

# Wright Field South

September 2010

## WORK IT OUT THROUGH PLAY

Children — particularly those between the ages of three and eight — frequently bring events they've heard or seen on the news into their art and play. Watching this play gives adults a window into children's thoughts and feelings and opens the door for specific discussions.

"Young children play about anything they hear in the news that interests, puzzles or worries them," says teacher Jane Katch, M.S.T., author of *Under Deadman's Skin: Discovering the Meaning of Children's Violent Play*. "If they hear about a bombing, they may make imaginary bombs and drop them on bad guys. If they hear about a school shooting, they may take turns pretending to be shooters and victims. If they hear about adoption, they may want to see what it feels like to be adopted. If they hear about endangered animals, they play games about hunters and their prey. Children play about issues that concern them in order to feel safe and in control. It's similar to the way adults use conversations with colleagues

and friends to help them understand events and put them in perspective."

While many parents and teachers find it fascinating when children act out their reactions to events, they worry when the play becomes filled with violent images and actions. After 9/11 parents wondered if they should let their children play-act the Twin Towers falling down. After Hurricane Katrina, some parents worried when their children pretended to be hurricane victims in puddles at the playground. And there are ongoing concerns when children play with pretend guns, knives, and swords. A big fear is that if children's play is violent then kids will learn lessons about becoming violent. Many parents wonder if they should stop kids from play-acting in this way. "There is no simple answer," says Diane Levin, Ph.D., co-author of *The War Play Dilemma*. "Like it or not, children are exposed to violent images on the news and they bring these images into their play. And in these violent times, this means the play often turns into war play. Parents' and teachers' attempts to limit this play are

frequently met with difficulty. Teachers who ban it talk about an underworld that develops anyway, just out of the teacher's reach. Therefore it's very important when this happens to watch the play, discuss its content, and make sure everyone is safe."

"Many parents worry when their children play with pretend weapons. But this kind of play is one way children meet their needs to feel strong and powerful. Not all weapons play is the same, and it is important to look at the nature of the play to figure out whether it is harmful to children.

"For this play to have a positive effect, it needs to be controlled by the child, show creativity and imagination, and change over time. It then becomes important for adults to find ways to discuss the issues that come up in the play to help their children deal with the issues they are working on."

Diane Levin, Ph.D.

## Young Infants

### B-4

This month we will be focusing on sensory skills for our infants. We will be doing activities to develop body awareness and socialization skills. Please check your infants cubby to ensure they have extra clothing in case of accidents.

Marjorie, Linda, Rosemary, and Kelly



### B-5

The young infants have enjoyed the warm sunny days. We played on our playground, exploring the textures of tree bark, grass and leaves. The babies also worked on new artwork made from rolling a ball over paint to make the tracks on paper.

Many of our classroom explorers are crawling and scooting. Please remember to keep those fingernails trimmed to avoid accidental scratching as the babies interact.

This time of year we also need to check those extra clothes in the cubbies and add a sweater. Hope your summer was fantastic!

Ms Brenda, Ms. Jamie, Ms. Natasha & Ms. Karen

## Older Infants

### B1

During September, B1 will be looking forward to enjoying more time outside as the weather becomes more comfortable. We will be learning about how the world around us works, as we discover cause and effect by dumping and filling cups with water. Also, we will be experiencing how coffee grounds feel and smell.

We are adding to our team as Ms. Juliene is welcomed to our room. She has several years of experience with young infants and more recently was the room lead in B6

Pre-Toddlers. Be sure to stop by and get to know Ms. Juliene.

Please remember to supply extra clothes for our adventures and a light jacket in case we take a walk on a cool morning. Thank you and until next month....

Juliene, Virginia, Steffanie, & April

### B3

This month we are going to focus on self-help skills. We will focus on infants holding their own bottles and or cups. We will be encouraging and assisting infants to hold a

activities to support these motor skills. Remember to check cubbies on a daily basis for extra clothes.



## Pre-Toddlers

### B2

After a sweltering hot summer, we are excited about the new coming season. September has a lot of new and exciting things in store for our room. We will hopefully continue our outdoor experiences both in the morning and afternoons, with cooler weather. We are enjoying the new playground schedules which are allowing us to get to know our kids even better. This month also has some exciting days in store. 13 September is also Grandparent's Day so we will be encouraging parents and grandparents to come in for snack time (more details to come). This month is shaping out to be a fun filled and busy month, hope you're ready!

Until next month.

B-2

### B6

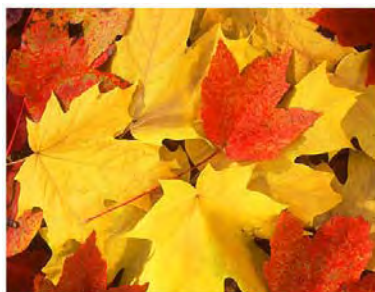
We would like to welcome Ms. Lindy to B-6 as our new room leader! She joins us from Eglin AFB where she worked with older infants and pre-toddlers. Stop by to

say hello.

In the month of September, we will be talking about the colors red, orange, and brown. We will be taking a nature walk and observe the leaves changing colors.

Until next month,

Lindy, Cierra, & Rachel



### B7

Hi B7 Parents! Cooler weather is on its way. Please make sure that your child has a weather appropriate change of clothes in their cubby. Also, water play will be over after Labor Day.

During the month of September we will be working on learning our shapes and colors. Please work with your child to recognize differ-

ent colors around the house. We look forward to seeing everyone in September!

B7- Michelle, Karen, Elizabeth, & Sierra

### B8

We would like to welcome all of our new classmates and their families to our classroom. A big goodbye to those children who may be moving on up to toddlers.

This month we will be working on learning the color black. We ask that on Fridays you dress your child in black.

We will be continuing to expand on our language skills by learning some new songs.

On 10 September we will be reading the children's favorite books. Please bring a favorite book to share with the class to be read by the teachers or if you're able to come, please feel free to stop by and join us.

Thank you for all of your support.

Ms. Michelle, Ms. Dawn & Ms. Hillary

# Toddlers

## B9

September is here! The weather will be changing so, check your child's cubby for appropriate clothing. We will learn about the change of the season and the colors of leaves changing. We will read and sing about the fall. In September there is Grandparent's Day. We will be inviting all our grandparents for snack. We will also be planning a community activity to support Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. We thank all the parents who came to our ice cream social.

Until next month!

Teresa, Debbie, Marcus  
& Candace

## B12

Summer is finally coming to a close and we are excited for some cooler weather! This month in B12 we will be learning about ourselves. We are going to start with talking about how we can eat healthy and take care of our bodies. Please plan to attend the toddler picnic on Friday, 17 September. You can share the experience of eating healthy foods and some exercise!

Ms. Kelly, Ms. Brittany, &  
Ms. Jennifer



## B-14

Greetings from the staff and toddlers of B14. We would like to welcome Sidney from B8 to our room. During the month of September we will be focusing on good manners since September is Good Manners Month and encouraging our parents to join us as we celebrate our September birthdays with a special treat.

With fall around the corner, we would like to remind parents to bring in appropriate clothing as we transition from the hot and humid weather to the cooler temperatures that fall brings. That's all the news for now!

Mr. Dave, Ms. Diana, Ms. Misti &  
Ms. PJ

# Preschool

## B10

August has been nothing short of awesome for our B10 family! You can tell from our photo albums that we've had a blast! Our study on outer space led to all kinds of discoveries and adventures. From our visit to the space exhibit at the Air Force Museum, to the creation of our very own solar system, we've enjoyed learning about planets, stars, rockets, astronauts, and more. We continue to learn new things as we find books, magazines, and articles on the internet. We've inspired a few budding astronauts for sure!

Speaking of inspired- we were truly inspired to sing, dance and learn about the natural world when we met Chris Rowlands at Riverscape for a Tuesday Tales presentation. Chris is an Audubon naturalist, artist in residence, singer/songwriter (and comedian) at Aullwood. He wowed us with his love

of nature and his talent, and he inspired us to be good stewards of the earth. You've GOT to see him if you get a chance!

In the coming weeks we'll begin a new adventure as we explore and discover "All About Amazing Me!" We plan to learn about ourselves (anatomy, health, & safety), our friends, our family, and our world. We'll be asking parents to get involved with projects like our All About Me Survey, Time Capsules, and hopefully a visit to the base hospital! Keep an eye on the bulletin board for updates.

Our Water Play Days have come to an end but there is plenty more fun to be had as the days grow a bit cooler- let's think positive! We will continue our alternate outdoor play schedule, making sure the children get plenty of fresh air and sunshine as the weather permits. They have adjusted beautifully to the new schedule and the smaller

group size has reduced the number of accidents and injuries. It has also allowed us to enjoy more one-on-one time with each child.

We would love to have you share your favorite book, have breakfast, lunch or snack, or just spend time with us in Centers one afternoon. Having family members in our classroom is always a treat. Please join us as your schedule permits.

Sincerely,

Vanessa, Mitzi, Amber & Kimberly



# Preschool Continued

## B11

This month we will be discussing community helpers and how they help our community. We will take a field trip to the firehouse and post office. Our discussions will be around how these jobs help people and keep us safe. We will learn about gender roles and the diversity found in our community.



## B13

Hello Parents,

We'd like to welcome our new children into our classroom and say a sad goodbye to the children starting a new journey in kindergarten.

We are completing our study on Bugs/Insects and will begin a new study on Transportation. We will visit the Air Force Museum to look at airplanes as one form of transportation.

A special thank you to everyone

who has been able to attend our field trips as chaperones.

As the weather changes, please send in a jacket for you child to wear during play outdoors. Thanks!

Until Next Month....

Ms. Betty, Ms. Lauren & Ms. Aimee



## September's Calendar of events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
**Gate 22B CONSTRUCTION/Closure 28 June-10 Sept**			1	2	3 NAF Payment Due Last Day for Water Play	4
5	6 Center Closed: Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Gate 22B open	14	15	16 Military Payment Due	17 NAF Payment Due	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 APF Payment Due	25
26	27	28	29	30	Please remember to check your child's cubby for appropriate warm clothes as the weather changes!	

**\*\*Gate 22B Construction/Closure 28 June-10 Sept\*\***