From the Director

Hello Parents,

Have you heard of “MBWA”? It means Management by Wandering Around and it seems to describe what I do on a daily basis.

Some days I feel that I don’t get enough done in the office because I’ve been in the classroom; other days I feel like I’ve missed out because I haven’t spent any time beyond the morning “hello” in the classrooms. I learn a lot by wandering, but I have to say that I learned even more when I worked in the Preschool Room over Winter Break – Heather was out of town and Nanda was out of commission with the flu. I got to help Manon hold-down-the-fort. I learned what fun it is to spend time with your children! They are a smart, energetic, caring group of individuals.

Several years ago I had a similar experience in the Infant/Toddler Room and the result was better staffing coverage. Then again last summer I spent time in the Infant/Toddler room and realized that a fourth set of hands is incredibly helpful during the lunch-time craziness of trying to get eight small tired and hungry children clean, fed, diapered, ready for nap and off to sleep. The result of that stint was hiring an extra person to be in the classroom during that time of day. With a 2:1 ratio of adults to children in the middle of the day in the Infant/Toddler Room, I know we have remarkable staffing that helps the youngest BioKids through the most hectic time of the day.

Thank you again, on behalf of the staff, for your very generous Holiday Bonus contributions! The recognition and appreciation constantly demonstrated by BioKids families is very much appreciated.

Robin

Don’t Forget!

Register your Smith’s Rewards card with BioKids as the recipient of your Community Rewards funds.

BioKids’ organization number is 84000

The more families enrolled with our #84000, the more money we get. You can also encourage family and friends to enroll with our number, even at Kroger stores in other states. Robin says, “I use my Kroger / BioKids enrollment when I shop at King’s Super in Colorado!”

https://www.smithsfoodanddrug.com/topic/community-rewards-3

Click on “Enrollment Instructions” for more information.

Co-op Jobs and Menus

Thanks to all of you who make our play dough, do the laundry, wash the cups and do the grocery shopping! Thanks to the Fruit Pickers who provide us with fresh fruit on our non-grocery weeks. Years ago we went through many cans of fruit each week; now we have fresh fruit daily and keep a few cans in reserve “just in case”. We’ve added a new co-op job: Aki and Kenzo’s family will be supplying BioKids with farm fresh eggs for our vegetable casserole. We added this dish to our menu about a year ago and while some of the Preschoolers are still adjusting to it, i.e., it’s not their favorite, all the toddlers and the children who have transitioned into the Preschool Room from the Infant/Toddler Room love it. Thanks Janet and Adam for all the upcoming eggs!
Celebrations

February is a busy month at BioKids. We will be having an interesting week mid-month in the Preschool Room as we celebrate Mardi Gras then Chinese New Year, ushering in the Year of the Goat. And, of course, there is Valentine’s Day.

Valentine’s Day is special for many children. The teachers in the Preschool Room have planned some special activities: decorating heart cookies, making valentines to take home, and exchanging cards with classmates. Preschool children will exchange cards on Friday, February 13. Please have your child bring in valentines labeled only with “from…your child’s name”. The cards should not be addressed to individual children; do not include a “To” section. This makes distribution much easier and assures that no one is forgotten. Cards can be home-made or commercially produced, but if you have a treat attached to your card, it must be commercially wrapped.

Please bring in the following number of cards:
- Heather’s group - please bring in 7 cards
- Manon’s group - please bring in 15 cards

(The Valentine’s Day information will be re-sent to you again as the card exchange approaches.)

Important Web Links

Raising compassionate children starts early! That is the topic of the latest NAEYC Families online newsletter. This is a great resource for all kinds of parenting questions, challenges and ideas. (Although maybe not as good as Pinterest for ideas!)

http://families.naeyc.org/learning-and-development/-10-tips-raising-compassionate

NAEYC Update and Parent Teacher Conferences

As difficult as it is for BioKids staff to believe, our re-accreditation date (and all the accompanying work) draws near. We will officially apply for re-accreditation this summer and could have the associated visit as early as this fall. Since the last re-accreditation process (2011), with what seemed like a zillion new criterion was so intense and resulted in two packed file cabinet drawers filled with documentation, we are hoping that this time will be a bit easier with much of the paperwork already in place.

In preparation for our accreditation we will be trying out a new child assessment tool; this one has a parent component which will be sent to you in late February or early March. It is called the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment and BioKids has been fortunate in receiving the materials as part of a grant given to the Child and Family Development Center in the Department of Family and Consumer Studies. The tool was created by The Devereux Center for Resilient Children and includes infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

New Chairs in the Preschool Room

We have received a $1600 grant for classroom improvement from the Office of Child Care and have decided to purchase new chairs for the Preschool Room. They will be just like the wooden ones in the dramatic play area – comfortable and easy to clean! The rest of the funding will come from our BioKids “Gift Account” where our Smith’s Earn and Learn checks are deposited and the Center for Child Care and Family Resources on campus (formerly the Child Care Coordinator’s office).

So… we will be selling the blue and red chairs, as well as the colorful teachers chairs! Small chairs will be $10 each and perfect for your home playroom; the adult size chairs will be $20 each and perfect for…? Let us know if you’re interested!