



THE WINDOW

An inside look at Bethesda Nursery School

IMPORTANT NEWS!

Family Photos

Please send in a family photo to be posted in the hallway outside of the classroom. The children love seeing their moms and dads and siblings as they pass by during the day, and it is a way for everybody to get to know which grown-ups match up with which kid! Please don't send any copies that you need back - all photos will be lovingly mangled by little hands by the end of the year. You may give the photo to any teacher or put it in Kate's teacher pocket. Thank you!

Baby Photos

Tara would like a baby photo of your child for a secret project which will soon reveal itself in the hallway. You can give it directly to her or put it in her teacher pocket. (Please write your child's name on the back - sometimes it is hard to tell which adorable baby face goes with which adorable preschooler's!) Thank you!

Adding Days and Rest

Because of some unexpected last-minute withdrawals, we have some openings on several days. If you are interested in adding more days or rest times to your child's schedule, please speak to Sara.



Making a scarecrow in the playground

Beginnings!

We have made it through the first three weeks of school, and the teachers can breathe a sigh of relief. Despite having a very young class, the year is off to a smooth beginning! You can all pat yourselves on the back for helping your children navigate their first steps out into the world on their own. We teachers know - especially those of us with children - how hard it is to part with a sad or crying child. To quote Jack Ellis, our retired but still beloved teacher, "the moment of goodbye is the hardest." When Mom or Dad are out of sight, most children quickly settle happily into the day. Prolonging the goodbye only makes children anxious and uncertain about what is going to happen next. You are all doing a great job of showing your kids that you are confident they will have fun at school and that they are big, capable kids.

If you look around the classroom, you will see evidence that the kids are enjoying art and science projects. The walls are filling up with paintings, collages and drawings related to fish, squirrels and the ocean. You probably know that we have a set schedule for each day, which - while incorporating plenty of time for free-play - also contains periods of time for science and art projects, as well as music and meetings. The four teachers (with Sara helping out when she is not tending to her director duties) rotate through the areas of the curriculum on a weekly basis. This week, for instance, Molly is in charge of running morning meeting and manning the climber room, Tara leads music and oversees the sensory table activity, Jenni is leading the kids through a scientific study of squirrels, and I am in charge of art and cooking activities. So over the year you will see a weekly change in the science theme, your child will be infecting the family with a multitude of ear worm songs, and lots of artwork will accumulate in the art box. Please feel free to ask any of us about the curriculum. We also post it online and in the hallway.

We do plan our curriculum ahead of time, but we are happy to ad-lib when a spontaneous situation arises or when a child expresses a particular interest. Recently, David observed that a piece of bamboo from our playground grove would be perfect for making a scarecrow! It was an inspired idea, and this week Sara and Molly worked with David and a big group of children to make it happen. Please check out our new scarecrow friend, who is now guarding the entrance of the playground!

The new Bethesda kids have quickly endeared themselves to us. They are making friends and learning how to have fun with all the resources our school has to offer them. We are looking forward to a wonderful year!



Drawing by Ansley