



King Street
Cooperative
Preschool

January 2015



Growing By Leaps and Bounds

By Teacher Jana

I love this time of year in the preschool. We are settling in and King Street feels more and more like a home. Kids and adults are familiar with the routines and expectations and space. We see relationships strengthening between children. They are feeling ownership over how they spend their time. They are honing their problem-solving skills as it is no longer new to them. A lot of work has been done to get here and will continue to be done as we move forward.

There is much joy as a teacher in seeing kids move from adult-led to self-initiated skills. Personally, my biggest challenge at this time of year is to step back, wait a little longer, observe and just listen. Maybe just ask a question or two, if needed. When I do, I'm often amazed and impressed with the amazing skills young children already have to manage emotion, recover and find solutions. As a teacher, it is difficult to not step in right away with my own ideas, as it feels like I'm not doing my "job" or "actively leading." However, it is a good reminder that learning really happens through experience, and children need opportunities to try on their own to get these skills down. If I interrupt or direct at all times, they lose that opportunity. Here's a glimpse of some of the amazing work your kids are doing:



A child approaches another child waiting for a turn on the Seward Park zip line and wants her to come with her over to the seesaw. But the child in line wants the approaching child to go together with her on the zipline first. It's quiet for a little bit and they stand just staring at each other. (This is when I had to internally

tell myself NOT to interject). Finally one speaks first and says, "Let's ride on the zip line and then the seesaw." The other replies, "No, let's do the seesaw and then the zipline." There is a quick "ok!" and off they run together to the seesaw.



Playing hula hoops in the gym, two children both want the same purple hoop. There is some chasing, pulling, and attempts to get that hoop. I ask one question, "Is there another purple one?" They run off together and happily find another purple hoop. One asks me to sit down and watch, so I do. I sit on a line and the two commence demonstrations of their hula hoop tricks together. At one point they even change hoops; color importance lost to the joy of their play together. They develop a show, sometimes performing together, sometimes taking turns. Other kids join me in watching.

Outside, four children work together to put the wagon sides back together. They get three pieces on and then in attempting to get the fourth and final piece in, it won't fit. After a few different attempts at figuring out the problem, one explains they need to take the side pieces off, put the back piece on first and then put the side pieces on last. Another agrees, helps get sides off and then put the end piece in. All help get the side pieces on again.



Four children all want to play with the home center cash register. At first it appears it can only be used

by one person at a time, and the child lucky enough to have it clutches it to her closely. Then, one puts a dinosaur on a part of the machine and “measures” it.



This is so cool to all surrounding the machine that the cash register becomes a two-person activity, but all four still really want to participate. I try to ask them if some of them can be “buyers” and some can be “sellers”. They are so absorbed in this new idea of measuring the

dinosaurs that they can’t even hear my question. They just naturally start a system of playing that works for them. They do seem to agree that they will take turns switching holding the register and holding dinosaurs. I stop trying to figure out exact details that make sense to me as they are happy with whatever they’ve figured out. I walk away, not needed, to let them continue the game they’ve turned from a one person activity to a four person activity.

Outside two children want the same bike. After a moment, one says to the other, “I know! You can ride this one and I’ll ride that one and then we’ll switch!” The other responds, “Yeah!” They trade bikes and off they go.



Children are also growing immensely in bringing other children into their stories.



There are magical (but territorial) dragons that fly around with a medicine in case you get sick, dinosaurs that have adapted to survive gasoline polluted waters, a snake that

slithers around inspiring others to become animals, firefighters putting out fires in the loft, astronauts rocketing up into space, flying villains and superheroes. Children are busy piloting ships, climbing a giant squid or making pizzas, cakes, hot chocolate, and ice cream out of sensory materials, and building homes, shops or walls.

Some children are still growing in confidence to separate from parents. One dares to venture out of her comfort zone and visual sight of mom,



and begins to accept invitations to play from classmates. Another makes a plan on how to say goodbye, and recovers from sadness to a plan for her day. Older children notice and come over to comfort a younger plus-one child who is looking for mom.

Some older children have achieved confidence in separation from adult influence, and are exploring the strength and bonding they find with one another, while discovering their capabilities as a unit. They may work together to inspire an entire room of kids to yell as loud as possible or play chase, or also enthusiastically decorate a party room, build elaborate houses, or magical potions.



A young child busily explores all school has to offer, but also returns habitually to the things that bring confidence, joy and comfort: big stuffed dinosaurs, wind chimes, sitting and paging through books, finding anything that rolls.

And most of all, so many children are finding and using their words to say, “No, I don’t like that!”, “Can I use that?”, “Can you pass the crackers?”, “Do you want to...?”, “I want a turn”, “I want to play here too”, “We can take turns”, “I need space”, “I need to go to the bathroom!”, “Can you help me?”.

My favorite role at these moments of the year is when



I just get to say, “Wow! You figured that out!” or “You solved that problem!” or “You were sad and now you are playing with your friend” or “You tried again and that went so well!”

What growth in the kids are you noticing and supporting as you work at school? How about at home? Try to take moments to sit close, just watch, listen, maybe write down what you see or hear, and enjoy!

“The playing adult steps sideward into another reality; the playing child advances forward to new stages of mastery.” – Erik H. Erikson



What The Griot Says

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WHERE: Northwest African American Museum, 2300 S. Massachusetts St.

LINK: <http://www.naamnw.org/event/what-the-griot-said-stories-at-naam/>

FREE Wing Luke Museum Day

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

WHERE: Wing Luke Museum, 719 S. King St.

LINK: <http://www.wingluke.org/>

MLK Day of Service

WHEN: Monday, Jan. 19, 2015, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE: Riverview Playfield, 7226 12th Ave. S.W.

LINK: <http://www.naturec.org/mlk/>

Martin Luther King Jr. Tree Planting

WHEN: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2015, 1 – 4 p.m.

WHERE: Discovery Park, 3801 Discovery Park Blvd.

LINK: <http://www.seattle.gov/Parks/environment/files/Winter2015.pdf>

Children's Film Festival Seattle

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 22 – Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015

WHERE: Northwest Film Forum, 1515 12th Ave.

LINK: <http://childrensfilmfestivalseattle.nwfilmforum.org/>

Tugboat Storytime

WHEN: Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

WHERE: Historic Ships Wharf, 866 Terry Ave. N.

LINK: <http://www.atlakeunionpark.org/>

LEGO MANIA!

WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Where: Douglass-Truth Branch, The Gayton Family Meeting Room

LINK: http://www.spl.org/calendar-of-events?trumbaEmbed=calendar%3Dcalendar_of_events_classes%26search%3DLEGO%20Mania#/?i=1

Small Frye: Storytelling in the Galleries

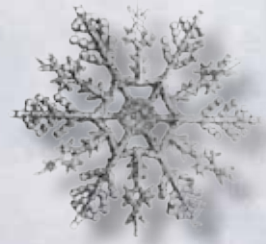
WHEN: Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

WHERE: Frye Art Museum, 704 Terry Ave.

LINK: <http://fryemuseum.org/calendar/event/5105/>

Community Events

NEW ART FOR A NEW YEAR



Ring in the new year with some memories for the future.



Remember the dream. Talk about who Dr. King was as you create your own dream catchers.



Shiny silver snowflakes

Draw a star with three lines.
Glue on pieces of foil.

