

Our World at Play



June 2024

Doesn't that look like summer? More so than any day since!

Yet, what a busy May we had! We played hard with water, sand, oobleck, paint... we planted seeds, enjoyed our first pops, made pickles, egg salad, tangerine juice, tasted lemon from our tree and strawberries from our garden.

And, we are again blessed with robins! There are 4 eggs in the nest. This year they've chosen a spot in the hedge along the left side of the garden where you enter.

We have been exploring collage; gluing seeds, pictures and other odds and ends. We always start with drawing and embellish from there. (Quite honestly, it gives me time to get the glue together, but also it's logical— you can't write on wet glue, so that's what I say...) Today the oldest children tried cutting with scissors, a skill that will be built upon more and more and others will be included when they're older and can be successful. The kids showed me again today, that children closer to 3, or older are most successful with scissors, since good hand size and dexterity are needed.

Calendar

No holidays in June this year

June						
M	T	W	Th	F		
	3	4	5	6	7	
10	11	12	13	14		
17	18	19	20	21		
24	25	26	27	28		

In June we welcome Caspian "Cas" Carvallo-Ray. Cas is only 3 days older than Kata and is also bilingual, so he fits right in to our cohort! Cas' parents are Sefora and JP—please give them a warm welcome to WHE and our area—they moved to EcoVillage from the west coast over this past winter.

Next Parent Support Gathering

July—7/9, 7/10 or 7/11

5:30-7p.m. @The Boatyard Grill

[Complete this calendar doodle poll](#)

to help identify the date that works best for most

Hands at Play—Fine Motor Development

“Young children are naturally curious. They learn about the world by interacting with their peers and by exploring materials with their hands. During their early years, children develop hand skills (fine motor skills) that they will need to be successful for the rest of their lives. They also learn to use their hands for important self-care skills, such as feeding and dressing themselves.”

Some motor skills are foundational to others: manipulating playdough helps build coordination and make hands strong. Manipulating the dough builds eye-hand coordination and the ability to utilize a pencil with intention.

If you'd like to read a brief, good article about fine motor development continue reading the article which begins with the quote above, [*Hands at Play, Developing Fine Motor Skills for Life*](#) by Christy Isbell.





Looking for Book Ideas?

As children's interests develop and their attention to stories builds, we find we are shifting to more paper books—perhaps you are too?

I have many favorite books, you've all heard tales from *What Pete Ate* or *Caps for Sale*. However, when I was asked recently for recommendations, I found myself saying I didn't have a specific book recommendation—you have to spend time at the library or in the bookstore and decide if the book is right for you at this particular time... I suggested the idea of visiting *Odyssey Bookstore* which is known to have a nice children's area, as does *Buffalo St. Books* and *Barnes and Noble*.

There are so many new books out there for children all the time and I don't know many of them! There are always some new books that are fantastic! I mostly learn about them from the library, and from you!

Remotely, I look to [A Mighty Girl](#) for ideas. Sometimes I look at suggestions from things I search and just take a chance. I get their newsletter and it draws me in...

I also belong to (and one of my first early childhood projects in the '80s was to help develop) the [Margo Trombetta Peace Education & Anti-bias Library](#). Continued dedication and ongoing updates mean you can narrow down searches by age, language, type of book, peace library strand and more!

And there are summaries of each book, maybe I even wrote some of these older descriptions a million years ago! It's possible...



June Curriculum

Toddler Times

May 2024

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Primary Themes

- Birds
- Gardening
- Edible/inedible
- Ramps, balls
- Water/sand
- Geometric solids
- Dinosaurs
- The Earth Goes Around the Sun



Activities

- Playdough
- Garden tending
- Scissors; cutting skills
- Gluing, painting, printing
- Initial sounds and rhyming
- Counting and number games
- Geometric solids
- Physical agility: balancing, jumping, swinging
- Pat bells; high and low tones

Songs

- Continue plant and garden songs...
 - Bean Song
 - Oats, Peas, Beans & Barley
- Muffin Man with own addresses
- Dinosaurs Lived Long Ago
- Do-Re-Mi
- Mockingbird Hill
- More ideas?

Books

- Come Out & Play
- Boys Dance
- Fire Chief Fran
- Bear Has a Belly
- Friends/Amis
- Bugs for Lunch
- Roadwork
- Gathering
- Blueberries for Sal
- A Flower Grows
- Quiet in the Garden

