



Discovery Tree (DT) Monthly January 2007

Director's Corner

Dear DT Families,



ANOTHER AWESOME YEAR!!

Welcome back everyone! I hope your holidays were as wonderful as all of ours were. Thank you so much for your generosity throughout the past month—it's been truly amazing. The staff and I really appreciate all the thoughtful gifts and yummy confections.

January will be a busy month here at Discovery Tree. We have a few families that will be returning to our school. The children will be busy setting back into the normal routine. Our themes this month will be machines and inventions and dinosaurs.

Any families that need year end reports for taxes, I need to have the request in writing in order to get that to you.

I look forward to spending this year with all of you and hope it will be a fabulous 2007.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

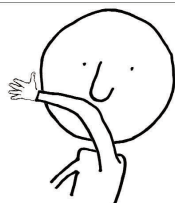
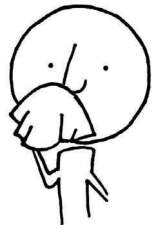
FLU SEASON

This flu season is being taken very seriously at Discovery Tree. The flu is easily passed by person to person by coughing and sneezing. A person can also get the flu by touching something with the flu virus on it and then touching their mouth or nose. Therefore, the staff and I are going above and beyond our usual cleanliness habits



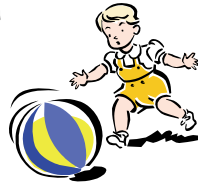
and are encouraging you to do the same. On the front counter you will notice hand sanitizer—we are providing

this to parents to use on the way into and out of the school. We are also sanitizing phones, push bars on the doors, and handles twice each day. As always, we continue to sanitize classroom surfaces and toys daily. We also ask that



you encourage your children to cough into their elbows or the neck of their shirts at home like we have shown them to do here at school (the coughing sleeve). Thank you for your help during this very germ-infested season.

BACK TO BASICS



Piaget describes four different stages of cognitive development. Last month we

learned a bit about the first stage, infancy. The second stage of development is the pre-operational stage (toddler and early childhood). In this period (which has two sub stages),

intelligence is demonstrated through



the use of symbols, language uses matures, and memory and imagination are developed, but thinking is done in a non logical, nonreversible manner.

Children can verbalize thoughts and feelings but can not think them out logically. This is the stage where children just say what they are thinking and don't realize how their words might make people feel, the brutally honest



stage. Ego-centric thinking dominates. This is kind of like the all about me phase. I want it, it's mine, and no one else can have it even if I am not using it any more.

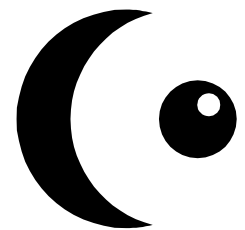
~Becca

Important Dates:

DT Closed	1st & 15th
Tuition Due	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
Gymnastics	8th & 22nd
Share Days	3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st
Tuition is Late	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
Kid Ease Board Mtg.	11th at 12:00 pm
Piano Man	12th

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*. We will review :
letter *Y* the week of 1/1
Letter *Z* the week of 1/8
letter *B* the week of 1/15
letter *D* the week of 1/22
letter *?* the week of 1/29

Preschool News



LEARNING THEMES

This month the themes are *machines, inventions & dinosaurs*. We will talk about how things work, how they might be built and construction in general. Towards the end of the month we will discuss the different types and sizes of dinosaurs as well as what paleontologists do. We will be learning about the color *white*. The shape for the month will be *crescent*. The letters for the month are *Y, Z, B* and *D*.

SMALL GROUPS

Chickens — This month the chickens will be learning about dinosaurs and building.

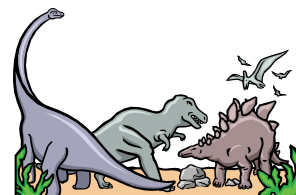
We will be exploring the idea of how houses, buildings and other structures are put together. The chickens will also continue more tracing and letter recognition.

Little Foots — This month we will blast back in time to learn about our friends the dinosaurs. We will also be continuing writing our names, working with scissors, as well as the letters of the week.

Nemos — The Nemos would like to welcome Megan from the toddler side to their group. This month we will be learning about dinosaurs... Where did they live? What did they eat? We will also be talk-

ing about different types of buildings—houses, schools, etc. Please use this month as an opportunity to point out our color and shape, as we will be doing the same at school. **GO NEMOS!!!**

Giraffes — We will be working on writing first and last names, number writing and relationship to quantity, as well as progression thru the alphabet. Please let me know if you have any small electronics we could take apart.

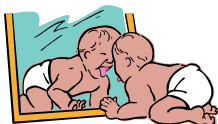


Infant and Toddler News

INFANT NEWS

Thank you all for your generous gifts and wishes that you have given us this last year. We look forward to all that heads our way this new year. Baby Jay Tooker will be officially starting this month. Arwyn has also informed her teachers that she is ready to start visiting the toddler room. She will start her transition at the end of the month.

THANK YOU — We would like to thank Matthew George for adding on to our CD collection. The infants and especially the teachers are enjoying the new music.



MOVERS AND SHAKERS — Jack is officially walking, Ike is trying to scoot forward and Katelyn is pulling herself up. Great job friends — keep up the good work!

TODDLER NEWS

We are heading into the New Year and many exciting things are going on in the toddler program. Megan will start visiting the preschool to begin her transition to the Nemos. Our young toddlers are beginning to say many words and forming sentences! The older toddlers are telling us wonderful stories using all of their new language skills. If you have



any books featuring dinosaurs or crescents please feel free to bring them in for us to share during circle time.



REMINDERS — It is very important that your child's clothing is labeled, especially the socks. We have many jackets with no name and the toddlers are repeatedly taking off their socks. With out names it is very difficult to keep personal belongings with the right child.

Thank you!!!

Kid Ease Parent Board

KID EASE 2007 PARENT BOARD ELECTIONS

The following are the results of the elections held last month.

CO-PRESIDENTS:

- Elisa Levy & Analisa Bevan

VICE-PRESIDENT

- Michael Lauffer

TREASURER:

- Andrew Hurst

SECRETARY:

- Desa Donahue

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Back-up Secretary)

- Michelle Martin

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Fundraising)

- Charlotte Clarke

DIRECTOR AT LARGE (Parent Participation)

- Jenny Kennedy



We welcome our new Board and extend a big thank you to our 2006 Kid Ease Board of Directors for all of their hard work.

PARENT PARTICIPTION IN THE NEW YEAR

You are probably already aware that as members of Kid Ease, Inc., we are all required to fulfill three-hours of participation per family each quarter. There are many ways to fulfill this requirement. For example, attending monthly Kid Ease Board meetings, joining the Silent Auction Committee, assisting in the Book and Gift Fairs, using e-scrip (when shopping at Raley's, Bel Air & Safeway) as well as United Way contributions. You will soon be getting more information about the many opportunities for you to participate and to make the DT even more successful in offering an excellent learning environment and care for our children. In the meantime,

should you have any questions regarding the need for Kid Ease, its relationship to Discovery Tree and CAL/EPA, or should you want to be more involved with Kid Ease and would like to know how you can help, please contact our Board members (listing can be found at www.kid-ease.org) or attend our next Board meeting!

BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held at 12 pm January 11, 2007, in Conference Rm. 910 (CalEPA building). If you are not a CalEPA employee, please check-in at the security desk. The meeting agenda will be provided via the Google Group e-mail list. Additionally, the agenda & December meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board to the left of the sign-in binders.