

## Preschool Newsletter May 2017 Longwood Medical Area Child Care Center

### Young Preschool Room

The children in the young preschool classroom have started conversations related to spring. On walks to movement they noticed changes in the trees, found flowers, heard new sounds, and observed changes in the weather. They made flowers by pressing forks in paint and stamping them onto paper to display in the "flower garden" on the wall.



The children were very excited about activities that allowed them to be creative and independent. Some of the activities that they enjoyed included making playdough and creative art. When making playdough the children were able to measure the materials, combine them and mix them together to form a dough. Each child was able to choose their color and knead the dough until they could use it. Some brought the playdough home at the end of the day.



Additionally, the children used scissors, glue, tape, writing implements and a variety of art supplies to create works of art. Some works were simple, such as a name picture, while others were more complex like the aluminum foil collage.



The young preschool children create and explore with a variety of materials. They continue to spend time taking care of animals or babies, driving vehicles, and designing.

A favorite fun afternoon activity included going on a bear hunt. The children read the story We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen. They enjoyed the story so much that they requested to read it multiple times during large group time. After hearing the story the children worked together to illustrate different scenes from the book. When the pictures were completed they were mounted on the wall spread about in the classroom. The preschoolers then went in pairs "through" each part of the scenery in accordance with the book. They concluded their bear hunt when they reached the cave and returned to join the larger group of children. This repeated activity allowed children to act out and retell a story and to work on sequencing by knowing what came first, second, and so forth until they made it back to the circle. This activity also encouraged shared time together as they went on the adventure with a friend. The children enjoyed hanging out in the bear cave which has been loved to the point of needing to be retired into the recycle bin.



## Middle Preschool Room

Throughout the month of April the children in middle preschool were actively exploring their environment and most especially the changes that often come with spring. They talked about the weather, temperature shifts, and adjustments to clothing needs.

There were many rainy days that dictated that the children could not venture to movement or the playground. It was during these days that the children participated in obstacles courses in the hallway. When the rain did subside, the children took full advantage of going outside. In preparation to go outside, the preschoolers found themselves inquiring about the clothing necessary to maintain their comfort. On some days, they realized a heavier coat was needed, other days a coat was worn sans zipper, and there were even a couple coatless occasions! The spring weather certainly kept the children guessing!

Many of the preschoolers have also observed that after their day at LMACCC the sun continued to shine and the weather was more conducive to being outdoors later in the evening. They have been quite eager to share their adventurous tales of post-school bike riding and park explorations enjoyed with their families.

While working on art activities in the classroom the children explored texture and practiced color mixing. For example, they painted a sun with yellow and white paint creating visual textures as the colors mixed. They also painted a cloudy sky using puffy paint (shaving cream and glue) that created an illusion that the clouds were coming off the paper.



The children recognized that April is a particularly rainy month. As a result, they experimented even more with water in the sensory table and in science exploration. They used various sized measuring tools which lead to explorations of volume. Using colored water, pipettes, and small mixing boards the children combined red and yellow water to see what happened.



The children in middle pre have been very excited about using all sorts of materials to build with. Their play allowed them opportunities to enhance their basic knowledge of such concepts as balance, force, motion, cooperation, inquiry, and spatial skills.



Through art activities the children utilized a variety of painting tools. Some art was done cooperatively to reach an end result such as painting the dirt for a mural, while other activities allowed for individual creativity such as writing one's name in neon paint or drawing a snake. When children participate in a variety of art activities they are afforded opportunities to use their imagination, work on prewriting and fine motor skills, as well as build confidence.



### Older Preschool

The older preschool children spent some time exploring the work of being a doctor and a librarian. They dressed up in doctor attire and pretended to take care of sick friends and baby dolls. Some diagnosed what was wrong and prescribed treatment, while others encouraged immunizations. Additionally, the children created a library and constructed library cards that they used to check the books out. The librarians scanned the books for the borrowers and reminded them that they had to return the books in a week. Some even suggested that the books should be returned in a matter of minutes. The children have also borrowed favorite stories from the classroom library to share with their family at home.



The children continue to engage in activities that allow them to assemble, design, and create using a variety of materials. These engagements are times that illustrate the children's social and cooperation skills, their use of spatial relation, as well as utilization of prior knowledge in creative moments. Throughout their play children construct an understanding of their world. They practice building the foundations of learning through their persistence in exploring familiar activities and taking risks in attempts at new ones.

*Have you ever been curious what's really happening in each picture?*

Prior to the boys' experimenting with the pulley system below, a group of girls excitedly assembled it. After assembling it they abandoned the toy and the boys came over to check it out. Here the boys are taking turns using the pulleys to send the chair from one side to the other. Some of the discussions included how to make it move faster, what happens if you pull this and whose turn is next.



In the next group of pictures the children referred to a picture to duplicate a design. This type of play supports a child's spatial skills. If you look in the background of the last picture you can also see children who have created their own marble run path after having had opportunities to work on copying pre-designed ones. The children are able to apply this practice to create their own structures and designs in future exploration of familiar materials.



Play in general allows children to just enjoy creating imaginary play stories. These children had an idea, created a plan and brought their plan to fruition. This play encourages individuality, enhances risk taking, and illustrates persistence in the desire to learn.



### **Graduation**

Preschool Graduation for all children entering Kindergarten in the fall is on Friday, June 30, 2017 from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. It will be held at Wheelock College in the CCSR 103 Room at 150 Riverway.

### **Events:**

#### **Museum of Fine Arts**

The Museum for Fine Arts brought Artful Adventures to the preschool classrooms. The children explored texture in art. In each classroom the children participated in a discussion with the instructors about the different designs that create texture in paintings and sculptures. The children then created their own art picture using various materials of different types of textures on sticky boards.



### Family Event: “Move with Me”

Some families were able to participate in gross motor movement activities in the classroom. The parents seemed to be drawn to the activities that require strong balance skills. Those balance boards are much more challenging based on one’s own center of gravity.



Our next family event is the Ice Cream Social so please save time on the afternoon of June 15<sup>th</sup>!

### Parents Corner

Play ideas for late afternoon short play times:

- Bubbles: always a favorite
- Chalk on a walk, driveway, wall – hopscotch, 4 square, murals
- Bucket of water with a paint brush for painting the walls, lawn furniture, etc. (Helps erase chalk murals.)
- Balls: various sizes and types. Remember beach balls are fun even if you’re not at the beach!
- Paint: Use your bathtub wall as an easel with finger paints, colored shaving cream or washable paint.
- Texture rubbing: Using a crayon on its side and many pieces of paper, take a walk around your neighborhood to make rubbings of fencing, telephone poles, fire hydrants, etc.

- Photo scavenger hunt: take pictures of things that you see on your walk, print them out and then have your child choose one or two to find along the walk next time you go. You can also use them in conversation with your child to practice sequencing. Choose three pictures and then have your child tell you what you see first on the walk? Next? And last?
- Mud play: mix water with dirt and have a blast! Great sensory experience.

## **Reminders**

### **Summer Swim**

Summer swim starts for age eligible (*2 years 9 months old and above*) and fully toilet trained children on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Robin Gossels distributed information and forms to all eligible families. Please remember that all forms must be completed and submitted to Robin by May 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions you can contact Robin at 617-632-2756 or [rgossels@masco.harvard.edu](mailto:rgossels@masco.harvard.edu).

### **Clothing**

Warmer weather is coming. Please remember to check your child's extra clothing to be sure to include both long and short sleeve shirts as well as pants and shorts, underwear, socks, and a sweatshirt/sweater for the cooler spring days. We sunscreen the children 30 minutes prior to morning and afternoon playground. If you are providing home sunscreen please let us know.

### **Shoes**

In the warmer weather children like to wear flip flops and sandals. Please remember to bring sneakers for movement and playground play.

Have a great May!

*Robin Gossels*

Preschool Coordinator