



Discovery Tree (DT) Monthly November 2006

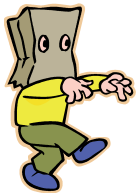
Director's Corner

Dear DT Families,
KEEPING WARM & HEALTHY
Cold and Flu season is upon us, please dress your child warmly for school. We do play outside when it is wet. Children will be kept inside during significant down pours but fog, nor sprinkles, nor chilly morning air will keep us from running and playing outside. This is also a good reason to bring a change of clothes in your child's bucket (labeled of course).



BACK TO BASICS

In the coming months, I will be going into more depth about many of the people whose ideas have helped our school find a learning theme that works. Before I get into that, however, I want to give parents an idea of some of the beliefs that have shaped the Discovery Tree program.



Here at Discovery Tree we believe that children remember and use the ideas which they discover for themselves. Based upon that principle, we have designed



the program to provide an enriched environment in a variety of areas which stimulate and encourage discovery learning. Discovery

Tree staff use their skills to set up learning environments to help children analyze problems and situations and reach conclusions based upon their experiences. At Discovery Tree we never underestimate the power of child's play. An example of this



would be when the children painted the play structure with water colors so that they could make it more beautiful. The children said "Now we will have a brand new play structure because we made it." They learned their ideas have value, set and achieved a goal, and enjoyed the accomplishment with a sense of ownership.

Starting next month, we will be covering the developmental stages of children and sharing more information about such people as



Piaget and Magda Gerber.

In the meantime, if you have a question about the curriculum or what/how/why your child is learning in the programs here at DT, please just let me know.

THANK YOU

The teachers would like to thank all of the parents that came down to help during lunch and rest time on Thursday, October 26th. It meant a lot to the teachers. Thanks to your help, we were able to be together to participate in the bench dedication as well as to have the Julie Kuhn Scholarship presentation by the Board. Remember to fill out a participation paper to the Board so that you can get your volunteer credit. (For those of you that have no idea what I am talking about.) Discovery Tree purchased a bench in memory of teacher & friend Julie Kuhn who passed away last June. The bench will be kept outside on the toddler yard. Please feel free to take some time to go and look at it.

~Becca



Important Dates:

Tuition Due	3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th
Share Days	1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
Kid Ease Board Mtg.	9th 11:30 am
Tuition is Late	7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
Gymnastics	13th & 27th
Piano Man	14th
Family Feast (nut free dishes)	16th

Learning Themes

The shape of the month is a rectangle.



The color of the month is red.

Our learning themes for the month are *All in the Family* and *Keeping in Touch*. We will review :

- letter T the week of 11/6
- Letter V the week of 11/13
- letter W the week of 11/20
- letter X the week of 11/27

Preschool News



LEARNING THEMES

This month the themes are *All in the Family & Keeping in Touch*. We will discuss family traditions, what makes a family, different types of communication and current technology. We will also learn about the color *red*. The month's shape is *Rectangle*. The letters for the month are *T, V, W & X*.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the parents those were able to help with our pumpkin farm field trip. We had a blast getting together with all of the other schools to hang out and have fun.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Our Harvest festival was a hit. We enjoyed

making pumpkin bars, cooking corn on the cob, painting with pumpkins & exploring what is inside pumpkins and other types of squash. Our annual Family Feast is scheduled for Thursday November 16th. Save the date!!! Please look for a sign in sheet to bring in your favorite nut free family dish.

SMALL GROUP INFORMATION

The *Giraffes* will continue working on the letters, numbers and improving fine motor skills. They have also been doing a great job with group stories and art projects.

The *Little Foots* are having lots of fun this month learning about families. We will be trying our hands at letter writing and other

means of communication.

The *Nemos* will be talking about things that are red, and learning to recognize our shape of the month. We will also continue with our walks, where take the opportunity to talk about safety and changes that are happening in our environment.

The *Chickens* will be participating various activities that support our family related theme. We will be discussing what makes a family, the different types of families and our own family. We will also continue our name tracing and work with letters, the color and shape of the month.

Infant and Toddler News

INFANT NEWS

We would like to welcome three new friends. Katelyn started in the infant room a couple of weeks ago. She is having a great time. Ike will be starting in the infant room the first of the month. He has been visiting and is adjusting well. Scarlet is our new friend on the toddler side. She will start on October 30th. Please say "Hi" to our new friends.

MOVERS AND SHAKERS — Emmett is up on his hands and knees rocking back and forth, Ben and Rachel are both pulling themselves up onto their knees, and Arwyn is taking steps. Great Job!

REMINDER — 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. Without names it is very difficult to keep personal belongings with the right child. Thank you for your help.

TODDLER

CHANGING SEASONS — With the advance of autumn, water play has now come to an end. We will still be doing fun and messy activities outside & inside. It is also a little cooler in the morning. So, please remember to label your child's clothing and jackets.

THANK YOU — We would like to thank Andrew for all of the wonderful paper he has shared with the children. We have had so much fun during our art and sensory activities.

TRANSITION — Noah has transitioned to the toddler side and is very much at home. Riley N. will be moving over at the beginning of the month. He has been visiting and is anxious to be there full time. Vivien has completed her transition to the preschool. She is having a fantastic time. We will miss her. Linnea will be going to preschool at the beginning of the month. She has been visiting in the afternoons and is having so much fun.

Kid Ease Parent Board

HELP RAISE \$1,000 FOR OUR SCHOOL!!

If we sell 38 more Entertainment Books, we will reach our goal of earning \$1,000 through this fundraising event. Books are \$40 and packed with savings. Please contact Denise Davis at 869-6561 to get your copy today.

KID EASE PARENT BOARD NOMINATIONS

It is time to select next year's Kid Ease board of directors. Sally French is leading the nomination committee. So, if you would like to volunteer for this committee, please contact her at 916-341-6432. More information regarding nominations and election process and timing will be sent out to the Google Group and will be posted on the bulletin board to the left of the sign-in binders.

A number of current directors and officers are not considering running for a other term. Therefore, we really need nominations. Without a Board of Directors, the child development center cannot operate (i.e., would be shut down). I know that sounds harsh, but it is true. So, please consider taking an active role in the Board this year.

Information about each position will be sent out via the Google Group and posted on the Kid Ease bulletin this month. In the meantime, if you have questions regarding such commitments, please give Marshall (916) 341-6270 or Elisa (916) 739-7343 a call.

STATE EMPLOYEE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN The SEUWC is underway and Kid Ease is in the book!!! So, please let people know that they can contribute to Kid Ease (e.g. family, co-workers) to help fund continuing permanent facility maintenance and improvements, the Julie Kuhn Scholarship, as well as an upcoming scholarship program for children that would likely otherwise not have the opportunity to attend preschool. Our (Kid Ease Child Care Center, Inc.) organization number is 12484. We raise approximately \$3,000 a year from this fundraising event. So, consider Kid Ease (#12484) when contributing.

SILENT AUCTION PREPARATIONS

Thank you so much to all of the families who have shared donations and finished up their shopping lists! Gentle reminder to those who

still have shopping lists - please get your items in as soon as possible so our Basket-making volunteers will have everything well in advance of the upcoming busy season (starting with Halloween on!).

We have just recently received a few items that are the start of a couple new baskets. Please contact Tamarin (lizzypod@hotmail.com or 804-5377) if you are willing to do some easy shopping (at the grocery/drug store or Target-equivalent) to finish off these baskets. Thank you again for making this year's Silent Auction the best yet.

BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held November 9, 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 via the Google Group e-mail list. Additionally, the agenda and Octobers meeting minutes will be posted on the bulletin board to the left of the sign-in binders.