

ART PLAY JANUARY 2012

FALL REGISTRATIONS

On February 1 we begin registration for the fall and give priority to currently enrolled students as well as siblings of former ART PLAY students. After February 15 enrollment is open to the public on a first come first serve basis.

MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY

We are closed on Monday, January 16, 2012

CLASSROOM THOUGHTS

If your child is always asking when school is, when swimming class is, or when Grandma is coming to visit I suggest that you give him (her) his own calendar. It can be purchased or just printed off the computer on a month by month basis. At the beginning of each month you can check off when school is or when a scheduled playdate is going to occur or note when weekends are. It is also a great learning tool that can help develop seasonal and numeric awareness.

A helpful tool for some children is to create a written schedule for them at home. This is a general list of daily activities to help orient them about what is going to occur next. This can be helpful taking some of the pressure off of a parent regarding “when, when, when”...It can be simple-a picture of cereal for breakfast, a picture of pants/shirt to know it’s time to get dressed, a picture of something your child enjoys playing with to show it is playtime and then a picture of lunch. If you feel your child is always expecting you to play with her/him you can also schedule a time for playing with mom/dad. It’s best if you write it down so your child can predict he’ll have a designated time each day just for him. If you take the time to schedule a 10 minute “together time” with your child (s)he can decide what you play (maybe before or after lunch). You might want to put a couple of short games aside or picture books and your child can pick one of the games or a book-you don’t want it to be so open ended that 10 or 15 minutes will not be enough time for both of you to feel content.

Another great literacy idea at this time is to set aside a “writing time” and your child can come up with a topic they would like to write about and they can dictate a story to you. It does not have to be factual and true-your child is the author and can determine if it’s fact or fiction. It’s fine to suggest a story about an animal or vehicle or even a monster if your child is unsure where to begin. Some children enjoy drawing a picture and then telling a story about it. We have some extra 3 ring binders at school that we’ll be happy to give you so you can store their stories in one space. It shows that you value your child’s ideas as well as develop literary awareness.

One last idea, if your child frequently complains about being BORED you can create an IDEA jar and sit down together and write down a dozen different ideas of activities-maybe taking little cars and scrubbing with soap and a toothbrush for a carwash Fold papers and put in a jar and your child can pick 1 or 2 to give them ideas on what they can do-putting some responsibility on them so YOU do not always have to be the great entertainer!!!