



Summer 2018--Shake, Rattle, and Roll

Thank you all for a wonderful three weeks! Summer is the perfect time to get together with current and new students, to frolic in the out-of-doors while learning new skills and perfecting old ones! Every summer we choose a theme to base our activities around. This year it was all about music and movement. As you take a trip through the photo journey that follows, you will see several activities built around this theme. Additionally, you will find several activities that we have available for children all year round. Hopefully, the following newsletter will give you a glimpse into what your child has been up to these past few weeks!

Routines

While summer tends to be a laid back time, full of frolicking and imaginative play, it is also a time to establish simple routines that guarantee smooth sailing throughout the year. Thus, children are welcome to wander from outside to Studio to classroom and back again under the watchful eyes of adults, they are also expected to follow many of the daily graces and courtesies of a Montessori classroom. Works are returned to their correct places on the shelves, clean and ready for the next person. Chairs are tucked under tables and rugs carefully rolled up. Snack, enjoyed under the shade of the grape vines, is a multi-step process that encourages both independence and the following of social norms. Current students take comfort in the knowledge of what is expected while children new to the classroom quickly learn habits that will assure their success in the coming year.











Music Study

Music was one of the focal points of this summer's program. The shelves contained a larger than normal number of music works--several instruments to practice playing. Additionally, we let the children create their own musical instruments out of pill bottles, pipe cleaners, beads, bells, and puffs. Singing is a regular part of life at Children's Garden, and we gathered together to sing in groups. Sometimes, the children formed their own bands or performed dances together.





Gross Motor

The back yard is full of objects that encourage gross motor development. The children took pride in creating their own obstacle courses, requiring participants to maneuver their bodies in multiple ways. Each day brought a new course, and a new way to explore moving our bodies through space.







Water Day

What better way to escape the heat than by frolicking in water? Every Thursday, the children came in bathing suits and we set up a sprinkler and a kiddie pool. They delighted in getting as wet as they could, in all sorts of creative ways.





Cooking with Michelle

Michelle brought her love of cooking into the Studio where she partnered with the children to make smoothies, biscuits, croutons, fruit salad and waffles. For those who did not care to participate, servers brought around samples, giving every one a chance to sample the various tastes.



Special Projects and Special Discoveries

The children were quite enamored with the variety of bugs and other creepy crawlers we found outside. They were not very happy to see the Japanese beetles chewing on our leaves, but quite pleased with other discoveries. After watching and observing, the small creatures were gently helped to protective corners of the playground.





In addition to shaking and rattling our bodies, the children shook and rattled objects. We gave them small cubes and let them make their own dice.



Noticing that the ribbon sticks were quite a hit in the backyard, we bought thin dowels and helped the children to glue ribbons on them in order to create their own sticks to dance with, and to take home!



Building and Imaginative Play

Summer is definitely a time for dreaming and acting out the dreams with imaginative play. Children build houses and played family. They also build horses to ride, space ships to fly, and all sorts of other vehicles. Additionally, the children frequently morphed into a variety of animals--cheetahs, Jack-Jacks, venomous snakes, bumblebees, etc. Of course, we supplied costumes to enhance this experience, but most of the time, they just used their imagination!







Celebrating Birthdays

"The Earth goes around the sun, the Earth goes around the sun. It takes 12 months to get the job done..." We were lucky to get to watch two campers take their trips around the sun! Happy birthday to all of those who had a birthday this summer!



Building Relationships

The best part of summer is watching all the socializing that goes along with it. We had a particularly large number of children transitioning from the toddler room into the primary, so it was fun to watch the younger children interacting with the older ones. While old friends were definitely kept, new friendships were forged. That is definitely the best part of any camp experience!







See you in August!

All the time outside and variety of activities was exhausting! Some of our youngest campers could barely stay awake!

Have a great month, enjoying some down time before school begins in August! We look forward to seeing you all again very soon!

Photo credits go to Ethan Howell and Jamie Boes



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