



A loving environment for every child
Watch Me Grow
Child Development Center



April Newsletter

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NOW ENROLLING
CHILDREN AGES 6 YEARS TO 12 YEARS

SUMMER CAMP
\$30 PER DAY/ \$125 PER WEEK
INCLUDES MEALS AND FIELD TRIPS

***MUST ENROLL BY 5/13/2016**
TO LOCK IN THIS SPECIAL RATE

Kids say the funniest things.....

A mother and son came in to the center. As she was clocking him in, he grabbed her hand and said,

A: Mommy can you come to school with me.
Mom: I can't go to school with you honey, I'm too big.
A: Just don't eat your dinner and then you will shrink and you can go to school.

Lol, I guess she must have told him at some point to eat his dinner so he will grow big and strong so he thinks the opposite will work also?

Upcoming Events

Watch Me Grow

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- April 11-15, 2016 -Week of the Young Child
 - April 13, 2016 -Planting Class Gardens
 - April 20-22, 2016 -LifeTouch Spring Picture Day
 - April 22, 2016 -Earth Day

Playdough Power

Squishing, rolling, sculpting, molding . . . Young children love to play with playdough. Add some props from around the home and playdough play becomes a powerful way to support your child's learning. This simple preschool staple lets children use their imaginations and strengthen the small muscles in their fingers—the same muscles they will one day use to hold a pencil and write.

What children learn

Playdough play at home or school supports development and learning in many areas. When children use playdough, they explore ideas and try different approaches until they find one that works. They compare and contrast objects, actions, and experiences. In their experimenting, children come up with their own ideas, satisfy their curiosity, analyze and solve problems.

Social and emotional development

Creating with playdough lets children feel competent and proud of their accomplishments. Pounding, flattening, and squeezing are healthy and safe outlets for extra energy. They can also help children cope with strong feelings. When children seem stressed or angry, get out the playdough and props!

During playdough time at school, children talk about what they're making and how. Make comments about their work ("You cut it again"). Ask questions so children can describe and think about what they are doing ("What does this do?"). Connect their play to the real world ("Can you make a red tomato? A green one might not be ripe"). Teach cooperation ("I can help you make your car"), and observe and compare actions ("I'm rolling my dough too").

Creativity and imagination

With playdough, young children express their ideas through art and make-believe play. At the same time, they learn *symbolic thinking* by pretending that the playdough is something else ("That thing with the antlers is a moose").

Older preschoolers—say, 4- or 5-year-olds—often make detailed playdough creations. With one or more friends, they may imagine themselves to be construction workers building a highway, prehistoric hunters pursuing a woolly mammoth, or pastry chefs baking and selling cookies, cupcakes, and donuts at a bakery. You can join in their pretend play too!

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This Month's Curriculum Themes

The April monthly curriculum theme is Bugs, Butterflies and Gardening. Each week, the teachers will focus on a different topic pertaining to the month's theme. The children will learn the differences between an insect and a spider, as well as learn to identify "body" parts of an insect. Classrooms will discuss the life cycle of a caterpillar to a butterfly.

Children will also learn about gardening in the spring. One of the most important lessons a young child can learn from gardening is an understanding of where food comes from. Children are more likely to take an interest in trying vegetables they have grown themselves. Each child will partake in planting and caring for their own classroom vegetable garden.

In the bugs and butterflies unit, children will learn new vocabulary words such as habitat, insect, antennae, metamorphosis, and chrysalis. In the gardening unit, vocabulary will include soil, root, stem, and harvest. They will play games, read stories and sing songs to help them learn more information about the theme.

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Language and literacy

Through playdough play at home, children practice listening to and talking with friends, siblings, and adults. Materials like playdough help children build their vocabulary as they explain what they are doing.

Children use language to invent stories about their playdough creations. You may notice your child using facts or ideas from books you've read together. Children also refer to things they did or saw in their everyday lives.



Ingredients

- 1 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of salt
- 2 tbs of cream of tartar
- 1 tbs of oil
- Food coloring
- 1 cup of boiling water

Directions

Boil the water. Mix several drops of food coloring to the boiling water.

Mix all ingredients (except the boiling water and food coloring) together into a large mixing bowl

Add the colored boiling water to the other ingredients and mix well. (Please take care when using boiling water around children)

Stir until the mixture is well combined

Roll it out on a flat surface and knead.

You are now ready for some Playdough FUN!

Please review the monthly center activity calendar. We have a number of special events and activities this month



Peanut Butter/ Nutella Snails and Butterflies

Ingredients

- 2 medium ribs celery
- 1 apple
- 1/3 cup Creamy Peanut Butter or Nutella
- 12 tiny pretzel twists
- 12 mini semisweet chocolate morsels
- 18 dried cranberries

Directions

1. Cut each celery rib into thirds. Fill centers with peanut butter.
2. Core and slice the apple in 1/4" - 1/2" pieces.
3. Place an apple slice down the middle of the celery.
4. Carefully break bottom loop off each pretzel twist. Insert 2 broken pieces next to each other at one end of each piece of celery to resemble antennae. Place 2 mini morsels under pretzels on each piece of celery to resemble eyes.
5. Place the remaining pretzel pieces behind the antennae to resemble wings. Arrange 3 cranberries between the wings.

Inspirational quote.....

"The sign of great parenting is not the child's behavior.

The sign of truly great parenting is the parent's behavior."

- **Andy Smithson**