

WHAT'S UP AT FAMILY NETWORK?

November, 2011

As the last leaves are falling from the trees, children (and parents) at the Parent/Child Center have been busy! Parents have heard speakers on topics ranging from children's fears to choosing a preschool, while children decorated pumpkins and made a variety of colorful fall collages. Fall Family Night in October gave fathers and siblings an opportunity see the center, meet the teachers, and enjoy pizza and playtime together. In early November, a group of talented Spanish speaking moms created a beautiful celebration of the Mexican holiday, "Día de los Muertos," in the Parent Room, with delicious traditional foods, handmade decorations, and a



fascinating talk about the meaning of the holiday. This has become an annual event at the center, and is the first in our series of "Sharing Traditions" activities which happen monthly on Dual Language Thursday mornings. Please let us know if you have a special tradition, craft, or food that you would like to share with other Family Network families in the coming months!

IN THE BABY & ME ROOM, babies of all ages and their parents have enjoyed getting to know each



other, singing songs and playing the "peek-a-boo" game. Our October program, "BabySigns," was lots of fun, and this month will bring "Mom and Baby Yoga" with Jennifer Klein (who is herself the mom of baby Elan). On Tuesdays, lively discussions have been facilitated by Pam Frankel as part of her "Getting to Know Your Baby" class. Pam plans to offer the class again in late winter or early spring, when we look forward to welcoming a new batch of babies born in December and January!

IN THE RAINBOW ROOM, Nancy & Helga & Marilu report that the children are “growing up too fast,” as they learn to sing all the songs at snack time, experiment with new art materials, and learn that “mommy always comes back” (their favorite song)! Of course, parents and caregivers are always welcome to stay and play as long as they wish – we know from many years of experience with toddlers that a gradual separation process, where children build trust in their teachers and are not pushed to become independent before they are ready, works best!



IN THE SUNSHINE ROOM, we see new friendships blossoming every week as the children play together around the sand table & play dough tables, in the housekeeping corner, and while negotiating the building of complicated train track constructions (with a little help from their teachers!). In all of our activities, we encourage children to listen to each other and to recognize and respect each other’s differences as well as common interests. Currently, their favorite story book is *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell – they love to chime in when Lisa or Carol reads the littlest owl’s refrain on each page - “I want my mommy!” All the children can recognize and empathize with the universal feeling of worrying when a parent goes away and rejoicing when he/she comes back!



All of us at Family Network wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving!

