

The Child Care Center in Norwich



October 2019

Play Under Pressure -

“Play is under pressure right now, as parents and policymakers try to make preschools more like schools. But pretend play is not only important for kids; it’s a crucial part of what makes all humans so smart,” writes leading researcher Alison Gopnik, in an article on the Smithsonian website.

“We found children who were better at pretending could reason better about counterfactuals—they were better at thinking about different possibilities. And thinking about possibilities plays a crucial role in the latest understanding about how children learn. The idea is that children at play are like pint-sized scientists testing theories. They imagine ways the world could work and predict the pattern of data that would follow if their theories were true, and then compare that pattern with the pattern they actually see. Even toddlers turn out to be smarter than we would have thought if we ask them the right questions in the right way.”

Classroom Updates



Nursery

The Nursery family pot luck will be on Thursday, October 24th, 5:30 – 6:30. There will be a sign-up sheet posted in the Nursery soon, hope everyone can make it, it is a great way to get to know other Nursery families. Popular activities in the Nursery have been coloring with crayons, dressing dolls, pegs and puzzles. The season has changed so please make sure that your child has weather appropriate extra clothing, onesies, socks, tee-shirts, long sleeved shirts and pants. Also, children should have a sweater or jacket and outdoor footwear(close-toed) here daily for our cool fall days on the playground. Children also need indoor shoes or slippers (that are not slippery) here as well. All clothes and footwear need to be labeled. Happy birthday to Eva, who will be two on November 11th!

Karla & Cindy



Orange Room

There are two birthdays in the Orange Room this month. Charlie is turning four and Judah is turning three, happy birthday to both of you! We have music with Megan every Tuesday and it's great! We sing songs, do some movement and we have tried out some instruments. We have one more monarch caterpillar in a chrysalis and are hoping it will emerge soon because the weather is getting colder. Of our four other caterpillars, three emerged successfully and we were able to release them. We have done some gluing and some painting along with playing with the cars, trucks and dollhouse. With cardboard oatmeal containers, we've made some tunnels and ramps for the cars. Our potluck will be November 6th at 5:30. I hope everyone will be able to come. There's always lots of good food and it is a great way to get to know everyone!

Karen



Red Room

The Red Room would like to welcome Niki and her family! The Red Room pot luck is Monday, October 28th from 5:30 – 6:30. We will put up a sign-up sheet outside our room soon. Moon sand has been a big hit in the Red Room on cooler mornings. It's great fun forming shapes and watching them slowly crumble. Our Monarch butterflies both hatched and flew off into the wild. We were sad to see them go but had a great time watching them grow. Parents, please remember to bring in warm outerwear and keep your child's extra clothes bin stocked with pants and long-sleeved shirts. Thank you!

Julie & Nici



Yellow Room

Hello September! Over the last month we have been exploring the life cycle of the What a beautiful September, autumn leaves are falling down! It has been a colorful time welcoming fall into the classroom. Many books have been swapped out in our book nook that explore and take a deeper look at the seasonal changes happening all around us. Weekly music class has been lots of fun, a few highlights have been freeze dance and rhythm sticks. Some Yellow Room highlights have been painting, painting and more painting. A double batch of homemade play dough has been added to the mix and has been a big hit. Teacher Bryce has introduced a beautiful plant to the class. Genevieve, a lovely vibrant green philodendron has joined the classroom to help friends learn gentle hands and care. The Yellow Roomers give a warm welcome to Roscoe who will be moving up and joining team Yellow this month. Happy birthday shout outs to Wes turning four on October 15 and Roscoe turning 3 on October 22. Please make sure your child's extra clothing bin located in the classroom is supplied with seasonal clothing. Please provide warm gear and layers as we adjust to the season shift. Keep your eyes open for information on our annual potluck. A date for this year's potluck will be rolled out soon.

Mia, Bryce and Jodie

Blue Room



Welcome to fall, Blue Room families! As the weather changes, we look forward to talking about the leaves changing colors, along with how the weather is changing over from summer. This month we welcomed Ethan to the Blue Room and enjoy getting to know him! We have started talking about different things that we can bake/cook on some of the more chilly days. As we are trying to spend longer periods of time outside before the weather gets too cold, please remember to pack appropriate clothing, along with warmer blankets for nap time. We welcome another teacher Olivia, who will go by "Liv", to the Blue Room, and look forward to her playing with us/ helping us out.

Happy Fall! ~ Olivia & Liv



AfterSchool

After School –

Our K-1 group is having a great time together, making art, playing, running around, and embracing the role of leadership out on the playground with our yellow and blue room friends. We have been reinforcing learning about how to be in a line. It takes practice to leave a little room between yourself and the next person, and the kids are handling the reminders and practice with good humor. As we have talked about together, this is about safety (bunching up on stairs can end badly) and respect (which, in this case, is simply about realizing that your friends' need to feel reasonably calm and safe is just as important as your eagerness to be first in line). They are really getting the hang of it and I'm so proud of them. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

- Mary

Hello after school families!

We have been trying to spend as much time outside as possible, cooler weather is coming, sadly. Over the past few weeks the kids have been developing some great skills in the art room creating looms and other projects, as well as the game room. Many of the kids have been playing Monopoly, Battleship, Uno, and multiple games of foosball. We even had a foosball championship organized by the afterschoolers themselves! We have some great art hung on the bulletin board in the main room created by your children! Please take a second to ask your kiddo if it is theirs!

Enjoy the start of fall!

~Cassandra