

Letterman Digital Arts Center

August 2014



From the Director

Our summer has had been interesting in terms of weather.! We have had some HOT days and those have been followed by the usual fog and grey skies. The temperature exptremes have been huge from day to day! Thank you for sending your children in layers! We never know what it will be like when they go outside!

Our Anniversary Party was great fun on July 11th! The SF Bubble man came and filled the skies with bubbles of all shapes and sizes! He is one entertainer that we know all of the children will enjoy and he didn't disappoint us! Even the infants and toddlers got in on the fun!

Transition schedules for the next group of children moving up to the the next class will go out soon. The transitions will start on August 18th and go until August 29th. We have also scheduled New Parent Orientations later this month – please see the schedule to the right and mark your calendars. You can also stop by your child's new classroom anytime and introduce yourself to the teachers. They are anxious to meet you and are looking forward to the new school year with excitement and enthusiasm!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

From Pat

Important Dates

August 12th : Kindergarten Prep New Family Orientation 12-1pm Mendocino Conference Room

August 19th : Infant New Family Orientation. 12-1pm Alamo Square Conference Room

August 20th : Preschool New Family Orientation 12-1pm Alamo Square Conference Room

August 21st : Toddler New Family Orientation 12-1pm Alamo Square Conference Room

August 22nd : Transition New Family Orientation 12-1pm Alamo Square Conference Room

August 18th-29th: Children transition visits to new classrooms

September 1st: LDACCC Closed for Labor Day

Donations Needed

We are need of any used or old iPhones, iPads, or iPod Touch devices (with camera and wifi capability). We will be using these as a way to help us document important milestones for the children.

Please let us know if you can help!

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Classroom Highlights



Infant 1

This month, we welcomed Rowan, Scarlett, Elyse, Wesley, and Galeano to the Honeybee class. They have all done very well adjusting to their new classroom environment and getting used to new faces. Within the short month, Rowan and Elyse have learned to sit up without support. Scarlett is working on sitting up and enjoys practicing tummy time. Galeano loves exploring every corner of his classroom and outdoor environment. Wesley, our youngest Honeybee, loves to sleep and while awake, he enjoys watching his friends play as he reaches for toys hanging from the play gym.

Our older Honeybees have accomplished great milestones as well. Mary has learned to pull to standing position. Ella has learned to crawl. Ava has learned to walk and Damon is now standing without support for short periods of time. And Alana has transitioned from sleeping in a crib to a cot.

We spent the month of July helping our new friends adjust to our program and we learned their schedules. As for our older friends, they had lots of outside time playing in the yard and going on buggy rides. They also were given many sensory play experiences with various materials. They did art activities including finger painting and drawing with crayons as well. Our friends loved music and movement time with their teachers and other gross motor activities including crawling through the tunnel and challenging themselves to obstacle courses. It has been a busy month for our Honeybee friends and we look forward to more excitement ahead.

Infant 2

This was an exciting month for the Butterfly room. We were able to spend a lot of time outside with all the amazing warm weather. The children enjoyed water play in the yard, grass exploration and watching all the ducks and geese that have made the lagoon area their home. The Butterflies have also enjoyed singing, dancing and playing with all the various musical instruments. The kids really enjoyed bringing out the large drum and pianos that had been in the closet for awhile. We have also been working hard on practicing a lot of signing this month. We welcomed our three new babies Hudson, Max, and Emerson. The children really enjoyed seeing the Bubble Man. There were lots of smiles and squeals the whole time. There has also been a lot of art exploration with paint, chalk, and crayons. We are looking forward to even more fun in August!

Toddler 1

This month has been a busy one with many changes for both the toddlers and their teachers. First, we said farewell and have fun to Anna, Aspen, Beatrice, and Benji, who all moved up to the Teddy Bear Room; we wished them luck and told them we will see them on the yard! Next, we welcomed Duncan, Lander, and Will from the Infant Rooms; we are looking forward to the new school year, watching them grow, bonding with families and making fond memories. In July, we welcomed back Teacher Paula and wished Teacher Reyhan well on departure to her next adventure. July has been a month filled with numerous Art Smart activities. The toddlers loved exploring with paint and the many utensils we have offered them...especially the bath sponges. Of course, their own hands always seem to be the most fun. The toddlers were so engaged with all the sensory projects this month for Science Rocks. We explored seaweed, mangoes, large round rice cakes, nectarines, ice cubes, potatoes and we also made mashed potatoes. We filled the sensory bin with shredded paper one day and the toddlers "made it rain" as they held their hands up high and dropped handfuls into the bin. Thank you to Holly's parents for bringing in some of these sensory items! And for Language Works this month, we introduced the Penguins to some new Spanish words; basura (basuda) is garbage, ven (ben) is come here, and por favor is please. During Circle and Potty Time, the toddlers always want to sing the "fire truck" song and the "5 little ducks" song. Even our newest Penguin friends have been repeating words and exploring with sounds!

Toddler 2

Hello Toddler 2 families! Wow can't believe how fast July flew by! We have completed a full month since transition and everyone seems to be adjusted and very happy! This month the children were interested in the sky. We went for a nature walk and observed the clouds and noticed them moving. It sparked their interests. We took that into consideration and incorporated that into our Language Works, Science Rocks and Art Smart. For Language Works we discussed and introduced new vocabulary. For Science Rocks we observed the sky daily and talked about the weather. For Art Smart we sponge painted clouds and used paint brushes to paint the sun. With each art experience they demonstrated improvement in their fine motor skills. We are happy that our new monkey friends have established such wonderful relationships with us (Teacher Anna and Teacher Chanel) and our older monkeys are interacting with them well. We had a fun filled month and are excited for August!

Classroom Highlights



Transition

The month of July flew by and so much has been happening in the Teddy Bear room! We started the month off by saying farewell to our older kids that moved up to the Turtle room and we welcomed our brand new Teddy Bears that moved up from the Toddler rooms! It has been so much fun getting to know all of the new children and their families and we are so very excited to see what the new school year will bring.

During the month of July, we've noticed that the children have been very into music and dancing, so many "dance parties" have been happening inside the classroom and outdoors! We've also been bringing out some musical instruments, including an electric keyboard that the kids love to play music on. Three kids will use the keyboard at the same time, while the other kids will either wait patiently in a waiting chair, or some will dance to the music!

Building with different materials has also been a favorite activity for the kids lately. They love building with magnet tiles, foam blocks, wooden blocks and Legos. They also have been really enjoying beading with pipe cleaners and making jewelry out of it, playing with baby dolls, and engaging in pretend play. They really love playing in the home area where they love to pretend to cook food, play dress up, and have "dinners" together.

We will soon be starting a new project in the Teddy Bear room about the body, so stay tuned!

Preschool

We have had a wonderful month in the Shark/Turtle room. We continued our summer program where we learned about something new each week. We learned about fruits and veggies, colors, our bodies, and animals! For our fruits and veggies week, the children had a chance to learn about the different things we have growing in our garden and even had a chance to pick some of them. With our fruits and veggies we made a carrot, apple, and kale juice. Almost every single friend loved the juice and wanted more! We also made yummy zucchini muffins. By the end of the day, the Sharks had eaten them all up!

During color week, the children learned all about primary and secondary colors. They made hand print color wheels, mixed paints in a bag and painted with their feet. One of their favorite books was called "Little Blue and Little Yellow." The book is not only about how blue and yellow make the color green but it is also about friendship.

We began our week on bodies with a tracing project. Each child had a chance to have their whole body traced and then they got to add in all of their body parts. Some friends looked at our body books while they drew themselves. They made their bones, their muscles, and some friends made their faces and their clothes. The Sharks seemed to be particularly interested in their bones and their muscles. They learned that our muscles stretch and retract like rubber bands do. During a circle time, each friend received a rubber band and used it to compare to their own muscles. We finished the circle by stretching our own muscles by doing some yoga!

For the last week of this month, we have started learning about animals. We are learning about the different sizes of animals compared to us and their footprints. We are also learning about animals that live in the Bay Area. We will be going on walks all this week to see which animals we see in our own back yard!

Kindergarten Prep

It's been a great summer so far in the Dolphin Room! The Dolphin Summer Science Camp is in full swing and the class has been having a blast! The Dolphins started out the month by learning about life on the farm. They read books about farm life, milked a pretend cow (udders made from a glove filled with milk!), explored hay in the sensory bin, and took an exciting field trip to the Presidio Park Police Horse Stables where the Dolphins learned about horses and even had the chance to feed them carrots! The next adventure in learning the Dolphins embarked on was learning about chemistry! They conducted experiments to see what solution would be most successful to clean pennies, made their own bubble solutions, experimented with baking soda and vinegar, and had a very exciting Visiting Expert...the Bubble Man! The Dolphins then moved onto learning about space! They built their own jet pack prototypes, constructed space shuttles, learned about the planets, sampled astronaut ice cream, and even ate out bags just like real astronauts do while in space! After returning to Earth, the Dolphins dove into learning all about the ocean. They learned about ocean animals, made saltwater artwork, explored ocean animal toys in the sensory table, completed 3D ocean animal puzzles, conducted an experiment to observe how an octopus sprays ink to hide when feeling threatened, and took a field trip the Farallones Marine Sanctuary where they had a chance to touch sea animals and explore the beach. They are wrapping up the month by learning all about their bodies! They are exploring X-Rays, building body puzzles, tracing their bodies and drawing their organs and bones, and have questions ready for our visiting expert Dr. Hansen!

READY for SCHOOL Parent News: STEM Education in the Early Childhood Classroom

STEM education has been receiving recent attention among early childhood teachers. The acronym STEM was developed by the National Science Foundation (NSF), and refers to curriculum related to the study of science, technology, engineering, and math. Educators and policy makers have made STEM education a priority for several reasons.

Fewer students are pursuing advanced degrees or careers in related fields, which might threaten America's ability to remain competitive in a technology-driven global market. Many of the jobs of the future will require STEM skills. Finally, the world is becoming increasingly complex, and individuals must have basic competencies in science, math, and technology in order to make sense of and process information.

Initially, STEM education was found mostly in elementary and secondary classrooms, but in recent years, it has become an essential part of early childhood curriculums, as well. Typically, activities planned with a STEM focus involve at least two of the four disciplines. Below are more detailed descriptions of each STEM component and how they relate to an early childhood classroom:

Science. The study of science includes physical science, life science, earth and space science, and more. Children gain scientific literacy through hands-on experiments and explorations.

Technology. Technology learning in early childhood classrooms includes new media, such as digital photography, computers, phones, and tablets, but don't forget about older technology, including pulleys, wedges, and other simple machines. Technology is any type of man-made machine or object designed to improve or simplify life.

Engineering. Budding engineers in early childhood classrooms learn the principles of building through play activities, such as experimenting with blocks, clay, or collage materials.

Math. A STEM math curriculum includes the study of numbers and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and data analysis and probability. These terms sound complicated, but in the early childhood classroom, they're as simple as comparing sets of objects, counting, making patterns, manipulating shapes, or measuring classroom equipment.

Read on for simple STEM education ideas to try at home:

- Combine STEM activities with play time or story time. For example, while reading the folk tale, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, you might make bridges out of blocks or other materials. Perhaps you'll study goats and chart the differences between real goats and "story" goats.
- Use hands-on, developmentally appropriate materials and activities.
- Capitalize on small, daily moments to introduce STEM topics. Mealtimes, for example, are an ideal time to teach math concepts, such as half, more, and equal. Observe the natural world while you're outdoors.
- Use questions to guide inquiry and exploration. "What" questions, such as, "What do you think will happen --?" or "What could we use to make --?" work well because they have no right answer. Such questions foster an atmosphere of acceptance, curiosity, and trust. Listen carefully to children's questions. Use their interests as a springboard for future inquiries or projects.

References

Moomaw, Sally (2013). *Teaching STEM in the Early Years*. Redleaf Press. St. Paul, MN.

University of Northern Iowa Center for Early Education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (n.d.). *CEESTEM*. Retrieved from <http://www.uni.edu/coe/special-programs/regents-center-early-developmental-education/ceestem/games/math-games>

Bright Horizons News



Curriculum Night 2014: “A Day in the Life”

Experience a “Day in the Life” of your child at Curriculum Night 2014. Parents in all age groups are invited to join us for an orientation into your child’s upcoming year with Bright Horizons.



During the event you and your family will have the opportunity to: familiarize yourselves with your child’s classroom schedule and activities, see how the various pieces of *The World at Their Fingertips®* curriculum are brought to life each day, and meet with your child’s teachers to ask questions and discuss learning objectives for the upcoming year.

Share in your Bright Horizons experience and invite your friends and family to join you at Curriculum Night. Please see your Center Director or your child’s teacher if you have questions or would like more information about Curriculum Night.

SAVE THE DATE: September installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series!



Bright Horizons Family Solutions® presenting in collaboration with guest speaker Amy McCready of [Positive Parenting Solutions](#), is bringing you the next installment of the Family Matters Webinar Series on positive school-age discipline.

Save the Date
September 16, 1:00 pm EST

Keep checking www.brighthouse.com/webinar for the latest registration information as it becomes available!