



King Street
Cooperative
Preschool

March 2015

GROWING LIKE A WEED

BY TEACHER AMI

It is amazing to look at your kids now and see how much they have grown since September. They seem to be growing like weeds!

Thanks to our families & outdoor team, our recent outdoor remodel has been a huge success! The space has changed the way we play and I am seeing kids try new things and become more adventurous every day.

Taking measured risks and trying new things builds confidence. With confidence comes the ability to collaborate. The kids are sharing their ideas and working together more and more.



Recently, Anna wanted to slid down the slide on one of the outdoor blocks. She asked Lisa. They discussed safety and making sure the slide was clear. She went down really FAST and landed on her bottom. The next try she jumped off and landed on her feet at the bottom of the slide.



Henry & Lyra work together.



Honora & Lyra scoop up wood chips.

Addie, Nathalie, Stella & Lyra explore the laurel bush now (trimmed by Ethan) as a climbing tree.



There has been so much focused play outside in our beautiful, unexpected February sun.

The kids have been exploring the playground with enthusiasm. From finding the itty bitty pinecones & pieces in the new mulch to running up and down our new sloped paths & testing their climbing & balancing skills on all the stumps.



Honora lines up pinecones.

Thank you working parent teachers for asking questions and taking the time to listen to children's ideas.

This truly helps to build their independence. We see them feel empowered as they are negotiating turns or offering substitutions more as well as explaining their games and needs to each other carefully.

Frankie and Sam negotiated for a long time about the use of the pink watering can. Patiently Sam watched Frankie's focus, inserting his request at opportune moments. Frankie, agreed to two more

fills & felt pride in sticking to the plan.



Wolf worked carefully lining up the cars and trucks up on a tire. He was able to explain to others that he did not want he's work moved, but others could add vehicles.



Frankie writes a card.

The mud kitchen is a popular spot to play and work together.



Jiraiya cares for the stick bugs.



We want our children to feel confident and competent in interacting with the world. We want them to see themselves as capable, helpful, strong individuals. Our job is to be next to them as they engage with the world giving encouragement and support, showing enthusiasm and being the safety net for their endeavors. As they root themselves in their individuality and strengths, they bloom into respectful caring humans.



Olive, Henry, Calla & Sam make valentine soup.

The work that we are doing at King Street by allowing children to make choices, to explore and to be heard, builds these virtues. Finding ways to empower children, not only to self advocate, but to know they affect their world, is our goal. With this empowerment, they have the tools to grow in to kind and courageous individuals.



Graham, Frankie and many other kids all water our sprouting bulbs, new tree & other baby plants.

Nurturing our new plants as well as our celebration of Valentine's Day was such a wonderful way to explore how our efforts & kindness effect our surroundings.

Preschool is a child-centered environment. It's not that way at home. We control majority of what when and how our children live their lives. It is not hard to imagine the feeling of powerlessness that a child might feel. We work hard to give them three hours of a child-centered environment at King Street, where they are able to reach what they need, follow their curiosity, be heard & validated. Life at home can't always be like that, but here are some simple ideas to help your child empower themselves at home:

- Slow down
- Put things within their reach
- Try to see their perspective
- Don't over-praise, instead recognize & appreciate efforts.
- Model mistakes & trying again / problem solving
- Recognize & name emotions
- Help build tools for coping with big emotions

There is a great article from Aha Parenting with tips to help our kids develop confidence & independence. The entire article may be found at: http://www.ahaparenting.com/blog/10_Ways_to_Raise_a_Compentent_Confident_Child

The top ten tips they advocate are:

1. Stop controlling and start coaching.
2. Remember that perfection is not the goal.
3. Let him try to do it himself from the earliest age.
4. Help her build confidence by tackling manageable challenges.
5. Don't set him up for failure.
6. Praise effort, not results.
7. Teach self-encouragement.
8. Model positive self-talk.
9. Manage frustrating circumstances.
10. Affirm your child's ability to impact the world.

"There are two lasting bequests we can give our children: One is roots the other is wings."

~Hotting Carter



Community Events

Cartoon Happy Hour

WHEN: Thursday, Mar. 26 and April 2, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

WHERE: Central Cinema, 1411 21st Ave.

LINK: central-cinema.com

Edible Book Festival

WHEN: Saturday, Mar. 28, 2015, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

WHERE: Third Place Commons, 17171 Bothell Way N.E., Lake Forest Park

DETAILS: See an exhibit of edible books (savory or sweet) that take their inspiration from real books. See and vote on selections, or bring in your own. Books will be consumed after judging.

LINK: www.shorelinearts.net

Jackson Street Jazz Walk

WHEN: Saturday, March 28, 2015 4:00 p.m. to midnight

WHERE: Various establishments on Jackson Street

DETAILS: The Jackson Street Jazz Walk returns for a second year of Bringing Jazz Back to Jackson Street and a night of free music spread across eight venues.

LINK: www.jazzwalk.org

Small Frye: Storytelling in the Galleries

WHEN: Friday, Apr. 3, 2015, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave.

DETAILS: Small Frye is expanding to emphasize skills for early learners. Now presented in two parts: storytelling and art, you can register for both parts or just storytelling.

LINK: www.fryemuseum.org

April 2 is first Thursday, so museums are free

Art Fun



Edible Mud

Materials Needed:

- 1 large box of instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 C. baking soda
- 1/4 C water
- 3 Tbs. oil



TISSUE PAPER KITE window decorations



KINDER CRAZE BLOG.COM

Materials Needed:

- black construction paper
- tissue paper (at least 2 colors)
- contact paper
- scissors

