

King Street Cooperative



Newsletter - November 13, 2013



In this November Newsletter you will find words of wisdom from Teacher Ami, an example of Thanksgiving traditions, and an overview of this month's curriculum. All gorgeous photos are the work of Tito Fuentes (and can be found on King Street Yahoo site).

Benefits of Co-op

By Teacher Ami

It is sometimes surprising how many familiar faces I run in to. The world becomes a little smaller when you have a child. You begin to make connections with folks outside dance classes, at parent groups, at the play-ground, and even the consignment store.

The connection to those around you who are living a similar reality and tackling the same issues can be a huge resource.

I had no idea that my life would change the way it did when I became a parent. After months of sleepless nights, cabin fever and wondering if I would ever take a shower again. My mission to figure out how other families made it work possessed me.

I found many wonderful resources for piecing together parenting information for my family. But King Street took it further. We are families working together to solve "how to make it work" questions, exploring goals and celebrating small epiphanies as a community.

I came to King Street in 2007 when a dear friend of mine who had a 5 yr old, suggest that I check it out (Thank you Shava!). It was loud, messy, silly and definitely stimulating. Nadjia, just 2, stayed very close the first few months, but who wouldn't eventually be wooed away by tubs of bubbles, tables of snacks, open library shelves, and piles of soft blocks, balls and bears to dive into. We were hooked. The philosophy fit our life and the parent

education was a needed reminder that we are in this together.



Co-op is where I have built our family's community. For 6 years I spent days out of every month in the classroom caring for others people's children and watching others care for mine.

My children were able to develop a trust in other adults' care for them. They were able to go to others for help and know that some grown-ups would play chase with them while others felt the need to clean their face (and therefore should be avoided).



Benefits of Co-op continued...

Showing up and doing this work for your children and your families should make you proud. You are laying the foundation for confident, creative problem solvers. You are creating a bank of parenting tools for your family as well as a community of people that will prove to be a source of support in many different ways. Parenting is hard work and in my experience and it takes a village.

Years have passed and I don't think I can explain the impact of King Street on our lives. It is a net that casts itself farther than the walls of this building. It has enriched our lives and strengthened us as parents. Our common experience has created a bond between our families that has brought more love and security to my children's lives.

A few weeks ago we had an impromptu fall gathering with old friends and neighbors. Two pre-teen King Street alums came and worked hard on their pumpkin carving. We chatted about school, Katy Perry and King Street. I told them about my new

job as a teacher and how I had recently seen their photos in a family album. They wrinkled their noses "We were so little when we met!". I watched them as they reminisced (5th graders can reminisce like they are in their 80's). I was comforted knowing my kids would continue to feel the connections that we've built in co-op. I know this connection will help them be safe, strong and free.

I welcome you to the King Street community and hope that each of you will feel the love that we have for your families and a little more supported on this journey of parent hood.

November 2013 Curriculum:

Safe, Strong, and Free Me!

This month we will be learning about our bodies- how they work, what they can do, how to use them safely, and how to take care of them. We will focus on the external parts of our bodies that can be seen and manipulated - arms, legs, hands, feet, skin, eyes, ears, mouth, and nose - while also drawing children's attention to internal structures and systems in concrete ways, like feeling your heartbeat during different types of activity and filling your lungs with air.

Questions to Explore:

- What are the parts that make up my body and what are their jobs?

- How are our bodies the same? How are they different?
- How can I use my body safely, keeping myself and others safe?
- How do I keep my body healthy and strong?

Literacy:

- **Some books of focus:** [Two Eyes a Nose and a Mouth](#), [Head Body Legs: A Story from Liberia](#), [Everybody Poops](#), [All the Colors of Us](#), [Hands Are Not for Hitting](#), [I Like Me!](#), [We Can Do It!](#), [Hand Hand Fingers Thumb](#)
- **Songs/Fingerplays:** The Hokey Pokey, If You're Happy and You Know It, There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly, Where is Thumpkin, Head Shoulders Knees and Toes, This Old Man (he played one...), Shake Your Sillies Out
- Writing body books (With my arms I can...)

Art/Science:

- Finger painting
- Hand tracing with cray-pas and liquid water color
- Body chalk tracing
- Body butcher paper tracing in the gym
- Spin art (sight)

November curriculum (continued)

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Art/Science:

- Handful scribble (sight and hands)
- Smell sorting/matching (film canisters with cotton balls) and sound sorting/matching
- Herb cutting/mulling – extension of potions
- Sensory – oobleck, corn meal, corn kernels, shaving cream, playdough

Mathematics:

- Things that come in pairs (arms, legs, eyes, ears, etc.)
- Comparative measurement (height, weight) and counting

- How many pegs tall am I? How many crayons long is my arm?
- Heavier/lighter, taller/shorter, longer, wider, etc.

- Standard measurement tools (scales, rulers, yard sticks)

Social/Emotional:

- Exploring and celebrating physical differences
- Non-verbal communication (body language, sign language)
- Using your body safely

Physical:

- Impulse control games – freeze dance
- Obstacle courses incorporating different ways of moving your body – climbing, balancing, hopping, swinging, etc.
- Pillow Pile-up crash

Thanksgiving traditions : a KSCP family's example

Like many of our friends here, we have no family nearby to celebrate the holidays with, so we make our own. Each year we take turns hosting, and everyone who doesn't have somewhere else to go joins us. We all bring dishes to share that make it Thanksgiving to us. We've had friends from Norway share pickled fish, friends from Kansas who share their mom's mashed potato recipe, friends from the south who share sweet potato pie - whatever makes the holiday feel like home to them is welcome.

When they arrive, each person is handed a paper leaf and a marker. Everyone writes down at least one thing they are thankful for, and we pin it to a wreath that hangs over the buffet table. It ends up being a beautiful, leaf covered remembrance of all our blessings.

Every year the celebration is different and wonderful. I'm already looking forward to this year!

Karen Pinkard
mom to Darian, 2 and Kendra, 5