

The Berkley Buzz

June 2004

Volume 1

Who's New At Berkley: Kim, Jen and Judy

Welcome Kim!! Starting May 10th, Kim has taken on the full-time Infant/Toddler position in the Roo Room with Megan (Holly can now be found in the Plaza Room with Kristin). Kim has a Bachelor's degree in Family and Child Development from CMSU. Prior to joining us, Kim worked for six years with school age children (at a before and after school program). Kim heard of and became interested in Berkley due to Amy Wolf, Berkley's previous director and a parent in the Fountain Room. Also, Kim will soon be Mrs. Brocato, she's getting married in September!!

Welcome Jen!! Jen is currently working in the Infant/Toddler department. For the past 3 years, Jen has worked off and on part time in all of the classrooms. She can't seem to get enough of Berkley! Jen is also currently working on her MSW in Social Work at Rockhurst.

Welcome Judy!! Judy is a part time substitute in both

the Infant/Toddler and Preschool departments. Judy has a degree in psychology, and she is currently a student at UMKC -- she has 21 hours in early childhood education! Wow!! Judy is working on her certification in teacher education.

Technology Has Arrived...

With a few taps of the computer keyboard a teacher at Berkley is able to notify families of important information. This information may include one of the following: a classroom discovery about animals today, details for an upcoming field trip, or simply a request of more diapers at school. Before March 12, 2004 this was not possible. Not possible because the sixteen member teaching staff at Berkley shared two computers and one printer that were not always available or working correctly.

Now all that has changed with the installation of seven computers for the teaching staff at Berkley! The technology campaign was a

huge success enabling Berkley to move fully into the 21st century. There is now one computer for every two teachers with the exception of the infant classrooms where one computer is shared by four teachers.

"We can send the families e-mails everyday with no waiting," explained Pat Webb, Westport room teacher. "Communication with families is a plus." There is no doubt that the new technology has increased communication and decreased the amount of time the staff spends writing something by hand. Plus the advantage with e-mail is the "instant feedback" from parents.

Lona Sparks, infant teacher, was happy to spend her break time relaxing or eating her lunch not writing the daily journal for the Fountain room. Lona was not the only staff member spending break time to accomplish classroom tasks especially, when it came to using the computer. When the computer was open for use you had to take your turn.

"The computers have made a huge difference with collecting data, photos and

tracking each child's progress," says Jessica Taylor, Zoo room teacher. Jessica explained that each child's information is stored electronically through the computer. When Jessica is ready to have parent conferences the process of collecting data is already done. All Jessica will have to do is locate the information and print it for the parents to see.

Another obvious advantage is the ability for all Berkley staff members to communicate with each other. "Often I do not get a chance to collaborate with teachers across the building since our schedules vary," says Megan McLane, Roo room teacher. Now teachers can collaborate, send articles and newsletters to each other at anytime.

Communication throughout the school, with families and into community has vastly improved with the new computer technology. Yet the group that truly benefit from the improved technology and communication are the children who attend Berkley...and we are for the children

SUMMER FUN FOR KIDS (AND PARENTS)

Ever wonder what to do on the weekends/days off with the kids that you will enjoy

and they will actively engage in???

We have collected a list of fun, easy, and inexpensive ways to have a fantastic summer together compliments of the websites listed at the end of this section.

1. Learn to play Frisbee
2. Blow dandelions and make wishes
3. Plant flowers
4. Have the kids help clean the patio furniture with spray bottles, old rags, sponges, and soap.
5. Have water play in your back yard. Add toy boats, funnels, fun cups, and other utensils for variety.
6. Get some magnifying glasses and look at the flowers, sticks, and other objects in your own backyard.
7. Ride bikes
8. Teach your kids to recycle - have them help at the recycling center
9. Have a picnic
10. Go to the library and read your books on a blanket outside
11. Attach paper to your fence and paint on it
12. Decorate the sidewalks with chalk art
13. Purchase bird baths, bird feeders, squirrel feeders, etc. and watch the wildlife in your yard
14. Volunteer: cook and serve at a shelter, donate old clothes to shelter, take toys to kids in hospitals, adopt an

acre of rainforest or an endangered animal.

Taking a road trip... here are some fun games for the car and a list of essential travel needs:

- * Play "I Spy"
- * Find letters on road signs and license plates
- Take with you the following items - Band-aids, wipes for sticky hands, anti-bacterial hand gel, tissue, sunscreen, emergency phone numbers, nightlight, writing/art supplies to journal activities, ziplock bags for collecting seashells or taking snacks, hats, umbrella, lightweight coat, and photo of each child should you become separated!

www.activitesforkids.com
www.connectforkids.org
www.cahe.nmsu.edu

HAPPY SUMMER FUN!!