



Preschool News

RBCPC Early Childhood Ministries is committed to sharing God's love through developmentally appropriate programs that encourage active relationships and celebrate the uniqueness of the individual child while strengthening and supporting families in our community.

RBCPC Early Childhood Education Programs * Patti Hunter, Director * www.rbcpcpreschool.com*

May 2008

Director's Message

Spring is here and nature's beauty surrounds us! Children are captivated by nature. Their natural curiosity drives them to explore. You will see pure joy as they discover lady bugs, worms, seeds and growing plants.

Research shows that young children who are encouraged to explore, discover and learn about nature at an early age have a greater appreciation for nature throughout their lifetime. With this in mind, it is essential for young children to be allowed and encouraged to follow their natural desire to explore nature. You will find that your child is drawn to rocks in ways you most likely can no longer relate. They love to collect various rocks, leaves and other nature items. Try joining your child in this time of discovery, take nature walks, expose them to nature's wonders and expand on your child's natural curiosity.

Richard Louv writes about the intense relationship between children and nature in his book [Last Child In The Woods](#). Louv shares his concern that in our highly technological world of computers, television, videos, etc., children no longer have the opportunity to develop an awareness and appreciation for our natural world. Exploring nature not only builds a foundation for the appreciation of the beauty of nature but fosters our children's knowledge of Science and nurtures their creativity. Our staff was able to hear Richard Louv speak at our recent California Association for the Education of Young Children Conference. His message was powerful!

In our classrooms, along with our spiders, frogs, and fish, we will have silk worms over the next few weeks. The children will be able to observe the entire life cycle of a silk worm from the eggs hatching, to the mulberry leaf munching to the spinning of a cocoon and finally the transformation to a white moth.

With Spring comes warmer weather and water play/exploration at preschool. You will find our water tables filled with colanders, funnels, measuring cups and all kinds of empty containers. Children are drawn to water, so the water table will be an active place of exploration, problem solving and learning basic math and science concepts such as volume, measuring and comparing. Children will discover what sinks, what floats, as well as talk about their discoveries with one another. Imagine all the learning that will occur around the water table!

As we come to the close of our preschool year, I want to share some transitions our staff will be experiencing this next year. Joline Ashker, Gail Taylor and Dawn DeVolder will all be leaving their positions at our Preschool in June. Each are entering new chapters in their lives and as much as we will MISS them we are thrilled for them!

Finally, in this final Newsletter of the year, I must, again, express my gratitude to each of you for your caring support for my family and the many other families in our preschool community who experienced loss in the October fires. I know I speak for many when I say, this preschool community contributed greatly to our journey of healing. Your thoughts, prayers, notes, generosity, and smiles were, and continue to be greatly appreciated.

Patti Hunter

Mission 2007/2008

Once again the families of RBCPC Preschool have provided support, caring and service to others in our community. In addition to gift cards, household items and cash donations distributed to families affected by the firestorm in October, our preschool families supported each other with prayer, child care, meals and more.

In January, you supported neighbors in need by providing canned foods that were distributed by the Presbyterian Urban Ministries and Interfaith Community Services of Escondido.

Finally, our Birthday Box Project is underway, with families providing birthday gifts for abused, neglected and abandoned children, to be distributed at the Royal Family Kids Camp this summer.

We would like to thank our preschool parent and Mission Coordinator Volunteer, Shannon Rowson (Peter-MWF PM) for her hard work and dedication the last two years.

We thank you all for caring deeply enough to act on behalf of those in need!

The Birthday Box Program

Our sincere thanks go out to the families who participated in providing a Birthday Box for a foster child. The birthday boxes will be distributed to foster children attending the Royal Family Kid's Camp here in San Diego County. Many of these children have endured extreme hardship and your gift will touch them profoundly.

The Birthday Box drive was led this year by our Mission Coordinator Volunteer, Shannon Rowson. We are so grateful to Shannon and her team for taking the time to bless children in our community.

...Jesus called to them and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;
For it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

Luke 18:16

Get Ready For Kindergarten 2008-09

You will be able to access information about your child's school through www.powayusd.org/. You will be able to upload needed forms that you will need to complete for your child.

Plan Ahead....Have immunizations completed.

4 Doses—Polio (3 doses if at least one dose was given on or after 4th birthday). **5 Doses—DPT** (4 doses if at least one dose was given on or after fourth birthday). **2 Doses—MMR** (Both doses must be given on or after first birthday) **3 Doses—Hepatitis B**. **1 Dose-Varicella** (Or health care provider documentation of chicken pox disease or immunity).

Official immunization record must include: Name of Child, Date of Birth, Name of immunization administered, Month and year of EACH immunization. Include day if obtained with birth month. Name of health care provider or agency administering EACH vaccine.

Required Documents at time of Enrollment

- Birth Certificate, Baptismal Certificate or Passport....Must be 5 years of age on or before December 2, 2007 (No Exceptions)
- Students Social Security Card
- Two (2) separate forms of residency verification (example deed to primary residence, lease agreement, utility bill)
- Report of Health Checkup for Schools Form—MCH77
- Oral Health Assessment Form (New this year)
- Addresses and phone numbers of home and work for both parents.
- Phone numbers for 3 relative or friends that will be allowed to pick your child up from school.

Early Years are Learning Years

IT'S THE DOING THAT COUNTS

We all have an idea of what creativity is. But is it important? And how does focusing on it help a child?

Think of creating and being creative as a process with several steps involved. You'll be able to break down and look at the pieces involved in being creative. When being creative, whether it is drawing a picture or trying to figure out how to make something work, several elements are in play. Developing these elements can affect a child's growth and development on all levels.

Elements used that can be further developed in the creative process: **Self-expression:** Children express what they see, feel, hear, and think; it can help a child find his/her own unique style. **Curiosity:** Children follow through on their hunches, impulses, and natural desire to find out what things are, how they work, and what will happen "if". **Exploration/Experimentation:** Children fantasize, engage in imaginative play, or come up with many possibilities for whatever they are focusing on, often trying things or coming up with possibilities we think are "impossible". **Open-ended thinking:** Children stretch their thinking skills by not having to come up with only one possible outcome or answer.

These elements or qualities are natural in creativity and are important to children's development. They provide a foundation for children to acquire problem-solving skills, feel good about themselves, develop a sense of uniqueness, and help to expand their intellectual or cognitive skills, as well as their perseverance. These are important skills that children can use in daily life and continue to use as they grow into adults.

The outcome of most creative efforts is usually something you can touch, see, hear or taste. For example, when a child uses crayons a finished drawing may be the result of the child being engaged and creative. However, it's NOT the drawing that should be encouraged...but the process of creating it. Do not focus on what the child creates or be concerned with the way it turns out.

Activities to Support Creativity

The best way for children to be creative is through play. Play is the foundation of creativity and the way young children learn. To encourage children's creative development:

- Let children engage in free and spontaneous play;
- Give them enough time for play;
- Provide materials that are interesting and varied, and encourage exploration;
- Allow children to take the lead in creativity without having an expected outcome;
- Support children's efforts and help them feel good about their attempts; and
- Engage children in activities that provide a wide variety of experiences (art, music, building, storytelling, dramatic play, reading, puzzles).

Creativity builds children's thinking skills. Children learn to solve problems and come up with their own ways to do just about anything. Parents and child care providers can find it difficult to allow children enough time to fully explore materials and be involved in activities. It may also be hard for adults to drop all expectation of how they think something should be done (for example: how a house should be drawn or how to build a bridge with blocks). It is important to allow children to express and figure out their own way of doing things. Self-expression and being involved in creative activities not only helps children learn, but is a lot of fun. Children learn best by playing, exploring, imagining, creating and ultimately discovering new ways of seeing the world.

Excerpt from: Child Care Communique, March/April 2007

Sharing Lives Ministry - *Update*



Sharing the Good News

As many of you know the Preschool is blessed to be able to provide much needed assistance not only to children with

special needs, but also to those less fortunate financially

through the Sharing Lives Ministry. The tuition assistance has helped so many families this school year. This is a

program we cherish and we are thankful we can help the

people who rely on our preschool for the quality and outstanding level of care we provide for our children.

The Sharing Lives Ministry is supported by donations from our alumni, current families and annual fundraising. This past year has been especially demanding on the Sharing

We are happy to announce that we have received our accreditation from the

National Association for the Education of Young Children.

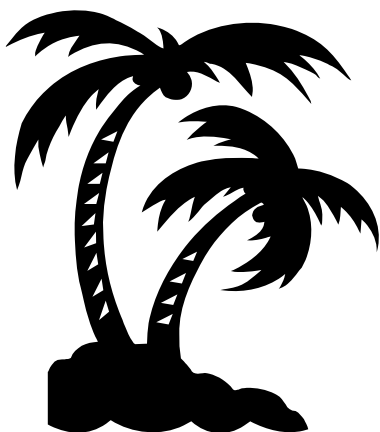
This process took many, many months and lots of work from all staff members. We are so grateful to the team of teachers,

Looking for a Good Teachers Gift....

Check out the teachers wishlist at Amazon.com. Just log in to Amazon.com, click on wishlist, in the box on the right that says "find a wish list", enter in one of the choices below. Items can be shipped directly to the school or you may choose to purchase your item elsewhere. If you have any question please see your teacher or email kmoehlig@rbcp.org.

Teach3@rbcp.org

Teach4-5@rbcp.org



End of the Year Event Aloha Luau

Sunday June 8, 2008

3:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saying goodbye can be difficult, for the families and the staff. So whether you are just taking the summer off or leaving the preschool for kindergarten, come help us celebrate.



Dinner tickets will be available to purchase in the office starting

MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Mother's Day Teas M-TH classes	8 Mother's Day Teas T/TH classes	9 <i>Childrens's Art Show May9-May 30</i> Mother's Day Teas M/W/F class	10
11 <i>Childrens's Art Show May9-May 30</i>	12	13	14 Chapel for MWF& M-TH classes @ 11am &12:30	15 Chapel for T-Th classes @ 11am & 12:30	16	17
18 <i>Childrens's Art Show May9-May 30</i>	19	20	21	22	23 RBCPC Family Camp	24 RBCPC Family Camp
25 <i>Childrens's Art Show May9-May 30</i> RBCPC Family Camp	26 Memorial Day– No School RBCPC Family Camp	27	28	29	30 <i>Childrens's Art Show May9-May 30</i>	31

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> Preschool Year Ends	<i>6</i> Preschool Year Ends	<i>7</i>
<i>8</i> End of the Year Celebration 3-6 pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> PUSD Year Ends	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>					