Parents,

I found something in a toy catalogue that reminded me of a brief article I wrote in the March, 2010 Newsletter. Since most of you were not at BioKids at that time, and my sentiment has not changed, I’m going to re-post it in this Newsletter, along with a photo and the referenced PDF:

I recently had the privilege of visiting a BioKids family in their home. I was so touched by something I saw there that I want to share it with you. On the dining room table, the hub of activity for this busy family, was a dark, richly stained, wooden tray or lidless box – it was perhaps 13 inches square and had dividers, so there were several compartments of different sizes. The compartments held things like leaves, pebbles, acorns, and a seagull feather. The family calls it their “Gift Box” and the child can deposit treasures intended to share with

Mom and Dad. I thought it was one of the most respectful things I had ever seen involving a young child and their treasurers. These items were not relegated to an out of the way, unseen spot. The Gift Box was in a part of the house where it’s contents could be

continued...

From Robin

FOOD FROM HOME
If you have a child in the Preschool Room and are bringing in lunch and/or snack items from home, please have the food cut to your specifications and ready to serve! It’s getting a little difficult to keep up with the individual food prep in that classroom. Thanks!
Enrollment

We are fully, very fully, enrolled. In the Infant/Toddler Room we welcomed Julian, Elliott’s baby brother, in early March: in April we will welcome Roland—we’ll have three little boys all born in July and August, 2013. (We seem to be specializing in groups of three born close together!) The Preschool Room is at maximum enrollment of 23. It looks like we will not be enrolling any additional children this Fall, but should have several Preschool spots available in late summer/early fall, 2015, when our current large group of three-and-four-year-olds leaves for kindergarten.

From Robin continued...

noticed, held, talked about and, well, “treasured”.

Around the same time as encountering the Gift Box, I read a great article about “Hands on Learning” and want to pass it along to you (as a separate attached pdf). Lis Barker is an Early Childhood Educator and Trainer in Central Utah. Her article, along with the Gift Box, offer food-for-thought related to the amazing spectrum of opportunities that exist to communicate and share ideas with children about our world.

I found a simpler wooden display box in a 2013 Tout About Toys catalogue:

http://goo.gl/gAe400

-Robin
The big news is that Kiera is pregnant and expecting a baby girl in late July. She intends to work till the bitter end and then return as soon as possible, leaving her baby in the care of loving relatives. Veronica will be leaving at the end of Spring Semester to go on a church mission – she will be available to substitute for a few weeks at the beginning of the summer before taking off. Nanda will be in Brazil for about two months, late March through early May ... but she will return. While Nanda is gone we will have a predictable group of subs filling in: Laura in the mornings, Kelly and Jani in the afternoons.

The BioKids Infant/Toddler Room will be very well represented at the March 22 UEAYC Conference. Kiera, Courtney, Shawnny and Amy will all be attending the Utah Association for the Education of Young Children professional development event at Weber State. They will meet and mingle with Early Childhood professionals from all over the state and attend some great break-out sessions.

In January, Robin and Shawnny attended a workshop hosted by the United Way of Utah County on the Five Protective Factors Framework, part of the Strengthening Families Approach. The information will be shared with BioKids staff at the April staff meeting and Robin will present it to the U of U Child Care Directors Coalition in March. For more info check:

http://www.cssp.org/reform/strengthening-families/the-basics/protective-factors
We are looking forward to purchasing some new equipment in both of our classrooms thanks to a $1200 grant from the Care About Childcare program. We have requested new furniture and additional wooden vehicles for the Preschool Room as well as new pillows and lots of toys for the Infant/Toddler Room. You can learn more about Care About Childcare, a program of the Utah Department of Workforce Service’s Office of Childcare at http://careaboutchildcare.utah.gov/

If the Care about Childcare grant reviewer approves our request list, we will be replacing the yellow chairs in the Preschool Room with wooden ones. We will be selling the yellow chairs (which we find impossible to scrub enough to get them to look clean) for $10 each. If you’re interested in purchasing them, you can buy 2 or all 4. We are also selling our round “ocean” carpet for $10.
Co-op

Thank you for all you do for our classrooms – laundry, groceries, cleaning, etc! Thanks to Sebby’s mom Megan for donating the very cool Fire Station in our Preschool Room and to CeCe’s family for the bouncy seat in the Infant/Toddler Room.

Part of the co-op program is entering your time on the log sheet. There are no two ways about it, if you want to get credit for something you’ve done you’ve got to write it down! Please, please be sure and enter your co-op hours on the log sheet. It is either that, or time to pay-up! Some families buy some or all of their hours each month for $10/hour. If you have fallen behind in your co-op obligation, please consider this option.

Looking Ahead

Teacher Appreciation Week is right around the corner, May 5-9. You’ll receive an email schedule, requests and reminders for Thank You cards, flowers, as well as donations of all kinds. Thanks in advance for your support and participation; this is a week that the teachers always, always enjoy! Let me know if you’d like to help organize gift bags or a gourmet parent luncheon.