

# The Berkley Buzz

June / July 2008

Volume 25

## Upcoming Events

### June 2008

6/13 PDD

6/18 FIP Meeting 4:30 Berkley Lounge;  
Election of new officers.

6/23 Enrollment Packets Due.

### July 2007

7/4-Closed 4th of July.

7/11- PDD

**Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>** Family Cook  
Out on the Berkley Playground (time  
4:40 - ?)

This is going to be a fun family event  
with great food! Mark your calendars  
more details to come!

Rich and Lynne Hardy are chairing the  
event along with:

Michael Liss

Tim Larson

Spencer and Monica Schafer

Jason Dedrickson

### August 2007

8/7-Last day for children in Royal and  
Zoo who are going to kindergarten.

## Something to Think About

*Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind.*  
*Samuel Ullman*

## **A Note from Polly:**

Thank you again to all of our families who helped with Yard Work Day! The playground garden has new plants popping up every day. The flowers out front are beautiful as well. The children just smile when they see them. I am sure many of you have noticed how much the children love to stop and investigate all the gardens. With summer here the children are spending lots of time outside so please remember the sun screen.

The staff playground committee Susan Myers, Danica Love, and Stephanie Smith ordered many new materials for the playground in May. One of the new items you may have noticed are the art easels hanging on the fence. This is our first purchase with some of the donations we have received for our Program Enrichment campaign. We also ordered new music instruments for the music program. Thank you for supporting Berkley's 15 year birthday celebration and Program Enrichment Campaign.

## **Upcoming Classroom Transitions**

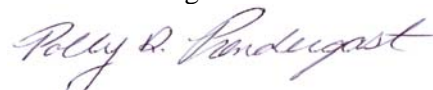
Many of our preschoolers are headed off to Kindergarten. While we are excited to see them blossom and take on new adventures it is hard to see them go. Many of the teachers are planning family picnics and goodbye parties for their classrooms. We will miss all of our graduates so much and hope you will visit often.

Summer is an especially exciting time for our Roo and Trolley friends. They are preparing for preschool in the fall! We know this is a challenging transition time for the children, teachers, and families. Change in schedules can be stressful as well as exciting. We ask for your continued patience this summer as children make the transition from one classroom to the next. Please communicate any concerns with your child's teacher and let us know if there is anything we can do to make these changes as smooth as possible. All of the classrooms will be contacting you regarding transition meetings in July. Also, feel free to talk with Polly or Becky.

## **Peter and the Wolf Theater Production**

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **September 6<sup>th</sup>**. FIP is supporting Berkley's 15 year birthday by hosting the production of Peter and The Wolf in White Hall. More details to come.

Have a great summer!



## Proposal for NAEYC Conference Accepted Again!

Polly submitted a proposal on behalf of Berkley for the National Association for the Education of Young Children's conference titled Documenting Children's Making Learning Visible. The proposal was accepted for the 2008 National conference to be held in Dallas, November 5-8.

Because NAEYC falls on the November PDD and it is in Dallas, close proximity and easy to fly to, the staff is planning to attend again this year. After next year the conference moves to Washington D.C and will stay on the East and West coast for a while.

Berkley will not close in October for PDD but instead will close Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> along with Friday November 7<sup>th</sup> for Professional Development Day.

### Summer Fun at Berkley



## Introducing Concepts to Your Children within Your Daily Routine

By: Jovanna Rohs, Ph. D. UMKC School of Education

With all of our busy schedules, it is beneficial to take the time to think about how we can introduce concepts such as colors, shapes, numbers, body parts, and language to our children within our daily routines. What follows are some examples of how to incorporate concepts that you would like to help your children learn within your daily routine.

**Getting Dressed:** Give your child the opportunity to make choices in the morning by providing two outfits from which they can choose to wear. As they become more familiar with choice making, increase the number of outfits from which they can choose. Younger children can be asked to point to what they want to put on first, and then you can expand their language by stating their choice (You want to put your shirt on first). While the children are getting dressed, take the opportunity to label their body parts (Where do you wear your shoes?). Also, use this opportunity to discuss the weather (We need to wear a coat today because it is cold outside. Or; It is raining outside, what should we take with us today?)

**Meals/Snacks:** These times allow for the integration of several concepts. Involving your child in the preparation of the meal/snack will allow for the development of scientific, as well as mathematical concepts. For example, as you are mixing the ingredients, discuss the changes that your child is observe (It was dry, now it is wet. Or, The more we mix the batter, the smoother it gets.) When you measure ingredients, talk about what you are measuring by reading the recipe together (We need a half a cup of milk). If you make sandwiches, or other items that can be cut up, you might ask your child if they want triangles, squares, or rectangles. You can also introduce mathematical skills as your child sets the table. For younger children, provide them with enough plates for everyone in the family, and ask your child to give everyone a plate. As your child gets older, give them more plates than what they need, and ask your child to give everyone a plate.

**Coming home from the Berkley Center:** When you leave the Berkley Center, take advantage of the opportunity to discuss what they are seeing outside. Experience the different textures and colors that the plants and trees around Berkley have to offer. Talk about what your child sees and feels. You can also introduce story telling by having your child tell you a story about their day at Berkley. This will help to introduce concepts of first, second, next, last, etc. Numbers can be introduced as you count the number of steps it takes for you to get to your car from the front door, or the classroom to the front door.

With older children you can discuss which took more steps.

**Reading books:** Reading books with your child provides the opportunity for you to integrate a variety of concepts. You can discuss the parts of a book (cover, front, back, pages), as well as who the author and illustrator are. While you are reading, talk about what you see in the pictures, as well as what they think might happen next. Pointing to the words in the book as you read will help the children to make a connection between the printed and spoken word. It is also fun to choose books with repetitive phrases, and pause to let your child complete that phrase. Your child can also read the book to you by using the pictures to tell the story.

Family Style Eating  
By Meghan Dyer and Karen Hutchinson

Mealtime is a learning time that offers opportunities for discovery, trial and error, and child initiated behavior. At Berkley we encourage “family style eating”. The family style eating allows teachers to visit with their classmates and teachers on an informal level, and it also helps the children develop social skills and a greater sense of independence. Here are some more facts about family style eating:

- When children serve their own plates, it helps them develop self help, motor, and decision making skills.
- It helps develop appropriate manners like using words such as please and thank you. It also promotes the proper use of dinnerware, including utensils, plates, cups, napkins, etc.
- When promoting new foods, the goal is to get the food on the taste buds a minimum of 18 times. It can take many “tastes” before a child really decides if they like or dislike a food item.
- Various cultures use an interesting tablecloth, music, etc from that culture to make mealtime a relaxing event.

Here are ways that you can promote the family style eating used at Berkley in your own home when introducing or serving new foods.

- Give children fun dinnerware that they can explore in their own ways.
- Allow children to take turns setting the table for different meals.
- Let children make choices when they help set the table (have them count the number of placemats, chairs, plates, etc).

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**2008-2009 Tuition Schedule**

**Infant Toddler Program 0% Increase**

Infant Toddler  
River, Fountain, Trolley, Roo

Weekly	Monthly	Annual
\$ 228.74	\$ 991.20	\$ 11,894.48

**Preschool Department 4 % Increase  
Starting July 1, 2008**

**Young Pre-Primary (Westport)**

Weekly	Monthly	Annual
\$ 169.62	\$ 735.02	\$ 8,820.24

**Pre-Primary (Plaza, Royal, Zoo)**

Weekly	Monthly	Annual
\$ 158.35	\$ 686.18	\$ 8,234.22

**RE-Enrollment Packets are Due June 23<sup>rd</sup>.**