

Cathedral House Monthly

August 2008

There's No Place Like Home: A Walk in the Woods

Our journey to find a comfy home continues this month as we explore the woodlands. Whether we're hiking or camping, fishing or bird watching, berry picking or tree climbing, we will be in search of homes in the woodlands and forest. Some may be in a stream and others in a den. Please share stories and pictures of the woodlands and forest during show-n-tell times.



Little Skunk - a poem you may hear this month

I stuck my head in a little skunk's hole,
And the little skunk said, "well bless my sole,
Take it out, take it out, take it out remove it!
Well I didn't take it out and the little skunk said,
"If you don't take it out you'll wish you had.
Take it out, take it out, take it out. I removed it!

Dates to Know:

8/14 & 8/28 - Arts Alive

9/1 - School Closed for
Labor Day

Extra Curricular
activities will begin in
September

Extra Curricular Activities for Fall

Developmental Gymnastics: Movement II—Toddler II, Monday mornings. \$48/month

Claire's School of Dance: Toddler II—Kindergarten Tuesday mornings \$125/Fall Semester

Overture: Music for Young Children: Toddler II—Kindergarten Tuesday afternoons \$160/Fall Semester

Overture: Recorder class Primary—Kindergarten Friday mornings \$160/Fall Semester

Jumpbunch: All Primary and Kindergarten children participate Thursday mornings, added to monthly tuition

Arts Alive: All children Nursery I—Kindergarten participate 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, included in our program

Registration forms are available at the front desk.

Although we have many choices available, parents are encouraged to choose *only one or two* activities for their child.

For continued information check our website at www.mmschools.org

New Faces Around the House

The opening of the Rice Children's Campus is just around the corner. We would like to introduce our families our newest members of the Metropolitan Montessori team.



Michelle Martin Burke

Michelle joined the MMS in July. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the early care and education to our program.



Erendira Villagomez

Erendira is helping to enhance the Montessori curriculum in our Movement department.



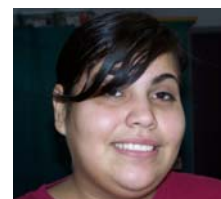
Connie Floyd

Connie has been a part of our Administrative team, preparing to join and co-direct the Rice Children's Campus. She will also help both campuses incorporate more literacy and story telling into our programs.



Elizabeth Cantu

You will be seeing Elizabeth in all the classrooms. Currently she is in a "floater" position.



Rosario Rodriguez

Rosario our newest face in the Nursery department. Please help her feel welcome.



Central Market
H • E • B

Support Cathedral House Episcopal School by participating in Central Market's Fundraising Foodie program. By picking up a Fundraising Foodie swipe card at the front desk of the school, and using it every time you check out, a percentage of your purchases will be donated to the school. This is just another event organized by our Helping Hands committee.

Purchases from every department at Central Market are applicable including the catering department, gift baskets, cooking school, floral, produce, meat, seafood, boiling pot and rotisserie, beer and wine, specialty foods, healthy living, cheese/deli and Café on the Run.

Central Market is located at 3815 Westheimer at Wesleyan. We are encouraging all families and friends to use their swipe cards and support the Helping Hands committee and Cathedral House.

In addition, August 6th is the first of the planned monthly dinner deliveries. The response to this first dinner has been great! Watch for monthly menu choices to be placed in your folders, and notes to be posted on the dates.



National Association for the Education of Young Children

Early Years Are Learning Years

Helping Toddlers Become Problem Solvers

All parents and teachers have seen the unique ability of toddlers to use toys and materials in unexpected ways. One child may turn a cup into a hammer or a basket into a hat. Another toddler may stand on a riding truck to try to reach a toy or pull over a chair to climb onto a bookshelf. Observant adults recognize these innovations as signs that children are learning to use their thinking skills to solve problems. Experiences in problem solving help children develop curiosity and patience, along with thinking skills such as flexibility, and understanding of cause and effect. They learn to work toward achieving a goal, and gain confidence in their ability to reach a solution. Even very young children make discoveries on their own. An infant who



accidentally creates a noise with a rattle may then make the sound again and again on purpose. An older infant discovers that by looking under a blanket, he can find a hidden toy. A toddler who cannot pull a wagon up a hill by herself learns that she and a friend can push it up from behind.

By not rushing in and rescuing young children who are facing minor everyday problems, adults can help infants and toddlers develop confidence and increase their thinking abilities. It's also helpful for parents and teachers to provide materials that encourage children to explore. Some toys, such as jack-in-the-boxes and busy boxes, provide opportunities to explore simple cause-and-effect relationships. Other common materials like empty cardboard boxes, plastic bowls, or scarves can provide

open-ended experiences through which toddlers can make choices and decisions, and find different ways to manipulate the materials. Other activities can involve materials such as clear plastic tubing (such as the tubing used for aquariums) which children can fill with bright materials, and watch the materials move as they shake the tubes. If you provide inclines or ramps of wooden blocks, a toddler can watch what happens as objects roll down inside the tubes. She may discover that some objects roll faster than others. He may learn about actions and reactions when he sets plastic bottles at the bottom of the ramp to create a unique bowling game. (Whatever materials you provide, remember to be very careful about choking hazards.) These everyday materials are fun, and can hold children's interest for long periods. They also help children experiment with cause and effect and with gravity and physics. In addition to supporting cognitive development, problem-solving activities help in the social arena as well. Groups of children engaged in these activities negotiate with their friends and learn how to solve interpersonal problems.

By providing interesting materials and enthusiastically reinforcing children's attempts to explore and solve problems, parents and teachers can stimulate children's development, promote advanced critical thinking, and help children take pride in their own abilities to find out more about how their world works.



Excerpted from "Using Everyday Materials to Promote Problem Solving in Toddlers" by Laura Segatti, Judy

Brown-DuPaul, and Tracy L. Keyes – an article in the NAEYC journal, *Young Children*.

Our classes would like to share:

Nursery I:

Help us welcome to Cathedral House, Jeremy Schultz, Caleb Friday, and Andrew Davidow. These are the newest families to join our wonderful school. If you walk by our class early in the morning and hear babbling, it is probably Andrew Schneider. He is an early arriver but loves to lay on his bed and talk to his mobile. We have had a great time decorating our class to follow the “homes” we are visiting and are excited to see what will be put up for the woodlands. FYI: Ms. Natalia has taken an extended leave as she goes to visit family and friends in her home land of Kyrgyzstan. We look forward to her return in the late fall.

Nursery II:

The month of July was all about the Rainforest. We read animal stories, painted footprints, it was really fun to paint our feet for our beautiful butterflies, and sang tropical songs. All the babies enjoy our outside time, especially when the “big” kids talk to them. Joining us this month was Vivienne Fuller. She has made a great transition into Nursery II.

Idea for home: Babies love simple black and white designs. Make your own by drawing patterns with a sharpie on 3 x 5 index cards. Watch your child’s reactions. Which pattern do they seem drawn to?

Movement I:

In July we learned about the jungle. We painted safari hats, and learned about elephants, monkeys, snakes, and frogs. If you want to know the sounds these animals make just ask Cole. Our artistic skills were refined as we painted a monkey, a banana, and a green frog. You can tell everyone loves painting, by looking at Adelaide’s picture below! We all have our favorite activities; Julian, Christopher, and John have a weekly contest to see who can get the wettest and messiest on Splash Day. You have to laugh when you see their excitement. Sprague has become our puzzle champ. He is very good at matching the pieces. Jane, Callie and Charlotte enjoy their time playing in the treehouse; Trace and Will are our block builders; Helen is our teacher in training, she tries to answer the phone and intercom, and Amelia is our classroom helper, not only does she help keep the room tidy, she also keeps us up to date on our baby signs.



Movement II:

This month while learning about the rainforest, we had different sounds in our class. First we had the experience of moving and listening to a rain stick. It really sounds like rain when you turn it upside down. Then Ms. Erendira brought in a parakeet. Not only was it a beautiful color, but it sang a pretty song. We all practiced squeaking like a bird. Joining us for the fun this month was Max Georgsson. Also in July; we celebrated our country by using red, white, and blue to color stars and flags, learned our beginning sounds s-m-t, and refined our fine motor skills with new spooning lessons.

Our classes would like to share:

Toddler I:

July was full of excitement. The month started with a cooking lesson. Everyone brought fruit to share. It was fun mixing all the fruit together and eating our Fruit Salad. We practiced the fruit names in English and then in Spanish. We learned that many of these fruits grow in the rainforest. It was amazing to see all the animals that call the rainforest home. We created our own version of the rainforest by hanging many animal art projects around the class. Our big activity for the month was having a "Camping Day". We read stories by flashlight, napped in the tents, and ate camping snack. Thanks to Alexis and her family for donating cool visors for us to make and to Maddie and her family for the snack bags.

This month we welcomed Charlotte Hardig and Ben Beauvais to our Toddler I family. They can hardly wait to see what fun awaits as we enter the woodlands.

Toddler II:

During the month of July we visited and explored the amazing tropical rainforests. The children enjoyed learning about the four layers of the rainforest and creating fabulous art work for each layer. The animals of the rainforest are both beautiful and dangerous. The children were fascinated by the anacondas and piranhas. Could you hear the howling coming from our class? We created the loudest howl ever as we pretended to be Howler Monkeys. We also had a lesson on the life cycle of a frog as we discussed tree frogs and the Poison Arrow frogs. During our Montessori work time the older children focused on building their fine motor skills while working with our metal inset lessons, tracing on unlined paper and perforating. The younger Tllers had lessons on recognition of numerals 1 - 5, position words, and building organizational skills. Boy, July was a busy, busy month.

Primary I & II:

The month of July took us to the rainforest. We traveled to South America, Madagascar, Africa and Asia. Did you know that rainforests are located near the equator? That is because that is the warmest place on the earth. We made great use of our compasses as we traveled north, south, east, and west. Learning about the vegetation and animals of the rainforest filled our days. We especially liked the frogs, alligators, and macaws. Our art projects of these animals filled our walls. Some of our favorite stories that we read during our trip to the rainforests were, *Slowly, Slowly, Slowly said the Sloth* and *The Giraffe who Cock-a-Doodle-Doed*. We ended the month with Vacation Bible School. We have such a good time with the fun stories and activities we do with Mr. Casey and Ms. Lisa. We can't wait for August and our woodland adventure.



Happy Birthday in August

Trace Murphree August 1st 1 year old
Addison Johnson August 3rd 2 years old
Nicholas Wachel August 6th 4 years old
Charlotte Hardig August 6th 2 years old
Mercedes Matthews-Elston August 11th 3 years old
Maya Madraimov August 14th 2 years old

Adelaide Ervin August 21st 1 year old
Will Wachel August 21st 5 years old
O'Neal Harrison August 22nd 3 years old
Charlotte Davis August 22nd 1 year old
Danny Newberry August 25th 3 years old



**The Backyardigans are coming to Houston
August 9th and August 10th at the
Hobby Center**

