

THE PLUS POST PROGRAM NEWSLETTER · SPRING 2020

CLASS NEWS

As we wrap up the final weeks of our program, it's with great happiness that we can look back at all the activities, stories, and fun we have shared with your children. Throughout the curriculum, the group developed various skills and made great progress in all areas.



We would like to thank our family childcare providers for participating in the program, and all the parents for supporting and following alongside their children. Everything we have accomplished could not have been achieved without you and your commitment to continue teaching at home. It has been a time of many changes, especially in the last few weeks, however child care providers have stepped up and continue to do their best to provide high quality education and care for your children during these difficult times.

As our community slowly recovers, we hope you and your family continue to stay safe. We hope you have enjoyed your time in the program and continue to wish your children all the best in their academic journey. They have grown and learned so much, we know they will go on to accomplish many great things in the future.

WE PLAYED, DANCED, SANG AND READ TOGETHER

Throughout these past six months, we have played, danced, sang and read together.



By reading and sharing stories, your child developed early literacy skills. They got to know the sounds of different letters and words and have enriched their vocabulary.

The stories we read helped spark curiosity and imagination. Some of our group favorites this year were: **Brown Bear**, **Chika Chika Boom Boom**, **Where is the Green Sheep?** and **Cows Can't Jump** to name a few. Your children received these books along with guide sheets and we have created activities to encourage and continue their learning at home.

A child's mind is constantly expanding when they are allowed to explore their surroundings.

Educational toys, music and movement also help children learn many different skills they will need in their life. Toys like the ones we used throughout our program, such as **puzzles**, **wooden blocks**, a **play tunnel** and **lacing toys** help develop your child's fine and gross motor skills and teaches problem solving skills. Songs and music help develop self expression, nurtures creativity and promotes physical play.



IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

Play is essential for all children. It is important for their learning and also necessary for healthy brain development. Your interactions with your child while they play will help promote creativity, language development and build up their confidence from an early age. When you take the time to play with your child, you are creating a strong special bond with them and also engaging in positive learning.

Enjoy playtime and do activities like stacking blocks, finger painting, and singing silly songs. Too often, electronics take over a family's attention and family time is filled with screen time instead. Be sure to turn the TV off and make playtime memorable and meaningful for everyone!

READING TIPS

- Turn off the TV and find a quiet place.
- Make storytime a part of your daily routine.
- Let your child choose their favorite book.
- Encourage your child to interact with the story
 - Ask about the illustrations
 - Repeat familiar words and phrases
 - Make funny noises and sounds
- Use your reading guide sheets for more activity ideas

Great Books

- Feast for 10
- Caps for Sale
- The Grouchy Ladybug
- Hungry Caterpillar
- Snowy Day
- Whistle for Willie

Great Toys

- Building Blocks
- Puzzles
- Puppets
- Musical Instruments
- Counting Toys

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TOYS

Toys are an important part of every child's life.

- Look for toys that promote fine motor skills and pretend play
- Ask important questions
 - Will it be fun for my child and allow them to be creative?
 - Is the toy safe and appropriate for the child's age, skills, and abilities?
 - Will the toy help building skills like communication, coordination, and fine and large motor skills?

Health Points

COVID-19: Stay Informed

Wash Hands with Soap and Water for 20 seconds

Sing the "Happy Birthday Song" TWICE!

Use Hand Sanitizer with at least 60% Alcohol

Protect Those Around You!

Practice Social Distancing

Stay Home!

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