

August 1, 2008
Summer 2008



Where a Lifetime of Discovery Begins...

From the Office

This has been a busy summer for the office staff. First, we are enjoying all the opportunities we have to spend time with your children.

Second, the Teacher-Parent conferences went very well. As well we welcomed three new families to our Center and said a sad goodbye to several others. Our wait lists are still full and we will be seeing quite a few new families enter the program in September.

The office would just like to encourage families and staff to make sure you have emergency packs turned in. We have experienced the tragedy of local wildfires and we want to make sure that your child is ready for extended care in an emergency. We would like to share that our center is in a fire defensible location and we make sure we have enough supplies for up to 7 days of care on site.

Emergency packs help us make your child comfortable so please bring them by the office as soon as you can.

We were also relieved to not have any cuts to our Santa Cruz County grant. And we want to say thanks to all the teachers, parents, kids, and dogs for coming to support us at all the rallies and meetings. You really made a great impression!

Be aware that for the next month many people are taking vacations. Please make sure you give us notice when your vacation is planned. As well, you can check in to see when your teachers will be in and out of the classroom.

Finally, keep your eyes on our bulletin boards to keep up-to-date with all the opportunities for parent hours, free family events, and volunteer opportunities.

From the Board

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fundraising/Bella Notte Meeting:
Aug 7th at 6pm
- ◆ Rummage Sale:
Aug 15th & 16th
8:30am to 2pm
- ◆ Parent Work Day:
August 16th 9 am to 2 pm
- ◆ Family Movie Night,
Aug. 22nd 7pm
Dinner/Play 8pm
Movie
- ◆ Board Meeting:
Aug 24th at 6pm
- ◆ Open House:
Sept. 17, 6 to 8pm

CCSLV and the Board of Directors have been very busy this summer. We voted in a new budget, had the Fun Day, two Free Friday Movie Nights, the Scholastic Book Fair, and the Parent Education Night on Play. We would like to thank everyone who participated and helped in these great events.

We would like to thank Joanna Reed, former VP and Board member, for all of her help and commitment to CCSLV. Joanna and her family are relocating to San Luis Obispo at the end of August. We hope they have a great move, and can find great friends and childcare in SLO. We will miss you Joanna and family.

Kristin Veeck (Gryphon's mom) is our new Vice President. We know she will do a wonderful job.

Kara Walker (Kya's mom) joined the Board in July. We are excited to have her on the Board, and look forward getting to know her and work with her. Thank you Kara!

We are still in need of at least 2 Board Members. A full Board (11 people) is very important and useful for the Board to fulfill all of their commitments to CCSLV. Please contact Lori Hede at loriseaver@yahoo.com or speak to the office if you are interested or have any questions.

Toddler News



Even the smallest experience can be a huge learning experience for a young child.

It is going to be a busy month! We have three friends set to transition by mid-July, Nikki, Abby and Benjamin. We have two other friends who are interested in doing some visits and moving to Toddler Plus by the end of the month. We are excited to introduce a new friend, Alyssa, into our program, welcome!

Our ocean journey theme continues. We are talking to the children about Sea Life and going to the beach. We are enjoying various sensory experiences including: gelatin, water play, play-dough and lots of painting!

It was great to see those of you who came out for the CCSLV fun day on June 29th. Thanks for attending! Also, thanks for supporting the book fair- it was a huge success. We appreciate all the book gifts that were purchased for our classroom- Thank you!

If you have trouble getting your parent hours, please consider signing up for a specific laundry day. All it would require is committing to a day of the week and picking up the laundry for that day. Do that four times and you have got all your parent hours for the month- easy! We also are looking for someone to be a room parent. This job would entail orienting new families to the school through frequent communication with those families.

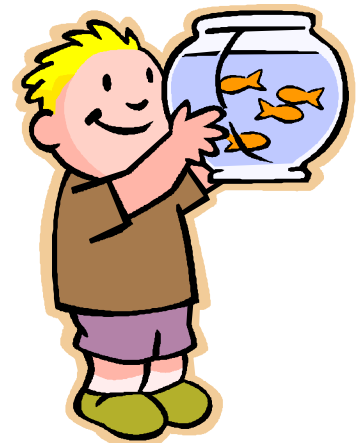
We need your help for the Parent Work Day on August 16, 2008 from 9-1. This is a time to get large

projects done around our school. If you'd rather not do handiwork, then consider helping supervise children at CCSLV so parents who need childcare are able to attend.

Our annual Rummage Sale is set for August 15 and 16 at CCSLV. Please drop-off any donations beginning July 15th. We are not accepting adult clothing. Furniture, appliances, children's items and books are welcome.

My last day before my maternity leave will be August 1, 2008. I plan on returning to work Monday October 6, 2008. Meaghan will be working the afternoon shifts while I am out and Teacher Lori will take over as temporary head teacher in my absence. My son (Andrew James) is due on August 20th by scheduled C-Section. I will miss all of you but will be in touch. If anyone wants to contact me while I am out please do at misstrinam@yahoo.com or misstrinam@gmail.com. (408)649-4139.

Sincerely,
Kat, Head Teacher,
and the Toddler Team



Creative Play Makes for Kids in Control

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=76838288>

This is a stunning article from NPR about play. It raised many questions about my ideas of ECE curriculum.

It has amazing theories about how children learn self-control. Plus you can listen to the whole broadcast on your computer.

Toddler Plus

Toddler Plus Summer News...

We have been talking and learning about the ocean. We have been looking at shells, lobster and crab exoskeletons, and shark's teeth. We hope to get some seaweed and a fish head to look at also.

We have done a Sink /Float Activity, guessing which object will float and which will sink. Children learn best doing hands on experiences.

While we can't bring in a whale, we can find many real life things to look at. We are so fortunate to live by the sea and experience its many wonders. If you have chance, be sure to visit Seymour Marine Lab, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Also, Nature Centers at Seabright Beach and at Natural Bridges have examples of the natural world around us.

We started singing a fun song called Slippery Fish. It is very repetitive and easy to learn: Slippery Fish, Slippery Fish swimming in the ocean. Slippery Fish Slippery Fish, Oh No!! Glub Glub Glub. Then on to Tuna Fish, Tuna Fish etc. Then Great White Shark, Octopus, and last the Humungous Whale. Check with Staff if you want to learn more about how the song sounds.

Now that it is summer time, be sure to pack lots of extra clothes. We do LOTS of water play and sometimes a child will go through several changes. It is a GREAT help to staff if you put your child's name on their clothes. We have a permanent marker if you need to mark their clothes when they come to school. Also if your

child brings home school-clothes, please be sure to bring the item back as we only have so many loaner clothes. Also, be sure to check the lost and found by the sign-in book. A treasured item might be there.

By Ann Chandler

Note: Due to a family emergency Ann will be out of the classroom until further notice. Lote Sandersen will be the acting lead teacher and site supervisor until she returns.



Play teaches kids to...

- * Use their imagination, improvise, think flexibly, and explore new options
- * Make appropriate choices from among many possibilities
- * Solve Problems both with materials and people
- * Cooperate with other children in the creation of mutually satisfying projects
- * Work through their feelings in creative non-destructive ways
- * Become more aware of their own real interests without being distracted with other possibilities and to say "yes" or "no"
- * Use something such as a dramatic action, a word, a toy, a set of blocks, or a collection of marks on paper, to represent something else- this sort of representation being essential to the process of learning to read.
- * See themselves as competent and interesting people with useful skills and good ideas."

-Elizabeth Jones, Early Childhood Exchange



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August Events

CCSLV Rummage Sale: August 15th & 16th at 8:30am to 2pm both days
We are now taking donations for our BIG Annual Rummage Sale. Please bring in any items you wish to donate into the Lobby by August 8th. Please make sure all items are clean and unbroken, and please do not bring adult clothes (children's clothes are okay). We will need people to work this event, and any items or time given will count for Parent Hours.

Family Work Day: August 16th at 9am to 2pm
There are many things at our Center which need to be fixed, moved, and worked on. Please come help our Center and make the facility even better. Childcare will be provided. A sign-up list will be in the Lobby soon. This will count for Parent Hours.

FREE Friday Movie Night: August 22nd at CCSLV; Dinner start at 7pm, Movie around 8pm. This is a great summer event for the whole family. We will be showing a family-friendly movie, and there are a jump house and toys for the children to play with as well.

Bella Notte

We are in full swing of planning for Bella Notte on October 4 at the Scotts Valley Community Center. Last year the event was called Taste of SLV. There will be food and drinks from many restaurants, wineries, and breweries to sample and enjoy. There will be silent and live auctions, with many great items to choose from. We NEED help to make this event a success. Please come to our next planning meeting: August 7th at 7pm. Thank you!

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