



Dartmouth College Child Care Center Newsletter

June 2011

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Office: Jeff Robbins,
Sunnie McPhetres,
Terry Chase, Amy
Potter

DCCCC ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY BIKE PARADE!



Thursday, June 30, 10:30 am

rain date: Friday, July 1

**Bring wheeled vehicles and helmets from
home if you wish. You can decorate at
home, at DCCCC, or not at all!**

From the Director

Big Jeff Tells a Story

In the absence of questions from the readership, Big Jeff tells a story this month. If you have a question about child rearing that a.) can wait a month b.) is suitable for a public response and c.) of general interest send it right along to Big Jeff

Jeff.Robbins@Dartmouth.edu For an immediate and personal response, always ask your child's teachers!

Every time I mow the Back Forty I think about our tree house. A few years ago I took it down and put it on the burn pile, but the pretend fire ring made out of rocks is still there. Every once in a while I freshen it up by brushing away the leaves and straightening a rock that's been bumped out of place. Once I even added a few rocks to make it more precisely round. The Back Forty, incidentally, is at the very distant edge of our .33 acre lot at the border of the deep, dark woods.

Once upon a time when Emily and Nick were 5 or 6 or 7 or 8, we built the tree house. We were excited and we made plans, big plans together. I searched for a tree that might work and pondered a design that would fall within my skill range and my budget (both limited), while the children imagined secret doors, an emergency chute, bedrooms and a kitchen. At last one day we assembled the tools and the materials and headed to the Back Forty with considerable enthusiasm and my vision of creating family memories. Within the hour the children had drifted away, but I persisted over several days creating a basic, but elevated play space with a floor, sides, ladder and a bucket with a pulley to haul things up. When the day came that I decided that the tree house was ready, we enthusiastically packed snacks and headed out for some real family fun. We climbed up into the tree house and ate our snack. We talked about a sleep out and the children constructed a pretend fire ring. That was, for all intents and purposes the last time anyone played in the tree house.

I remember it ironically now, but I believe I may have been disappointed at the time and maybe a little resentful in a not very grown up way. Twenty years later, the fire ring remains and I remember where my children actually played:

-behind the couch (very secretive and very safe)

- in the sandbox (in the square wooden one with seats that Grandpa made right in the middle of the yard).
- under the honeysuckle bush where the sheets of crumbling ledge turned into library books
- in the family room where "Silver Streak Racing Stable" lasted for many years

I remember, too, the tree house that my father built for me, a really good one. Where did I actually play? Behind the couch, in the sandbox and under the alders where a special rock had cracks in just the right places for holding our snacks.

The lessons may be obvious, but twenty years later here are a few highlights of where I went wrong.

- It was my idea really. The children may have wished for a tree house, but they also wished for a pony (that's another story), a go-kart, a Disney vacation and a secret tunnel from their bedrooms to the kitchen.
- I applied adult standards to child's work
- I chose a project that was beyond the developmental age of the children.
- I selected a location too far from the hub of family life.

Happily we had many other successful adventures that met the criteria of the right activity for the right age at the right time and the right place:

- cooking hot dogs over a fire in a garbage can lid in the driveway
- making a dam in brook and floating sticks
- painting rocks we collected in the road
- making a house under the pine tree in the backyard with boxes and sticks and rocks.

As parents sometimes we nail it the first time. Other times the learning curve is long and flat. Maybe in another issue I'll tell you about some of Dad's other flops:

- a clever sandbox between the roots of the willow tree and surrounded by a screen of day lilies
- raising chickens for fun and profit
- a garden of their own
- a playhouse

Did you think I learned from the tree house?

Greetings From Sunnie:

Wow! I have been in my new role as Assistant Director for one year! Maybe it's time to stop calling it a "new" role? It has been a very interesting year for me. I've learned a great deal about the operation of DCCCC. I've had great teachers in Jeff, Amy and Terry.

One thing that I have found out is that this role is still growing and evolving. Just when Jeff and I think that we know who is doing what, something else pops up and everything changes! The one thing that I do know is that Jeff is still the Boss of Us All!

One of the major aspects of my position has been to give support and training to our wonderful staff. I've been able to implement a more comprehensive in-house training program as well as helping individuals choose training from other sources that is most useful to them in their classroom work. I've been able to help out in classrooms in order to give that little bit of extra time that is needed by staff on occasion. I find this to be so rewarding because I know that teachers who feel supported are able to support children and their families that much better!

Another really fun thing for me is putting together the newsletter and keeping the website up to date. I love sharing pictures and stories with all of you!

As time goes on and my position becomes better defined, we'll be sure to pass the information on to you! Eventually, we'll know who has the answers to all of the questions. Until that time, please be sure that you can ask any one of us in the office any question. If we don't know the answer, we'll say, "I'll find out and get back to you!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thank you to everyone who completed a survey! We have tabulated the results and are beginning to discuss it with our wonderful staff!

Coming soon to your inbox: what we have learned from the survey and where we will go from here!


It's Potty Training Time in the Panda Room!

The Pandas are looking for donations of socks and underwear to help their efforts be more successful!

If your preschooler has outgrown socks and underwear – you can donate them to the Pandas!

DCCCC Will Be Closed On The Following Days:

-July 4 – Independence Day
-Aug 29 and 30 – prep for the new year
-September 5 – Labor Day
-November 24 and 25 – Thanksgiving
-December 23-Jan 2 – Christmas, winter break and New Year's Day



**Tentative
“Arbor Day” (yes a bit late)
Tree planting day at
DCCCC
will be
June 27**

Resources for Families



MONDAY AFTERNOON CHILDREN'S THEATRE PLAINFIELD TOWN HALL

ROUTE 12A, PLAINFIELD, NH

THE FROG PRINCE JUNE 27

A long time ago, a princess wished to retrieve her little golden ball that had dropped into a wishing well. A frog appeared to help her and wished only, in return, to be her friend. But the princess wished to have nothing to do with the frog who, it turns out, is no ordinary frog.

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY - NO SHOW!

THE UGLY DUCKLING JULY 11

Join us for our retelling of Hans Christian Anderson's beloved tale of a misfit duckling that grows into a beautiful swan.

THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA JULY 18

Tossing and turning on a bed of twenty mattresses piled high on top of a single pea, a princess can't get a wink of sleep!

ARABIAN NIGHTS JULY 25

It's wedding night in the palace of King Shahrayar. By morning the new Queen Sharazad is to be put to death like a thousand young brides before her. She has the one gift that can save her - the gift of story-telling. If she can occupy the King with her stories then she can avoid the executioner's block.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

AUGUST 1

The classic story of the poor merchant's daughter who recognizes beauty and kindness in a prince who has been turned into a beast.

PIED PIPER

AUGUST 8

Long ago, the town of Hamelin was a happy village by the sea, where children laughed and rats roamed free. When a strange man came to town and got rid of the rats, the town wouldn't pay him and that was a problem. The man took his revenge in the form of a song.

CINDERELLA

AUGUST 15

A mistreated orphan girl, evil step-sisters, a royal ball, a glass slipper . . . a little bit of magic is needed to help Cinderella find her prince.

Four lucky children (12 and under) at each show will win a coupon for a free ice cream, from either the Cornish General Store or the Meriden Deli-Mart. And a Grand Prize ticket will be drawn at the end of the season for a free Family Pizza from the Cornish General Store.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO:
603-675-5454

This program is co-produced by
the Philip Read Memorial Library.



45 MINUTE SHOWS BEGIN AT 1 PM – ALL SEATS JUST \$6

June 17,18,19, Quechee Balloon Festival. For schedule of events:

http://www.quecheeballoonfestival.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=2

June 18, Major Mess -- Glitter n' Paints! For all ages, ages 5 and under must be accompanied by a caregiver: 10 a.m. to noon, Purple Crayon Productions/ArtisTree, Mount Tom Building, 1207 Route 12, Woodstock. Make our own play dough too. \$10 an hour. To register: 802-457-3500 or ts@purplecrayonproductions.com.

June 18, Strawberry Festival in Haverhill: featuring vendors, book sale, quilt show, blessing of pets and strawberry shortcake: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Haverhill Corner Commons. Sponsored by Haverhill Congregational Church. Free admission. 603-787-2571

June 19, 26 Ice Cream Sundays in Woodstock, for families: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., ice cream making and tasting, noon and 3 p.m., Billings Farm & Museum, Route 12. Participate in making and tasting hand-cranked ice cream, while learning the history and science of the American dessert. \$12 for adults, \$11 for ages 62 and over, \$6 for ages 5 to 15, \$3 for 3 and 4, free for ages 2 and under; admission includes all programs and activities. 802-457-2355 or www.billingsfarm.org.

June 19, Benefit Concert and Barbecue in Royalton: Noon to 3 p.m., if raining, inside First Congregational Church of Royalton, otherwise on the lawn of the church, 4226 Route 14. Music by Gail Osha and Tom Vinelli. Admission is free, donations appreciated; proceeds benefit the church's roof fund. 802-763-7812 or cdermody@sover.net.

June 21: Revels North Summer Solstice Celebration, Norwich Green, 6:30pm-dusk
Join us in welcoming the longest day of the year!
as we celebrate on the Solstice, with Appalachian and South African song, dance, music, storytelling, audience participation, and bonfire at dusk.
Bring your blanket or lawn chairs. Enjoy Taste of Africa food and Revels desserts and drinks.
Rain location in the white Norwich Congregational Church
For more information, go to <http://www.revelsnorth.org>

June 25 Free Kayaking in Barnard: Kayak Demo Day takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Silver Lake, intersection of Route 12 and Stage and North roads. An assortment of kayaks and accessories will be available, with staff to assist. Parents or guardians must sign a release of liability for kayakers under 18. Sponsored by Barnard Rec and Eastern Mountain Sports. Barnardrec@yahoo.com

News from the Float Team

Eileen Ruml

Teresa Hahn

Gladness Msumanje

Great News From the Float Team!

We will be joined by a new member of the team of Floating Assistant Teachers on July 5.

Michele Murphy comes to us from the Heartworks School in Shelburne, VT. She is relocating to the Upper Valley and is excited to be joining our staff. Michele has recently completed a Child Development Associate through the Child Care Resource Center of Vermont. She has experience as a floating teacher and enjoys it!

Michele will be spending some time getting to know the children in all of the classrooms! If you bump into her in your child's classroom be sure to introduce yourself! You'll be hearing more about Michele in the next issue, after she actually arrives!

News from Teddy One

Debbie Burnham,
Lead Teacher

Wendy Irwin,
Teacher

Keri Wolfe,
Assistant Teacher

The signs of spring are here! A gold finch came by our outside area recently and we all rushed to the window to see it. I saw a child from the Panda Room picking dandelions outside and the mud has finally dried up. YEAH!

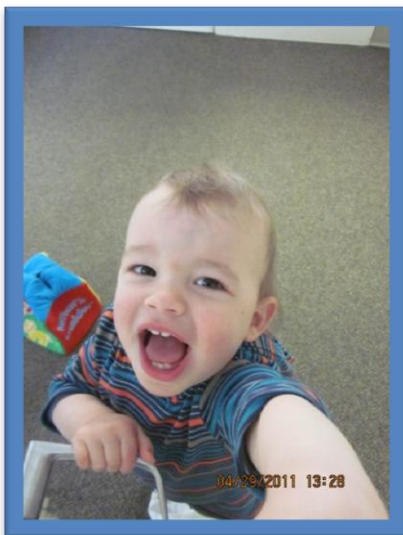
The Teddies are fully enjoying our large playground. They are so busy and they explore the whole yard. They climb in the cars, go down the slides, push a lawnmower and then climb into the sandbox. When it's time to go back inside some fall to the ground crying, "NO!"

Speaking of "No's", we are a true toddler room now, complete with temper tantrums and disagreements. Toddlers are learning to think for themselves and express their own opinions and ideas. Wendy, Keri and I support them through this time by allowing them choices, but also keeping them safe: "Yes, you can pick what you want first for lunch" and "No, you cannot climb onto the table."

We give them the words they need: "You are sad that mommie went to work."

We ask rather than tell: "When you are done with the book would you give it to your friend?"

What can you do as a parent? Please remember that every child goes through this stage and it is normal behavior. You can talk to your child in the morning about going to school, sharing with friends, and being gentle with their classmates. You can set limits at home and be consistent: "The computer is for mommie and daddie to use."



Remember that your child is learning to think for themselves and they are learning to express their own ideas. This will serve them well in the future. For now we can teach them to be safe and to consider the needs of others. This is a long, ongoing process.

Lastly, you can hope for a good night's sleep for your child and for you!



Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Leilani and her family. They will be moving at the end of the month. We will miss them all, especially watching Leilani be a "mother" to all her friends.

We wish you all a wonderful spring.



Fondly,

Debbie B., Wendy and Keri



News from Teddy Too

Terri Crane,
Lead Teacher

Lori Higgins,
Teacher

Denise Ayres,
Assistant Teacher

This past month has been a hot one! We have spent a good deal of time outside playing in the water tables. The Teddies enjoy splashing, scooping and dumping the water out. They like adding big rocks to the table by splashing them to the bottom. They also like to carry the water around in their scoops or buckets to water the plants with it. We definitely have a bunch of water bugs on our hands! Thank you for remembering hats and warm weather clothes.

Now that everyone has found out which rooms their children will be moving into this fall we will start doing visits and we'll continue visiting all summer. For the Teddies who will be Koalas we will take them down to their new room for some classroom visits to get to know that room and their new teachers. We will also take them to visit



with the Pandas who will be their classmates in the fall. The Teddies who will be Pandas will get opportunities to visit the Panda room and spend some time with the Panda teachers. It is also a great time to stop in for a quick visit when you drop off in the morning if you have time. If you have any questions or thoughts about this transition time we would be happy to make some time to chat about it with you.



We have been noticing some changes in the Teddies this spring. Everyone has been growing and changing so much the past few months.

Lily has started talking in full sentences and singing her favorite songs.

Zavi can put all the shapes in the right holes in a shape sorter.

Sophie has learned some colors and shapes.

Rowan can put all the pieces into our puzzles.

Liam has moved from a crib and is sleeping on a mat.

Maddy can stack blocks into a tower and knock them over.

Simon is saying all of our names and he has learned how to throw things.

Faith has become a crawler and a climber.

Ian can roll over and sit for a short time.



Micah can sit up for a short time he also likes to stand up holding your hands.

These are just a few of the changes we've noticed your children have been going through. Every day brings something new that someone hasn't done before. We are thrilled to be witnesses to this time in their lives when they are rapidly growing and changing. We also recognize that each child has their own timetable and will learn new things at his or her own pace.

This year is flying by and before we know it our babies will have grown to toddlers and twos and will move on to grow and learn some more.

We will sadly be saying goodbye to Rowan and his family soon. Rowan will be traveling a bit and then spending the summer at home with his big brother. We will miss him and his sweet ways.

Happy summer,

Terri, Lori and Denise



News from the Panda Bears

Susan Young,
Lead Teacher

Jenn Boudro,
Teacher

Angie Terino,
Assistant Teacher

Can you believe we are into summer time already?? We have been having lots of fun with water outside. We have used the watering cans to water plants in the garden and used them to practice our pouring skills by getting some into a bucket. We have run through sprinklers. We have dumped and

poured water in and out of the water tables. We have jumped in puddles. We have washed cars. We have played and sat in the tubs of water. We've had nice cold water to drink outside. Some of us have had turns playing in the sandbox on the big playground which has running water in it too! (Everyone will have turns over there this summer.) Please send in a bathing suit or old t-shirt that we can wear during these fun outside times as well a sunhat to protect those faces and scalps from the sun.

We have spent a lot of time in the garden as well. Kids have been nibbling chives and mint. One Panda remarked that her parents' toothpaste tasted like mint! We planted the pole beans that should be sprouting any day now for the bean house. Our pole peas are also doing well growing up the fence between the two playgrounds. We also planted a ton of different bean seeds going up the hill and had some Koala friends help. Next up are the sunflower seeds. I hope you've all had a chance to see how we've learned about sprouting by watching the roots, sprouts and leaves work their way either up





or down in the clear vase by the sign in sheet. We've checked them regularly to see the growth.

Soooo.. you've all received your placements for the fall. We'll be visiting the classrooms all summer long. We may just stop in on our way to get snack. This is the beginning of getting them familiar with their future room and teachers. Please stop in and check out the new rooms and ask any questions you may have.

We are all sitting on the potty these days at diaper changing times. We make it a fun and social time with various success stories. Just sitting on the potty is a big success in itself!! Check our didapering sheet to see how your child's doing. if you're having success at home, let's talk about when to start in underwear. Summer is a good time if your Panda is getting ready.

I'm enclosing a bunch of pictures of all sorts of fun stuff we've been doing.

Happy happy summer!

Susan for the Panda team



News from the Koalas

Terri Hollis,
Lead Teacher

Bobbie Lynn Stone,
Teacher

April Buchanan
Assistant Teacher

Hello Koala Families,

Sooooo..... Much happening right now. In the Koala Room we are trying our best as teachers to keep things as "normal" as is possible. We are doing some really fun farm activities. We are near the end of our egg hatching time and hope to see fuzzy little peeping chicks within days. We have set up a dramatic play farm unit as you all have seen and likely smelled. Real hay, small barns, with animals, saddles, plastic eggs and straw hats. We plan to make butter to have with our corn on the cob snack. We made brushes from some of our hay to paint with. We will be using our corn cobs to paint with as well. We have made popcorn sheep that are now grazing on the walls of our classroom. We have read many new books on the subject matter of farms and barns and animals. We even made our own little red barns. We are working on making our own stick (tube) ponies. Phew! Just to mention a few highlights. Perhaps the most occupying activity has been water play. All the planning and energy in the world cannot compete with a child and the freedom to play in water and mud on a hot summer's day. We have lived in our bathing suits to play with water, hoses, sprinklers, buckets, and shovels.

As mentioned earlier the desire to keep things as normal as possible is because there are lots of changes that are happening around your children. Some children are coming and going on vacations, some long some short. Other children are leaving until next year. This causes a forever changing social dynamic within the classroom. This is encouraging friends to explore playing with friends that they have not connected with before, even though they have been in the same room all year long. Our lunch time topic is beginning to be where they will be next year, and questions surrounding that thought. Am I going to be a Woolly? Will you still be my teacher? That means I am big, right? Parents rightfully so also begin to feel anxious about the changes that are ahead. As a parent that's what we do we worry for and about our young?

Just remember that is likely how you felt last year, and I am hoping that you and your children had a good enough year that you realized that you did not have as much to worry about as you thought. Your children adjusted, were happy (most of the time) learned some great life skills. As many years as most teachers have done this it is a mixed feeling for us as well. We are sad to see children move on, but eager to open our arms to new little ones. So we are in this together.

On behalf of the Koala Teachers
Terri Hollis

News from the Woolly Bears

Deb Girdwood,
Lead Teacher

Barb Merchand,
Teacher

Moya Stevens,
Assistant Teacher

We like to move it, move it! We like to move it, move it!

MOVE IT!!

The Woollies had great fun with our exercise theme this past month. It was the perfect theme for this active group. Kids could be seen running on the treadmill, doing stretches on the yoga mats, or swiping their pass to get into the gym. We finished with the Fitness Finale, where the main event was navigating a huge obstacle course, while trying not to be eaten by alligators (the teachers). The children did warm-up and cool down exercises as well. They were also able to dance, toss bean bags and roll/jump down mats. Finally, they could re-energize themselves by stopping at the Smoothie Station for a cool drink.

We will start saying our good-byes as early as June 17. Sebastian will be leaving for the summer and heading off to kindergarten in the fall. We hope you have a great time at the Cape and wish you well for the fall. We will be welcoming Delia Morgan and her mom back to the Woolly Room for the summer. We are excited to have them return!

We will have a final Good-Bye Parent Snack in August. I will post a date after Barb's return from vacation. We hope to see you there!

The Woolly Team
Deb, Barb and Moya





News from the Polar Bears

Radoyka Garcia,
Lead Teacher

Tatyana Bills,
Teacher

Raquel Fluette,
Assistant Teacher

Hello friends and families!

The Polar Bears are getting through these last few heat waves and they're all about water! The excitement and smiles make the Polars wiggle in anticipation of putting on the swimwear. Some even ask to stay outside "five more minutes", then ten minutes pass and you hear, "five more minutes, pleeeeeeease!"

We've been enjoying construction vehicles, (along with princesses and fairies for those who prefer it), a new selection of Howe Library books, including audio books, puzzles and structured games in which children continue to develop skills in taking turns, waiting patiently and following simple rules.

We had a surprise guest during circle time last week and she remembered so much about our Polar Gatherings... it was Sunnie! And with us was a substitute teacher (former Koala Teacher) who we have missed dearly...good to see you Jillian! What a special day!

We look forward to more fun in the sun!

Ray and the Polar Team





News from the Grizzlies

Karen Gray,
Lead Teacher

Kristin Ball Cole,
Teacher

The countdown to graduating from Kindergarten has begun and I think it's beginning to feel real to the Grizzlies now! Our summer information packet has been distributed and we have begun talking to the Grizzlies about our all day summer plans which begins on June 24th. Sadly we prepare to say goodbye to several Grizzly friends at the end of this month: Ella Zinman, Amina Ajwang, Adam Gilbert-Diamond, Janina Li, and Ashley Cotter. We hope we will get to keep in touch with them over the summer. We are excited to be welcoming Rosie Keith to our summer program. Rosie was a Polar last year and has been attending a Montessori School this school year.

GRIZZLY PERFORMANCE: To celebrate our end of the school year, Grizzlies are excitedly rehearsing for a play based from the book of Abiyoyo Returns written by Pete Steeger. The children are working hard to memorize their lines and creating their costumes, scenes and props. Preparing for this play has helped the group to realize the importance of practicing, team work and perseverance. On Tuesday, June 21st at 1:00pm in the mulit will be the first performance for DCCCC classrooms. On Wednesday, June 22nd at 4:30pm will be our second performance for Grizzly Families.





GARDENING: Our garden is underway! Grizzlies have helped to plant beans, carrots, tomatoes, cucumbers, potatoes and sunflowers. All of our indoor flower seedlings are growing big and strong and will be transplanted outdoors soon. The children love to water our garden and with their keen eyes and joy for nature they notice the changes and growth happening. We have also enjoyed reading many gardening stories and singing various gardening songs. Make sure you check out the flower boxes painted by some of the children which are located outside the Grizzly playground door. We hope you have enjoyed our springtime artwork in the hallway-our garden of Grizzlies made from tissue paper as well as our sponge painting picket fence gardens.



GAMES GALORE: Lately, many Grizzlies have been fixated on playing games. Two of the favored games at the moment are Trouble and Gobblet. Whether it's a board game, a guessing game, a sport game, an imaginative game, a movement game, a

listening game, a cognitive game, a recalling game or a predicting game, children learn so much by playing these games together. During gatherings, while waiting in line, at mealtimes, in the multi, for dismissal/transitions and while making choices, games are being initiated. The game may last 30 seconds or 30 minutes, no matter the length of time, games can help to grasp children's attention, unite the group, sustain children's engagement, and keep the spontaneity and fun alive. In her book Games, Giggles, and Giant Steps, Susan Miller provides us with a list of ways that playing games enhance children's development and are integral in childhood:



1. The playing of games naturally strengthens language, listening, math, science, social studies, sensory, motor, memory, and judgment skills. Young children learn best and enjoy it most when they practice these skills through active play.

2. Cognitive growth is stimulated as players encounter unfamiliar situations, gather information, and apply it to new experiences. Games provide opportunities for problem solving and critical thinking.

3. Through games, children emphasize individualism and creativity as they explore, discover, and experiment.

4. Game playing in a comfortable environment encourages children to increase language development and proficiency in verbalizing thoughts.

5. In playing games, children develop confidence, self-control, and independence;

they learn to experiment with risks and take initiative.

6. Imagination is fostered as children dramatize, pretend, and role play-expressing the thoughts and gestures of many characters, real, unusual, or imagined!

7. Mastery skills are developed in learning to follow step-by-step directions and rules.

8. The concentration required to participate in games is a wonderful way to increase attention spans.



9. Through exploration, the youngsters are challenged to focus upon, manipulate, and coordinate body movements.
10. An appreciation of music and a sense of rhythm are acquired as children participate in games, songs, and chants.
11. Games allow youngsters an opportunity to relax and have fun with others and release anxiety or tension.
12. Cooperation with others, sharing ideas, turn-taking, and social skills are learned.
13. Game playing contributes to a child's knowledge of other people and the world about, as well as an awareness of the self-operating within that environment.
14. Positive adult/child relationships and interactions are augmented as games are played together.
15. Children receive support as they work through difficult situations. Through game play, it is possible to rehearse responses to and role play specific circumstances.

The group continues to fascinate us with their determination, discoveries, curiosity, independence, fun-loving spirit, energy, generosity and pride! We look forward to having more time to spend together during the summer months and have begun a curriculum on water- animals that live in or near water, water experiments, swimming safety, keeping hydrated and keeping cool during the hot days ahead!

Happy Game Playing,
Karen