



Activities for Direct Care Giving Staff

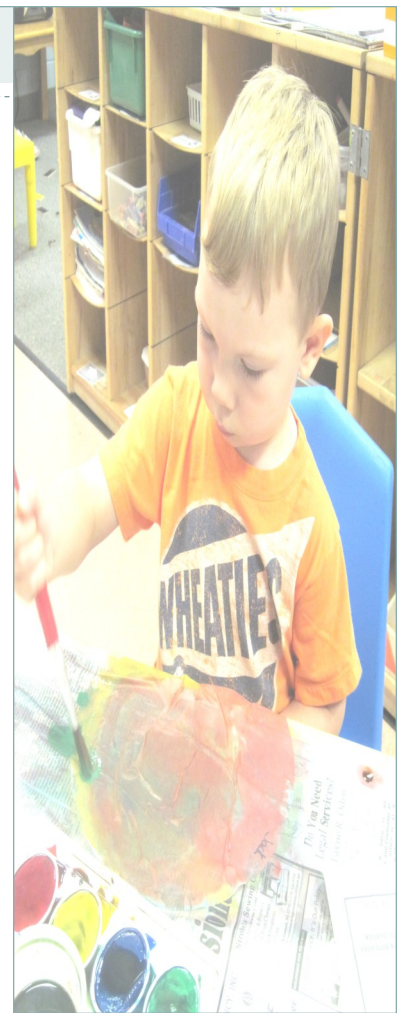
CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

In this issue classroom activities were shared by the children and staff at The Children's Learning Center. The Children's Learning Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology serves students, faculty, and staff whose children need high-quality, on-campus care and education while their parents are at work or attend classes. The Children's Learning Center cares for children between the ages of 18 months and 5 years .

Toddlers and carnations...a scientific and artistic exploration *Standard 9.1c.2 Construction*

The Bunnies classroom is an older toddler room, with Group Leader Beckie Horn and Assistant Group Leader Jennifer Bay. One day back in April, the teachers brought in a bunch of carnations, because the children were very interested in the all the spring flowers they were seeing in their own backyards and on their walks around campus. Here are some of the ways they used them:

- Observing them and learning vocabulary such as “stem” and “petal.”
- Using the senses of touch, sight, and smell to really explore them.
- As paintbrushes, dipping them into bright colors and creating exquisite designs!
- Comparing them to the other different varieties they brought in from their own homes or to dandelions and blossoms picked on their walks.
- Taking them apart to see the parts hidden under the petals.
- Making a still-life painting of a different bunch of flowers.



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VOLCANOS *STANDARD 3.2A.4 REACTIONS*

Here are two pictures of a preschool science activity. The first is Jack using watercolors to paint his volcano. The second is of Ellee adding vinegar to the baking soda inside the volcano to make it erupt. This activity replicated the natural reaction of a volcano. The children were also able to see pictures of a real volcano from Hawaii.

To make a volcano:

Using watercolors, have the children paint a coffee filter. Let dry.

Fill a small Dixie cup with baking soda. Place the dry coffee filter on top.

Using a squirt bottle filled with vinegar, squirt the "volcano" middle with vinegar. Watch as the two react and foam out over the top.



"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."

~ Ignacio Estrada

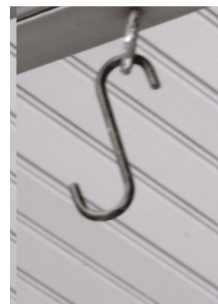
Body Letters *Standard 1.1.2 Word Recognition*

A kinesthetic way to practice letter identification, from Jessica Milheim, Group Leader, The Children's Learning Center at Penn College

Today the preschoolers went out to the patio and used their bodies to form letter shapes. The teachers took photos of the various "letters," printed out the photos, and then let the children use them to spell out their names or other familiar words. Lots of fun!



The same group also took the digital camera along on a walk around campus to search for letter shapes in objects they saw. They used these photos the same way, to spell out words.



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