

Infant Toddler Newsletter March 2017 Longwood Medical Child Care Center

The Infant Room

The Infant classrooms are a hive of activity these days as the younger and older infants are increasing their confidence in their mobile capabilities. The teachers are focused on the daily needs of each child and have been providing challenges as the children's exploration in the classroom environment increases. The addition of new materials and furniture have afforded the children opportunities to practice their growing skills.



The younger side of the classroom now has a soft climber for the children to explore. The children have climbed, pulled up and crawled to investigate and explore the new area as they use their ever increasing large muscle strength. Some children have found soft corners to be supported in and others have navigated their way to the top to discover the piano and music on the ledge.

The children have explored more sensory experiences with the addition of a new small water table and many new small manipulatives to retrieve and investigate. These opportunities increase cognitive development through investigations of different materials, social skills and large and small motor



growth.



The older Infants continue to enjoy their outings to movement class and the playground. These outings give them more opportunities to increase and build large motor skills, coordination and balance control.



The Mixed Room

The children in the Mixed classroom have expressed interest in trucks, trains, cars and other forms of transportation. The teachers acted upon this expressed interest by facilitating an exploration into the construction of a fire truck which then led into further constructions of a bus and the Green Line train. The children were first given pictures of fire trucks to examine. They were really excited about the pictures and this led into a discussion to build a fire truck. We are lucky to have many boxes at our disposal and the children got to work.



After the children inspected the pictures of the fire trucks they started the construction process by painting the boxes and then proceeded to add the finishing touches of lights, wheels and ladders. The discovery was enjoyed by all! Their imaginations and communication skills went into high gear as they pretended to be firefighters and drive the truck.



This play was extended with the construction of a school bus and a replica of a green line train. In this type of play and discovery the children are increasing their cognitive, social and communication skills.



When the Mixed room was satisfied with their exploration they invited their friends in the Infant room to have fun with their truck as well. The children have enjoyed building and learning about different types of transportation.



The Toddler Classroom

During the latter part of February the Toddlers continued to extend their scientific experiments related to the properties of ice. To support their natural curiosity the teachers froze small toy teddy bears in the ice. The children proceeded to experiment with ways to rescue the teddy bears. This exercise also included discussions on the properties of the ice as it began to soften and melt. The children were eager to determine the cause of the melting.





The Toddler classroom was excited to have Claire's mother visit and do nail art with the children. This special event was enjoyed by all. The children demonstrated great patience and interest as they waited for their turn to see the finished product. A big thanks to Claire's mom for her time and creativity!



In Early Childhood we frequently are asked about the play that children engage in. Play is a child's work and is a very important part of their development. There are different types of play that children engage in that prepare them for future interactions.

Solitary Play

This is actually what it sounds like, a child playing alone.

Parallel Play

This is when children are playing side by side.

Cooperative Play

This is when all the stages come together and the children are able to begin working and playing together and these experiences prepare them for future interactions of adults.

The Toddlers participate in all types of play but as they mature we observe them engaged in cooperative play on a daily basis. The pictures below show some of these interactions.



Upcoming Center Events:

- **Parent Workshop**
"Beyond Bossing, Begging and Bribing" Tuesday April 4, 2017 6:15-7:15 pm
- **"Move with Me"**
Parent participation event in the classroom Tuesday April 11, 2017
8-10 am and 3-5 pm
- **Infant Massage Class**
Young Infants Wednesday March 29, 2017 6:15-7:15 pm
Older Infants Wednesday April 19, 2017 6:15-7:15pm

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