



Toddler Times

November/December 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

Notes from Jude

Sorry this newsletter has taken so long to get to you! Sometimes it feels hard to get all I want in here and the truth is, I never do!

One thing that makes me procrastinate is the compositional writing involved in wanting to have a good topic in here each month. Truth be told, although I have learned to write... I am NOT a writer and don't really want to be. Yet I want to provide the information the way I want it out there! Anyhow, my struggle. Sometimes you will find an article about a particular issue, sometimes not. Hopefully you will always enjoy some fun insights or words of wisdom.

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We have had a great start to our school year! I cannot tell you how happy it makes me and Sandy to witness these children growing up.

Truth be told, we grow and change together... WHE truly feels like an everchanging creation - we move things around, the children now call

what was formerly known as the (redbud) "woods," the "house." (We have a "house" inside too, in the small space between the cubbies and the reading area).

And what a caring community.

All children know just which stuffed animal or doll belongs to who and when someone is upset, it is not uncommon to see a friend bring over that special lovie from home - melts your heart everytime. We thank you again, for letting us care for your children.

As the winter holidays approach please remember that while holidays can be an exciting time they can also be stressful, exhausting and overwhelming for (you and) your child(ren). We hope that you will be able to enjoy some "want's nothing" time with your family as a whole - and that we'll get to all hang out at the Tamale Party in the new year! This is a delicious day - not to be missed. KC cooks yummy fillings and moles and we help assemble and eat the tamales of our dreams!

November and December Holidays

- Nov. 26-28, Wed.-Fri.
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 (M-Fx2)
Re-open Monday, Jan. 5th

TAMALE PARTY!

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY
January 3, 2009
(During the holiday break)

12-3:00 p.m.



WELCOME!

In October we welcomed *Maria Elena Paz* to WHE. Maria Elena is 18 months old, she is fascinated with magnets and she is learning English and Spanish. She was fortunate to have lots of time at home with her mom, dad and grandmother before coming to WHE. Maria Elena's mom, Deanna, teaches at Dryden Central School and her dad, John, is a youth counselor at Louis Gossett Center. John still cherishes his Mondays and Friday mornings with Maria Elena and we see her Tuesday-Friday.



Thoughts About Praise

Praise is an expression of gratitude. When we receive praise we are recognized for our accomplishment or contribution. When we offer praise we are appreciating another person, their helpful actions or an experience we see they navigated in a way that we admire.

Praise can be a lovely form of expression, but can praise also be detrimental? How can praise be wrong or cause any problems, you may ask. Why would it ever be a negative thing to offer praise? Consider the different types of praise a child may hear. Reflect for yourself - are there specific ways that you like to receive feedback? Have you ever felt negative feelings from someone's praise?

The next time you compliment your child, think about the message behind your statement. Did you tell your child "that's beautiful" or "good job"?

Recognizing a child's effort is a great thing to do. However, the way in which we give feedback does cause different feelings for each child.

Sounds o.k. but what if you don't think your child's drawing is "pretty" one day? What do you say? You will find that simply describing what you see can be a simple, effective communication tool.



November 10th Javi Kurth began attending WHE four days a week, adding Friday come January 2009. Javi's parents Jami and Marty are learning Spanish to provide a home that validates Javi's home language. His mom, Jami, teaches English at Cornell and his dad, Marty is a Librarian there. We look forward to getting to know Javi and his family!

Descriptive Praise - gives information

"You did it all by yourself!"

"You figured it out!"

"You've been working hard on that."

"You used a little bit of every

It has been great to hear more Spanish spoken at WHE - other children are playing with making up words (non-English nor Spanish) as they are hearing a new way of communicating. We're still waiting to hear some spontaneous actual Spanish from others!

Appreciative Praise

- recognizes and appreciates effort and contribution.

"That really helps me when you help put your dishes away."

"That really worked. You remembered to ask for the shovel and she gave it to you."

Evaluative Praise
- makes a judgment

"Good work."

"Pretty."

"I like your drawing."

Warm Clothing Reminder

With November comes a nip to the air! We have been enjoying getting outside as much as possible, raking up and throwing around leaves, collecting fallen apples, running around and riding bikes!

We find that children this age are most comfortable going out in weather that is over 40 degrees. Between 40 and 60 degrees we still need coats, a hat and warmer shoes (no crocs please). As you know, boots and snow clothing can be very restrictive. If you're still shopping for your child's winter wear, try to find the most flexible items you can to increase their enjoyment of the brisk and snowy weather ahead. Please remember to label clothing as best as you can.



Good-bye Leo

We hate to look ahead,
but -
in January
our dear Leo
will be turning
3 and moving
on to South
Hill Tots to
join his friends
Matty, Asher
and Kai Mei.

In his year
and a half
with us, Leo

has grown and changed from a quiet, contemplative soul to be such an outgoing and knowledgeable guy! Sure, we still see his quiet nature, but Leo is a tour guide to visitors and is ever-willing to help a younger child. He is a particularly adept bike rider and puzzler. He is a jokester who loves playing with rhyme.

We will miss you so Leo. If you ever find out who painted the chickens, please let us know.

Songs That We Sing

Las Hojitas

Las hojitas, las hojitas
De los árboles se caen
Viene el viento
Y se ponen a bailar

La, la
La, la



Visit our site
to hear this song!

- * parent resources page
- * password protected pages
- * user: WHEparent
- * password: parent

Little Leaves

All the leaves are changing colors
They are falling from the trees
The wind comes round to blow them
And the leaves begin to dance

La, la
La, la

Remember to Check for Ticks!

Remember to continue checking your child for ticks - it is not too cold for them yet—especially in the hair where the ticks like to hide.

There are so many deer around here...



Goals For Children ... In Your Words

Lots of play time, sharing,
reading, time outdoors.

Maintain her happy, gentle nature.
Have fun.
Continue to develop social skills.

We hope she gains social skills and
grows her mental capabilities.

Friendship, exploration of interests,
compassionate and nurturing care,

Trust, independence.

A safe, secure, healthy environment for her to grow,
play, and socialize outside of home.
Experience being away from mom and dad in a safe,
healthy manner.

Social skills, adaptability, curiosity, lots of baby fun.

Socialization, age appropriate play/stimulation, regular
schedule of meals, naps, etc.

Caring, warm interactions with teachers.

I want him to be in an environment that
nurtures his interests, whatever those may
be. I like the philosophy of Educare and
particularly appreciate allowing the child to
gravitate to activities that feed his soul.

Fun. Love of learning & playing with others.

Fun, socialization, sense of self, confidence,
nurtured inquisitiveness.

the news is going green . . .

The WHE newsletter is now available on-line on a password protected page.

Please complete the following and return:

I would like my newsletter on-line. Please send my reminder email to: _____

OR

I would like a hard copy of my newsletter.

AND

I authorize Jude Keith Rose to publish pictures of my child in WHE's on-line newsletter.

OR

I do NOT authorize Jude Keith to publish pictures of my child in WHE's on-line newsletter.

Child's name: _____

Parent signature: _____