

AUGUST
2016



KTK News of the Day

Notes from Our Feathered Friends

Baby Chicks: The baby chicks continue to be very busy, always surprising us with new tricks! We have many new ideas for the classroom that we learned from an Infant/Toddler class we just completed. It is always exciting to learn new ways of teaching and interacting with babies and also with parents. We have been adding pictures and lesson plans to the website. If you haven't had a chance to check it out, please do so and become a member! If you have questions, feel free to ask. The babies created some artwork by rolling a ball around in paint. The masterpieces are on the wall in the classroom. Owen has adjusted very well to the Penguin room. Hugo will soon be jumping the gate; we know that he is ready and will do great with new adventures! We are always available for snuggles when needed. We are excited to welcome Olivia W-K and Aubrey S to the group. Hope you all are enjoying family time this summer!

Penguins: We are having so much fun spending time outside on the deck. Thank you all for bringing sunscreen and hats! August will bring us some new friends from the Chicks class. Owen W has graduated to us, and Hugo will be starting to visit as well. Our friend Martin comes back from his summer break too. Our room will be buzzing with all the new additions and everyone perfecting all their skills. Declan S will begin to visit the Parrots class this month and will join his old group of friends to learn lots of new and exciting things. We will miss him and are available for hugs at the gate. We are really working on using our signs and words to express ourselves and using utensils at meals. We hope you are all enjoying a fun summer!

Peacocks: Last month the Peacocks became interested in trucks, especially fire trucks. We have taken a few walking trips to the fire station. It wasn't until the last walk that the doors were open and a firefighter was happy to talk with us. Ms. Maggie invited us into the station and soon she had us exploring her fire truck. She even turned the lights on for us. She showed us the gear she has to wear when on a call, and boy did she look different fully suited! Another walking field trip worth talking about was to the car wash. The children and teachers could have sat there all day watching the cars being washed. On top of the cars and the washing that took place, there were two parrots in the store, and they talked. The Peacocks still seem very in-

terested in the topic of trucks and things that move, so we've broadened our lesson theme to Transportation. Ms. Sheila will plan to slip in a few new ideas about trees and rocks as well if any interest comes about.

Parrots: The Parrots have enjoyed many walks in the neighborhood this month. One of the things we have noticed is that there are a lot of different trucks. The garbage truck has been a big topic of conversation, so we will start August by exploring that, and then we'll move on to other trucks such as tow trucks, delivery trucks, construction vehicles and fire trucks. We will also welcome Declan S to our room, as he will graduate from the Penguins. At the same time, Aldo will be moving on to face new adventures with the Peacocks. Our highlights from July included some watercolor fun, making a s'mores snack, and making our very own pet rocks.

Starlings: What an adventurous month of July we had in the Starlings class! A few highlights from our July adventures were: nature hikes at a nearby trail; making birds and bird cages; observing live bugs; learning about snakes, bugs, frogs & lizards (and talking about getting a frog or lizard for our classroom); watching a baby toad take a swim in our pool; and exploring sand and water. What a busy month! August should prove to be just as exciting. The theme we will expand on is Summer. We are going to try a "talking tote" (a box with two- and three-dimensional items related to our theme) to figure out our web this time. Kids will select items from the tote, give us their thoughts, show us their interests, and Sue and Kristi will do some writing and mind mapping for them – we'll be headed to our next big adventure. Keep an eye on our web page. We will post a picture of the summer web we create, with some details of what we will be learning about first. It is so exciting! We are also going to work on new ways to document our adventures so that families can participate! A big thank you to Ashlynn Caldwell (Boaz' sister), Jessica Arp Green (Hadley's mom), and Lisa Hassenstab (Felix's mom) for volunteering (over and over) to read and share with the Starlings. Also thanks to Jill, from upstairs, who donated toys and to Belle Pleva (Sloane's mom), who shared treats she made at her bakery. We also have numerous parents who hang out and visit, draw with us, goof around a little while...it is heartwarming to be in such a wonderful chosen family. Thanks for all you do to help our program be such an enriching environment for all.

A Note from the Director

Dear Parents,

Thank you for being so patient while we continue to get the new contracts ready. I promise, they will be out soon.

In the meantime, a few dates to remember: we will be closed on Friday, September 2 for a second teacher in-service day. This is an important day for the staff, as it allows us to meet as a group, do some extensive cleaning and rearranging of the classrooms, and prepare for the coming months.

Also, contracts and the annual supply fee (\$100 per child) is due no later than September 1. When paying the supply fee, please make a note in the memo section of the check to ensure we know where the funds are to go.

We continue to work on our parent involvement in the classrooms, so if there is ever a day or time where you could spare an hour or so and want to help with a special project, read a story, or just play, let your child's teacher know. The children and teachers really enjoy having moms and dads hang out with them.

Hope everyone enjoys this last bit of summer!

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Out of the Mouths of Babes

The children were eating a lot at lunch time and getting quite full. A boy and a girl said to each other, "Look how big my tummy is." The boy replied to the girl, "Yah, my tummy is as big as my daddy's."

A little girl in Starlings said, "Once, at my house, in the hot tub...I didn't drown myself."

Ms. Sue was telling the kids about the snakes they were going to study the next week. She mentioned that most are not found in Wisconsin. A little boy commented, "You mean like Minnesota."

A little boy in Peacocks was playing with the alligator puppet. When he tried to feed the alligator spaghetti the teacher said, "Does he like it?" The little boy replied, "It's too spicy."



August Birthdays

August 10: Emily
August 21: Aldo
August 25: Camille



Upcoming Events

Aug. 4 -14: WI State Fair
Every Sat. in Aug.: Space Yoga-
Madison Children's Museum
10:30a -11:00a
Aug. 6: Family Nutrition -
Am. Fam. Dream Bank
Aug. 21: YumYum Fest 2016-
Central Park

The Power of Play

Source: families.naeyc.org

Play is a child's work. As he plays, he has a chance to relive his experiences, ask questions about his world and, most of all, act out his dreams.

In play, he may feel the safety of not being watched or directed, and the freedom and exhilaration of enacting his own ideas. In play, a child can embellish his new developmental achievements, experimenting as he goes. For example, when he has learned to walk, he may pick up a large wooden block that's too heavy for him, drop it, and lean over to try to pick it up again. He may hold it in both hands this time, teetering as he concentrates. Losing his balance, he sits down hard but still holds onto the block.

Now he can turn it over, mouth it or push it to make it go, growling like a car engine. What has he learned?

1. To enlarge on the new task of walking
2. To balance while holding a heavy toy
3. To turn a wooden block in his imagination into a noisy car

In this one bit of play, we see an athlete, a scientist and a builder of dreams. When does play begin? At each diapering, each feeding, each time he's put to bed, the baby starts to respond to his parents' rhythms, smiles and strokes.

By 4 months, play can become more complicated. A baby can add peekaboo or play with a toy strung over his crib. If he bats it, it will swing around. The baby sees that he can have an effect on his world. This is a time when play can postpone more basic requests – such as crying to be fed. The baby learns to fill up his own space with independent play. A parent can begin to push him into a schedule. Much of play is to test how the world works. By 7 to 8 months, he can crawl toward a forbidden TV or lamp. As he advances, he looks back to check his parents' watchfulness. Then a parent rushes over to pick him up. He is learning to predict and control important adults around him. He tries his maneuver again. His mother drops the phone to come to him. He squeals with delight. What a source of power! Once a child can walk, all kinds of new experiments are possible. He can walk around the corner and out of sight of his parents. If that doesn't bring them, he may screech, partly afraid he has lost them, partly to get a response. When his parents rush to him, he has learned more about himself and them. By 14 months, one toddler may sit beside another. One of them picks up a block to shake it. Without seeming to look, the other shakes his block in the same motion. Their play becomes matching. They try out rhythms, hiding the toy, throwing it, testing the friend by

stealing his toy. They are starting to explore social skills, communicating without words, joining and not joining a friend. By 18 months, a child will imitate much of the world around him. He takes a teddy bear and cuddles it. He wraps it up in a blanket. He has taken the step into symbolic play. He play-acts what he has experienced in his own nurturing. At 3, a child can even try out a variety of grown-up roles. A little girl might put on her mother's jacket like a dress. She has incorporated her mother's femininity and is trying herself out as a grown-up woman. A boy will do the same with his father or an older brother. Fantasies are thus not an escape from the world but an exploration of how it works. As children grow older and play more elaborate games, they learn about rules. Even here they experiment, and they may try to cheat to see the reaction it brings. They also learn to play cooperatively: Building forts, playing hide and seek, or acting out a story all require working together. It's easy to see how a heavy dose of television or video games can usurp some of the learning and joy of free play. It substitutes ready-made fantasies and passive watching for independent, active exploration and free-wheeling imagination. The extra richness and freedom of outdoor play, with its endless discoveries and new sensations, can be a high point of childhood. There the child can step fully into the roles of explorer, experimenter, builder and dreamer.



Enjoy Your Summer!



News from the Kitchen

Happy August, everyone! It is really hard to believe the year is more than half over; how did that happen? I hope you are all enjoying your summer.

August 31 is National Trail Mix Day. Trail mix is usually a big hit with the kids at snack time. It offers satisfying crunch and sweetness with more nutrients than cookies or chips. It's so versatile; it can be customized for even the pickiest eaters, and you might even be able to use it to introduce your child to a new food by mixing the new ingredient in with those you know your child likes.

Alternatively, let kids take the DIY approach with a make-your-own trail mix bar. This is a fun idea for a birthday party (or any event that involves food), but if you try this with other children besides your own, it is a good idea to speak to the parents about any food allergies. If there are nut allergies, you can skip that ingredient altogether. There are so many other options, you won't even miss them!

Here are some ingredient ideas for a trail mix bar. Just set your choice of ingredients out with spoons and resealable plastic bags, and kids and parents alike will can create their own delicious trail mixes.

Hope you enjoy!



Pumpkin seeds
Shredded coconut
Almonds
Granola
Cereal: Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Kix etc.
Chocolate Chips or M&M's
Dried fruit: cranberries, raisins, bananas, blueberries etc.

Sunflower seeds
Peanuts
Roasted cashews
Yogurt covered raisins