



PRESCHOOL NEWS

January
2011

Mrs. Houldsworth's Class

IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 3rd - First day of school 2011

Jan 17th - No School-Civil Rights Day



Themes This Month

Hope you all enjoyed the holidays. "Thank you" to the many families that donated food for our snack party in December. We all enjoyed the treats!

Our January theme is "You and Me, Under the Sea." We will focus on the stories about fish and discuss other creatures that live in the ocean. We will read The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, and Ten Little Fish by Audrey and Bruce Wood. Our color this month is green and our shape is a rectangle. Look for our classroom bulletin board displaying various sea creatures.

Vocabulary Words

We will be working on the following new vocabulary words to go along with our "Under the Sea" theme. Please take some time to talk about and use the following words at home. Tentacles, claw, ink, school of fish, fins, scales, seaweed, camouflage and things that protect fish from predators.

REMINDERS

- SNOW DAYS, when there is a two-hour delay, morning preschool will be cancelled.

Legos and Playdough

Children are not born with fine motor control. Preschoolers do make gains in these skills given opportunities to practice. Handedness is fairly well established around age 4, although the wrist contains some cartilage that will not harden into bone until about age 6, placing some constraint on fine motor capacity (Berk 2008). Adults can help children make progress to develop these skills.

Playdough and Legos are two of the best materials. Through simply pinching, rolling, and shaping playdough children develop strength in finger and wrist muscles. Connecting Legos together develops hand muscles and the pincer grasp, (the touching of the thumb and fingers) that is important for holding pencils, silverware, brushes and other tools.

Playdough can be made at home or purchased. Legos are a considerable investment but worth it. Both material provide enjoyment and enhance fine motor skills preparing children for the demands of handwriting and other skills that develop later.

Playdough Recipe

- 1-cup salt
- 2 cups flour
- 1-teaspoon cream of tartar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 2 cups water
- A few drops of food coloring

Combine in a pan, cook over low heat stirring constantly until well mixed. (About 10 minutes)
Remove from the pan and knead for 2 minutes. Store in an airtight container **ENJOY!**