



Early Childhood Newsletter

Monthly Highlight from Creative Curriculum

The Sand and Water Area

Although you're probably used to seeing your children splash in the bathtub and dig in a sandbox at the playground, you may be surprised to know that the Sand and Water Area is an important part of our school program. Both sand and water are natural materials for learning.

When children pour water into measuring cups, they are exploring math concepts. When they drop corks, stones, feathers, and marbles into a tub of water, they are scientists exploring which objects float and which sink. When they comb sand into patterns, they learn about both math and art. We encourage children to experiment with these materials.

As they do, we ask questions to focus their thinking on their discoveries:

- *Now that we've turned the water blue, what should we do with it?*

- *How did the water change when we added the soap flakes?*
- *What can wet sand do that dry sand can't?*
- *What can dry sand do that wet sand can't?*
- *How many of these measuring cups of water do you suppose it will take to fill this quart pitcher?*

What You Can Do at Home

If your child particularly enjoys playing with water and sand, you may want to set up some play areas for these activities in your home. Water play can be set up at the bathroom or kitchen sink. Lay a large towel on the floor, and if the sink is too high for the child, provide a stool or stepladder. Outdoors, you can use a small wading pool, tub, or old baby bathtub. Give your child a baster, plastic measuring spoons and cups, a fun-

nel, and plastic or rubber animals and boats.

Or for a novel experience, add soap flakes or food coloring to the water. And don't forget about blowing bubbles with your child. Try using different kinds of bubble blowing frames. Plastic six-pack rings, empty berry containers, or an eyeglass frame without the lenses make interesting bubble wands.

If a sandbox is not available outdoors, you might use a small dishpan as a miniature sandbox. All you need is a few inches of fine white sand. Collect small items such as shells, rubber animals, a very small rake, coffee scoops, measuring cups and spoons, sieves, and funnels and offer them to your child, a few at a time. These props will lead to many hours of enjoyment for your child.

The opportunity to play with sand and water on a regular basis helps children to develop their minds and bodies in relaxing and thoroughly enjoyable ways.

**April
2010**

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Rainforest Wonders

Color: Blue

Shape: Diamond

Letters: I and R

Number: 7

Week of the Young Child

April 19th—23rd

19th—Celebrate "Me" Day

20th—Picnic Lunch Day

21st—Ooey, Goopy, Experiament Day!

22nd—Parade Day @ 2:30

23rd—PJ and Movie Day



**Earth, Space and
Weather**

Color: Black

Shape: Star

Letters: K and U

Number: 8

Watch for details at your center!



Character Counts



Responsibility

Responsibility is doing what you are supposed to do. Responsible people think ahead, set reasonable goals, control their temper and always do their best. They don't give up easily and they are accountable for the consequences of their choices; they don't blame others for their mistakes.

What Parents can do to promote responsibility:

- 1) Give children responsibilities by providing age-appropriate chores for your child and setting reasonable expectations.
- 2) Praise your child with encouraging words when he or she demonstrates responsibility, using the word *responsible*. For example, "Thank you for setting the table—that was responsible of you."
- 3) Responsibilities include self-control. This especially difficult for very young children. Establish clear rules against hitting and biting and enforce them. Plan ahead and provide acceptable outlets for anger such as pounding clay, hitting a pillow, running outside, or talking about feelings .
- 4) Model responsibilities, set goals and plan by making a list of responsible things to do. As you carry out each task, show your child how successful they are by adding a sticker next to their accomplished responsibility goals. Approach goals in a fun way - for example play music or sing while picking up the toys.

Warm clothing needed



The weather is starting to improve each day. As always, when weather permits, we need to play outside. Please continue to send warm clothing for the children to play in. Coats, boots, hat and mittens. Mornings are still very chilly and we want the children to be warm while they play.



April Bookmobile Schedule

14th Street: 10:15—10:45

April 13th and 27th

River Crossing: 9:00—10:00

April 6th and 20th

Remember to send your child's library card. If your child does not have a library card, ask your child's teacher for information. You can fill all the necessary information out at your center to get a library card for your child. What a great opportunity for your child to get new books to bring home to share and read.

