

If you have found a web site that has been useful to you or your family and want to pass it along to others, please give the address to our office and we will be glad to include it in future newsletters.

www.meddybemps.com

Chateau Meddybemps

- ◆ Area for kids
- ◆ Area parents & teachers
- ◆ Area for older children & grown ups
- ◆ Kids are includes: learning activities & Beantime stories

www.boowakwala.com

A site for 2 – 8 year olds

- ◆ Fun interactive games/activities
- ◆ Illustrated stories
- ◆ Music & games

www.kididdles.com

- ◆ Musical Mouseum – lyrics to kids songs (very cool for those of you who can only remember verse 1 of your child's favorite song!)
- ◆ Trunk O tales – never ending story – you decide where the story goes
- ◆ Fun n Games
- ◆ KIDiddles Kids – kids share their songs, stories, jokes, and pictures

Meet the ACCC Staff

Rosa Yancy started at ACCC in March as a temporary cook and became a permanent ACCC staff member in July. She has not worked with children in this capacity before, but has taught computers to children for the past seven years. She has a large family and has had a lot of experience cooking for big crowds. Rosa has been married for 16 years to her husband Scott and they have a seven year old son named Matthew. Rosa's hobbies and interests include camping, going to the beach, going to the movies, having picnics, and bike riding. Rosa was born in the Azores and came to the U.S. when she was five years old. She speaks Portuguese fluently. Welcome, Rosa!

Brad Switzer came to be a Gemini teacher on October 12, 1994. He came to us with a BS in Child Development from CSU Sacramento. Before joining our staff he worked for 2 1/2 years at a school in Sacramento. Brad also had success developing a Mommy and Me program at a place similar to the Discovery Zone. He has worked at ACCC ever since he decided to move home to the Bay Area. Some of Brad long and short term plans include: continue learning the administrative end of preschool, and thinks it would be fun to someday have his own center. Brad got married five months ago and lives with his wife, Nancy, in San Francisco by the zoo. His brothers and sister live in this area and his parents live up in Grass Valley. Some of Brad's interests and hobbies include golf, softball, and on the weekends he lounges around with Nancy. Under the subject of "other information you would like to share" Brad wants all to know that he does all of the domestic work at home including cooking and the laundry!

Crayon Soap

1 cup Ivory Snow soap
1/4 cup warm water
Food Coloring
Muffin Tin

1. Mix together the Ivory Snow and water
2. Stir out all lumps. The consistency may be a little dry, but it will even together.
3. Separate into several different bowls and add a dose of food coloring to each. Spoon the mixture into the muffin tin to dry. (This should take 1 to 2 days)
4. When they are firm to the touch, pop them out of the muffin tin.

Crayon soap washes off all surfaces, including the skin, with a washcloth.

Storytelling for Busy Parents

By: Magda Santos, The Children's Center at Bankers Trust Harborside,
Jersey City, NJ, 1997

Driving from school to our homes or waiting for a dental appointment, These are the times that are hardest to manage when we are with children. These are the moments we are in transition. They are also great times to tell stories.

It could be a story about the day's events with colorful words and juxtapositions or a traditional tale from the Grimm collection recited from memory. Storytelling is a great learning tool that inspires us, teaches us the rules we live by, and helps create family mythology.

Remember: Storytelling requires no special materials or books. A good memory and imagination go a long way in telling stories.

Where do stories come from? They come from tradition, current events, life experiences, and books. The oral traditions of many cultures give us a wonderful starting point for thinking about storytelling. All of the resources mentioned above provide us with a wealth of material. Add to this the opportunity of inspiring our children by relaying the values and norms of our past and present, and you have a formula for entertainment and learning.

When should we tell stories?

- ☐ How about a good story to break the ice when new friends come together for a play date?
- ☐ How about when the noise level rises and you know without intervention the situation may climax to negative proportions? Well, these are the times for a story.
- ☐ When we find ourselves in transitions that are difficult, such as divorce or moving to a new city, storytelling can be a healing process during these stressful times.

Listening to parents tell stories is second only to listening to children tell stories. Their presentation tells us about their feelings and competency. They open doors to their well-being when they describe and begin to understand relationships or choose a particular story to tell.

