

Preschool Program: September Letter – *Katie & Susan's Room*

Date: Friday, September 14, 2011

Theme: *Back to SCHOOL*

Welcome back to Children Unlimited for a new year in preschool. This week we are learning the names and faces of our friends in our preschool classroom community. Children practice many skills as they learn to explore, play and work together.

SNACK TIME: We have a new snack routine at Children Unlimited. This year parents have been asked to send in a snack as well as lunch for your child. We will continue to provide milk or water for children to drink. You may have already seen the white “snack” bins in your child’s cubby. We ask that you take an item from your child’s lunch box and put it in this bin when your child arrives at school. This is important for helping kids develop independence and self-responsibility, while allowing some opportunity to make a reasonable choice from a variety of items.

Peanut Allergy: We do have a child in our classroom with a peanut allergy. Children **may** have peanuts or peanut butter in their lunch box or for snack, but one table is designated as peanut- free. Children are already learning to take a sign to put in front of their cubby to identify peanuts or no-peanuts. This is a nice opportunity to practice classification skills in a meaningful way.

SIGNING IN: Children in preschool will *sign- in* each morning as part of our literacy instruction. We appreciate parent support and encouragement of children’s learning. It is important for families to encourage play and practice at home in fun ways. In the classroom, children will sign in independently. Preschool staff have been asked to support this development in age appropriate ways as younger preschool children begin to “make their mark” and older preschoolers develop and improve letter writing skills.

Children enjoyed many fun learning and play activities this week, including:

- Every morning, during calendar time, children practice counting, naming colors, predicting patterns, and learn to sing the days of the week in sequence.
- Children love to paint and color – this week, children had opportunities at the easel with markers and paint.
- Children are playing together in the housekeeping area, taking on familiar roles by pretending to cook, feed and care for babies and sharing pretend meals together.
- Kids did extended play with blocks, integrating small colored blocks with animals.
- Kids worked with puzzles and a variety of shape, color, and number sorters.
- Children worked with playdough using tools and practiced using language to share.

Motor Group with Ardis and Christine: Wednesday is motor group in preschool. We will begin to have motor group next week, September 14th. During motor group, kids try many new and challenging movements. They learn to take turns, following a multi-step course in sequence and to encourage one another. Please make sure that your child has appropriate footwear on Wednesdays (sneakers).

Field Trip to Apple Acres in Cornish Maine September 19th! Be sure to *sign permission slip and send in your child’s labeled car seat.*

Weather temperatures begin to change dramatically from morning to afternoon, this time of year. Please be sure to send your child with appropriate clothing for outside play. Please be sure to LABEL all your child’s belongings with the child’s name. Thank You.

Katie, Susan and the Preschool Staff