

Fun Right from the Start

Everyone had a great first week of school. We explored the rooms, came up with rules, and got to know everyone well. This week we began to study animals. Prior to our fieldtrips we will focus on animals found in our own backyards and in Texas, such as



Mockingbirds, lizards, frogs and ocelots. We'll play animal games, visit the animals in the Backyard section of the Children's Museum as well as view the birds living next to the bandshell that perform during the State Fair. We will then expand our study to animals that live in other parts of the world.



The first full week of the State Fair (Sept. 28-Oct.2) we will take fieldtrips into the fairgrounds to see the sights. In the past we have visited the Little Farm, the Food and the petting zoo. Any parents who are willing to help out with these mini-fieldtrips are welcome to join us. Just e-mail us at scienceschool@natureandscience.org and let us know when you will be tagging along.



Hands on the & Fiber Pavilion zoo. Any parents to help out with

Learning in Block Center

You have probably heard that young children learn through play – but how exactly? Periodically throughout the year the newsletter will have an article on how your child learns in each of the centers in the classroom. We will first look at learning in the block center.

As children manipulate, explore, and build with a variety of blocks they are also exploring shapes, comparing sizes, and building up a basic understanding of geometry.

They begin to expand their spatial skills, learning which blocks work best for the base of a creation and which are suited for bridges and arches.

Constructing towers and intricate buildings requires planning, problem solving, discussion, cooperation, and a good dose of imagination. Language skills are



enhanced as the children role play, describe or compare their constructions, and talk as they work cooperatively to create a large structure. Even cleaning up this center provides the children with the opportunity to classify blocks by type and shape.

Navigating the State Fair

The State Fair starts Friday, Sept. 25th. With the excitement, comes a few restrictions. You will have to have a drop off/pick up pass to enter the fairgrounds without paying. Also, Pick-up and Drop-off times are limited to 8:30 (for early care), 9:30, 1:00, 3:00 and 5:25 (for late care). **You will not be able to get in the gate at any other times so be prompt!**



The first full week of the State Fair (Sept. 28-Oct.2) we will visit different sights. We will leave each day around 10:30 and return in time for lunch. Parents are welcome to help us each day. Just e-mail us scienceschool@natureandscience.org and let us know which day(s) you will be tagging along.

QUICK NOTES

- ☺ The sun and mosquitoes have been harsh so you may want to put sunscreen and bug spray on your child in the morning.
- ☺ Off site fieldtrips will be Oct. 5-9. Forms will be sent home soon.
- ☺ When packing your child's lunch, please try to send containers that he can open and close himself. And put his name on every container.
- ☺ There is **no school Oct. 12-16**.
- ☺ Please do not get out of your car during carpool. A staff member will come get your child out during the morning and bring your child to the car in the afternoon. Also, pull out of the driveway to buckle seatbelts. This helps speed things up. You are welcome to park in the parking lot and walk your child up to the door.