



Discovery Tree (DT) Monthly January 2006

Director's Corner

THANK YOU

We would like to thank Phil Wyels and Rob & Lisa Barry for all that they did to ensure our wonderful new play yard could be completed. They took time from their busy lives to come and hang out with the construction crew during the day and even on the weekends. We would also like to thank Tamarin for planning the great field trips and the Kid Ease Board for arranging for Natures Critters to come in and visit. And to all of you parents that donated the wagons for the many walks that we went on during construction (the Tookers, Mehls, Knepraths, Austins), many thanks! Without your help and support, we would not have been able to have such a smooth month of construction.



thing. We find many items of clothing are similar and same in size. Also please be sure to bring in multiple changes of clothes. Even though we try to dry off all of the equipment, sometimes we miss spots.



COME & VISIT

Please take some time to come in and visit the classrooms. The teachers and children have been hard at work decorating the rooms. Not to mention if you have not had the chance, you will really enjoy checking out the new play yard!

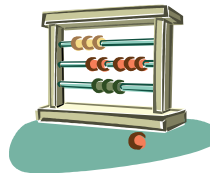
LEARNING OR PLAYING?

Let's continue our tour of the DT classroom to discover how our children "learn through play" by exploring the *Math and Manipulative Center*.

To many adults, math is a difficult subject. If at an early age, however, children have positive hands-on experiences, they learn math concepts in a non-threatening way and take what they learn from one concept and apply it to the next. When children investigate sea shells with magnifying glasses, they begin to recognize similarities and differences in objects. When children sort bear counters of different shapes and sizes, they classify. A good math and manipulative center includes:

- Stacking toys
- Dressing vests
- Counters
- Peg boards and pegs
- Puzzles and puzzle racks
- Sorting bowls or trays
- Dupls.
- Lacing sets (beads, cards, etc.)
- Manipulative sets (Bristle Blocks, Flexi blocks, space links, etc.)

The math and manipulative center also fosters:



- *Social development*—Taking turns and respecting others
- *Emotional development*—Feeling proud and willing to try new activities.

• *Physical Development*—Coordinating eye-hand movements, grasping, stacking, and matching.

• *Cognitive Development*—Learning about size, shape, color, and patterns, grouping, classifying, counting, weighing, measuring, time, temperature, space, and volume concepts, observing and describing concrete objects, and one-to-one correspondence.

• *Language*—describing objects, pronouncing new terms, and communicating questions and ideas.

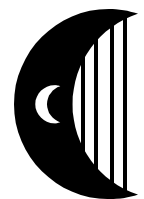
~Becca

Important Dates:

DT Closed	2nd & 16th
Tuition Due	3rd
Share Days	4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
Gymnastics	9th
Tuition is Late	9th
Kid Ease Board Mtg.	12th 11:30 a.m.
Piano Man	20th
Wear White to School Day	27th

Learning Themes

The shape of the month is a crescent.



The color of the month is white.

Our learning themes for the month are:

- ☉ Machines;
- ☉ Inventions; and
- ☉ Dinosaurs.

YEAR END STATEMENTS

If you would like a year end statement, please submit the request to me in writing. I ask that you give me at least one week to get the statement to you.

CHANGING WITH THE SEASONS

Now that we will be going outside, please remember to bring your child in warm clothes and to label every-



Preschool News

HOLD THE FIELD TRIPS

Now that we have a new play yard and since we are still experiencing field trip burn out, we have decided to take a month off from field trips. That gives us time to learn all the ins and outs of our new outdoor play area.



NEW FACES

Along with some toddler transitions, we have some new faces in our preschool program. Daniel Phelps joined us in December. Please take some time to intro-

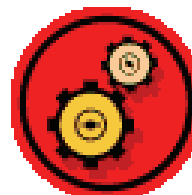
duce yourself to the family. Additionally, starting in January, Aasiya and Katelyn will be joining our program. We look forward to having a great year and welcome all of our new families.



LEARNING THEMES

This month the theme is *Machines and Inventions*. We will be learning how things work and how to build them. If you have anything that you do not want,

bring it in so that the preschool children can take it apart. Later in the month we will also be talking about *Dinosaurs*, exploring the different types and



sizes. The color of the month is *White* and the shape is *Crescent*.

Infant and Toddler News

INFANT NEWS

WELCOME—We would like to welcome a new addition to the baby room! Arwyn (Jake's little sister) will be starting the first week in January. We are happy to have a new little baby.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS—Grace is starting to take steps; it is only a matter of time before she is running all over the

room. Nolan, Ava, Allysa and Abby are starting to pull themselves up to standing position and Noah is trying to crawl. So, watch your step when you are in the infant room as you never know who will grab you or get under your foot next.

TODDLER NEWS

TRANSITIONS AND NEW FRIENDS—A big welcome to our new friend—Alec! He's a wonderful addition to our busy group. Megan has also



transitioned to the toddler side and is having a great time on the slide! Goodbye to Ben "BenMehl" and Jaxon. They're off to preschool. We'll miss our big boys!

THANK YOU—Thank you Jake for the cool stuffed animals.

PLAYGROUND—We love our new playground! We are even able to play outside when it's raining, because the climber is under the overhang!!!



Kid Ease Parent Board

PLAYGROUND GRAND OPENING

Thank you to everyone, especially the teachers, for making the playground transition so seamless for the children. We appreciate all the extra energy, field trips and walks!!!

This month Kid Ease will be hosting a grand opening of the new playground to acknowledge those organizations and individuals that brought this dream to fruition. We will recognize a number of the parents, namely Phil Wyels and Lisa & Rob Barry, that were particularly instrumental in the planning and implementation of this project as well as representatives from DT, CalEPA, DPA, Thomas Properties, the City of Sacramento and the contracted companies. Details will be provided as they become available.

Additionally, we anticipate hosting another grand opening for current and past parents and children this Spring. This will give us an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishment in the good weather. Again, notice will be given closer to the actual event date.

CONTRACT RENEWAL

We are happy to announce that we will be renegotiating another contract with DT. All the programs have been running extremely smoothly and we look forward to another year of learning and fun!

BOOK AND GIFT FAIR

A huge thank you to all the parents that helped to promote and staff the book fair fundraiser last month. We raised just under \$400!!! That is just a little under what we made at the last *two-day* book fair. Great work and thanks again!!!

NEWLY ELECTED BOARD

The results of the election have been certified. The 2006 Kid Ease Board Members are:

- **Elisa Levy & Marshalle Graham** - Co-Presidents
- **Michael Lauffer** - Vice President
- **Dave Mehl** - Treasurer
- **Dessa Donahue & Terri Wyels** - Co-Secretaries
- **Andrew Hurst** - Director at Large (Back-

up Secretary)

- **Denise Davis** - Director at Large (Fundraising)
- **Beth Stern** - Director at Large (Parent Participation)

Many thanks to our departing 2005 Board Members, Tamarin Austin, Mike Levy and Melissa Asher.

KID EASE GOOGLE GROUP

We updating the Kid Ease Google Group. You may have seen the sign-up sheet for this list last week. Marshalle is working to ensure that all parents interested in receiving such correspondences are included. You can contact her at 916-341-6270 or mgramham@ciwmb.ca.gov.

BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held January 12, 2006, at 11:30 a.m. in Training Rm. 2 E&W (CalEPA building). If you are not a CalEPA employee, please check-in at the security desk. The meeting agenda will be provided the 1st week of January.