



The Playground

Letter From the Program Director

Dear Parents,

I hope all of you are enjoying this unusually warm spring weather. We have been spending more time on the playground in the afternoons since it is getting dark later and the weather has been so nice. Some teachers have noticed that the gates to the playground are not always getting latched as parents are entering the playground. Please make sure to double check the gate behind you.

As many of you may have noticed, Melanie and Erin

are very close to their due dates and we are starting to plan for their maternity leaves. Erin will be leaving any week now. Cassandra Juhlin, who has been working part time in the Back Room, will be filling in full time for Emmett's vacation the week of March 16th then covering all of Erin's maternity leave until the end of May or early June.

Now that Megan has returned from her maternity leave, Lauren will become a floater to help out through the spring and summer.

Melanie will be leaving for her maternity leave by mid April; Lauren will be avail-

able to help cover some of her shifts. Scott, who is not going on maternity leave, will be here as usual to cover shifts that open up throughout the week.

Just a quick reminder, please remember to have a physical form filled out by your child's doctor at every well visit and if immunizations are given, we need a copy of the immunization form as well. It is very important that we have your child's medical information up to date for licensing.

Thank you,
Bethany

Important Dates

- ☺ Back Room parent group March 18th at 5:30
- ☺ Middle Room parent group March 11th at 5:30.
- ☺ St Patrick's Day March 17th
- ☺ First day of Spring March 20th
- ☺ March 29th, Lisa's 10 year anniversary!!!!

Meet the Staff- Alicia Mittelman



Hi, I'm Alicia Mittelman and I'm thrilled to be a teacher in the 1-2 Room. I was born in Denver and grew up primarily in Bethesda, Maryland. I studied Sociology at Saint Michael's College in Vermont and earned a Master's of Arts in Teaching with a focus on museums from the George Washington University in Washington, DC. My work in education has taken me to classrooms in DC and Oregon, the International Spy Museum and Rocky Mountain National Park. My older sister, Sacha, worked at Boulder Day and I heard many great stories over the years about the children, families, and staff that make this place wonderful. I also enjoy backpacking, snowboarding, and dancing.

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Front Room

Theme

- St. Patrick's Day
- Animals

Focus Books

- "The Rainbow Fish"
- "The Big Red Barn"
- "Moo, Baa, La, La, La"

Art Projects

- Animals in the water table with shredded paper
- A visit from Milo the dog
- A visit from Sally the guinea pig
- Fish
- Barn mural
- Animal coloring pages
- Shamrocks

Motor Development

- Move like different animals
- Art projects

Sign Language

- Dog, cat, bird, fish, cows, horse, sheep

News

- Welcome Grant
- Goodbye to Sasha and Wyatt, have fun in the 1-2 Room

Don't Forget

- Monthly wipes donation!

Help Please

- For our animal unit, please bring

in pictures of your pets.

- Please update clothes in your child's cubbies (right sizes and season).



1-2 Room

Theme

- Occupations

Focus Books & Language Development

- "Muppets in my Neighborhood"
- "All About Tools"
- This month is brought to you by the letters A,B,C, and D

Art Projects

- Making costumes of occupations

Motor Development

- Dress up and dramatic play
- Rolling

- Throwing
- Galloping
- Pinching/ tongs
- Lacing beads

Socio-emotional Focus

- Manners (please, thank you, your welcome)
- Gentle touches

Don't Forget!

- Monthly wipes or tissues
- We would love any ideas or activities from families about occupations, just let us know.

Help Please

- We are looking for old magazines for collages please.

News

- Goodbye Sigi, Bennett and Addison.
- Welcome Zoë, Sasha and Wyatt

Happy Birthday!

- Sigi: 7th
- Bennett: 14th



Middle Room

Theme

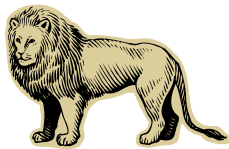
- Animals

Focus Book/Books

- "The Water Hole" by Graeme Base
- "The Very Clever Crocodile"
- "Party Animals"
- "Giraffes Can't Dance"
- "Corduroy at the Zoo"

Art Projects

- Lion faces
- Marble zebras
- Animal cages



Cooking

- Pizza
- Animal cages

Music

- 5 Little Monkeys
- Animals at the Zoo
- Going to the Zoo

Fieldtrip

- 29th Street animals
- Animals on Pearl St.

Dramatic Play

- Animal dress up clothes
- Kitchen
- Animal masks and puppets

Gross Motor

- Bikes
- Hop scotch
- Animal Action

Fine Motor

- Scissors
- Duplo blocks
- Beading
- Peg Board

Special Notes

- Welcome Addison, Sigi and Bennett!

Don't Forget

- Please bring in wipes!

Back Room

Theme

- Dr. Seuss

Focus Books

- Yertle The Turtle
- The Cat in the Hat
- Horton Hatches the Egg
- Green Eggs and Ham

Creative Endeavors

- Paper plate turtles
- Cat in the Hat hats
- Eggs
- Kites

Motor Development

- Painting with large and small paintbrushes
- Dancing to music
- Planet hopping

Cooking

- Making green eggs and ham

Math

- Turtle stacking
- Kite making

Music

- Free to be You and Me

Socio-Emotional Focus

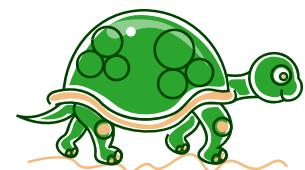
- Using manners
- Empathy
- Being sorry vs. saying sorry

Happy Birthday!

- Karolina: 4th
- PJ: 16th
- Jake: 31st

Don't Forget

- Parent conferences 3/9, 3/10, and 3/11.



Family Resources

Online resources for war and super hero play:

www.truceteachers.org

www.lionlamb.org

www.pbs.org/parents/issuesadvice

www.cyh.com/healthtopics

[Www.vivi.com/~artmama/play.htm](http://www.vivi.com/~artmama/play.htm)

The Funny Things Kids Say

Back Room kid: "There is a comet striking Earth, and that is why I have an ear infection."

Acceptable Superhero Play

Parent Handout from Maximize Your Child's Potential, by Gloria DeGaetano

Guide your child to be a Superhero within acceptable boundaries! Too much acting out of violent behavior seen by heroes on TV or in movies can hurt youngsters' emotional and social development. Yet, playing a Superhero need not be harmful in itself. By guiding children's play, parents:

- teach children about limits
- encourage socially useful concepts about being a hero
- let youngsters burn off energy in healthy ways!

Talk about real heroes. Discuss that real heroes are strong, brave, thoughtful, and helpful. When your newspaper features a story about a brave person or animal, cut it out, put it on the refrigerator, read it to your child. Tell why you think that person or animal is a hero. Also, have discussions about real people, past and present, who have worked to change unfairness and bias.

Encourage your child to act out the part of the hero in the story. If a firefighter saved someone from a burning building, your child could pretend to do that. If a dog pulled a child out of a lake, your child could get down on all fours, pretend to be the dog and pull a stuffed animal out of an imaginary "lake." By role playing different types of heroism, your child is learning important alternatives to the Superhero concept on children's television shows.

Have fun with dress-up. A special cape, a unique hat, or big shoes can signal that your child is now a Superhero. When your child puts on these clothes, you can play along and find out what caring, kind things the Superhero is going to do today!

Affirm strength and physical abilities. Superheroes are strong so they like to work out! Let your child move to an aerobic video, learn to jump rope, dance, and do some sort of activity pretending to be a hero, preparing to go out and help people.

Let children feel their physical energy. Superheroes are powerful. You can prop up pillows and have your child punch them. Don't use punching bags or items with human or animal features, though. You can also fill small balloons with water. Let your child throw them at an outside wall or on the pavement until they explode.

Affirm your child's own power. When he or she makes a decision, accomplishes a task, or learns a new skill, applaud the courage, tenacity, and personal fortitude shown.