



Serra Preschool

A Parent Participation Nursery School
Where Kids and Parents Learn Together.

November
2018
Newsletter

Mrs. Nowicki's Message

~ I just want to run and play and have a friend~

~ Behavioral characteristics of four year olds~

That's what the kids are doing in the 3 day class! Running, jumping, finding it hard to remain in one spot, covering as much ground as fast as they can. Active gross motor play is the preferred activity for many, especially outside. Sometimes it seems like their feet barely hit the ground. Emotionally they may cry too hard and laugh too loud.

Language leaves something to be desired, potty talk and other special quotes are the type of comments that prevail.

For many of the kids, imaginative play prevails. Imaginative play which they themselves produce with very little supervision from adults. Socializing and learning to get along with others is what they are working hard at right now.

I think parents often wonder what happened to their child over the summer. After all last year he or she played quietly with blocks, dug in the sand or spent a

lot of time creating at the art table. Table activities may not be as interesting to the kids right now and it may all feel a bit wild and out of control. **That's because** kids at this stage in development are a bit wild and out of control. **That's just how it is** and we can weather the storm by providing as much opportunity as possible for the kids to run and chase and jump and play with each other.

Navigating children's friendships can be really difficult for parents of kids at this age as well. We all want our children to be a friend and **to have a friend. It's so** hard to watch children excluding others and being excluded. We often wonder if and how we should intervene.

Children at this age are entering the next stage of friendship. It happens between 4 and 9 years of age.

Perceived similarities are the basis for friendship choices at this stage.

Sometimes they will notice that a child has the same toy or the same shoes or they are as tall, etc... One day at

school, I casually said to two boys standing near me, **"I noticed you both like animals and that you are friends"** One of the boys said **"Yup that's why we are friends"** Children have strong desires at this stage to have a friend and are looking for reasons to be friendly, but still will only be able to recognize one friend at a time.

At this stage there is a great deal of talking about who is a friend and who is not and why. This may appear cruel as children are sorting out who is and who is not a friend. We have to remember that kids this age are still very egocentric and do not realize how their words may make another child feel. This stage of friendship **is based on a child's current** need and may change as needs change.

A caution for parents with kids at this stage is that sometimes we have very close friends and we expect the children to care about and play **with our friend's** children. It does not always work and its important that we understand stages of friendship and not put too much pres-



Patty Nowicki
3 Day Director

sure on children to play for our convenience.

We can support children in this stage of friendship by interpreting for them and clarifying what is going on. Helping **"intruders" to be included** without disrupting the play that is already going on. Sometimes we have to help children understand that maybe they can find someone else to play with or something else to do while they are waiting. Sometimes it might not be possible for someone to enter a play situation that has already begun.

So I say let the wild rumpus continue. It will settle down, it always does!!!! **Aren't you glad your child** has a place to exercise his or her large muscles and develop his or her developing friendship skills? I know I am!!!

Love, Mrs. Nowicki

Miss Cori's Message

Fingerplays and Cute Quotes

Fingerplays, like storytelling, are our first experiences with passing experiences and entertainment, history and lessons, from generation to generation. Bev Bos, author of a compilation of Chants, Fingerplays, and Stories wrote, "With our hands we gave shape to the words, our fingers could come to symbolize many different things and, in their telling, those stories literally became part of our body... most importantly of all for children, stories provided the chance to form pictures on the walls of their mind." By today's standards, with all our technology, gadgets, and unending electric devices, the value of fingerplays have diminished; it's like an outdated art without compelling visual effects, lights, and sounds. When in fact, your children are still at the age where they probably prefer your voice, your actions, and your closeness. Whether they prefer it or not, they need it.

Fingerplays seem simple, maybe unsophisticated, but they are actually quite sophisticated in what they bring to our lives and to the lives of our children. Playful games of peek-a-boo and itsy bitsy spider are probably found in your own childhood memories. As a parent, I am often and-clapping with Elisa, singing Down By the Banks of the Hankey Pankey and Miss Mary Mack, just as I did when I was 8. Bos explains, "How clever in their perfection are these little games at infusing moments between adult and child with an intimacy that hooks itself to the mind and body and remains intact the whole life long."

Some of the fingerplays we've done since the beginning of the year are Open/Shut Them, Ram Sam Sam, Grandma's Glasses, and Now It's

Time To Go To Sleep. They love it! For those of you with older, elementary aged kids, some great fingerplays (tricks/ mind puzzles) are Bang Bang Shoot Shoot and Johnny Whoops Johnny. Truly, fingerplays can be entertaining for years!

When we do our fingerplays and chants at circle time, I ask the kids, "whose glasses will we see next?" or "what does the baby need to stay asleep?" Sometimes it's very telling what the kids choose. Avery likes to make baby glasses and Ryder picks a big sister; their family lives are meaningful to them. Bos writes, "Part of the richness inherent in fingerplays, chants and stories is that for each person who listens, there is a special personal reaction-- one all their own."

Speaking of a personal reaction, I often like to ask the kids what may seem like a basic question.

Sometimes the kids say the darndest things that just make me giggle. I asked the kids at outside time, "What do ghosts do at night?" and I followed up with the next question, "What do you think they do during the day?" Here is what they said:

What do ghosts do at night?/
What do they do during the day?

Margot- **"They scare people!/ Hide"**

Ryder- **"Scare people/ They get away."**

Shea- **"Sleep/ Sleep and they eat food with us."**

Sam- **"Sneak into rooms/ Maybe hide."**

Elliot- **"The purple ghosts, they run!/ They play outside at their preschool."**

Olivia- **"Fly in the night/ There are no ghosts in the sky during the day."**

Summer- **"They Boooooooo!/ They say, "Good Morning!"**



Cori Preisler
2 Day Director

Macy- **"They light up./ They hang out with their mommy."**

Avery- **"They Oooo."/ They still Oooooooo!"**

Barret- **"They're with the witches in the air."**

Dane- **"Eat cookies/ Sleep"**

Brisa- **"Do a scary thing, they do "Whooooooa!"/ They sleep."**

Dolly- **"They sneak into your bedroom./ They want help because they die."**

Addison- **"They do spooky noises, "Oooooooo."/ They just hang around."**

With Love,
Miss Cori



3Day, What are you scared of?

Harper- "Scary Dreams"
 Brody- "Nothing"
 Fitch- "I am scared of monsters and ghosts and witches and a guy that is mean"
 Lily- "Tornados and monsters"
 Raef- "Monsters, not movie monsters, real monsters"
 Camilla- "Monsters, but I love spooky stuff"
 Sylas- "Ghosts, mummies and wolves"
 Kate- "Of getting lost and monsters, but I'm not scared of Halloween"
 Wyland- "I'm not scared of anything!"
 Isla- "I'm scared of everything"
 Leo- "Nothing"
 Mia- "I'm not afraid"
 Jackson- "I'm only scared of Monsters."
 Soleil- "I am scared of Jackson's coughs at night because they are too loud and scary and I'm in the dark."

Dad Joke of the Month

WHAT DOES A VEGETARIAN ZOMBIE EAT?
"GRAAAAAAAINS!"



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Dates to Know:

- Oct 25 | Street Sweeping
- Oct 30 | 2Day Halloween Parade
- Oct 31 | 3Day Halloween Parade
- Nov 1 | No School CUSD Conferences
- Nov 3 | Dad's Pancake Breakfast
- Nov 8 | Street Sweeping
- Nov 8 | 2 Day Parent Conferences
- Nov 9 | 3 Day Parent Conferences
- Nov 10 | 6 Week Cleanup
- Nov 12 | Veterans Day No School
- Nov 14 | Street Sweeping
- Nov 14 | Board Meeting
- Nov 15 | Street Sweeping
- Nov 15 | Stone Soup 2 day
- Nov 16 | Stone Soup 3 Day
- Nov 19 -23 | Thanksgiving Break
- Nov 28 | General Meeting



October Birthdays

- Nov 1 | Raef Boisseranc
- Nov 5 | Cori Preisler
- Nov 14 | Avery McLennan Murray
- Nov 26 | Isla Bickley



Harvest Day Field Trip

