

## November Party Days at Husky

Party Days are always special at Husky House. The lower enrollment allows children to interact with peers they may not typically, fostering connections across grades and age ranges. These more intimate days also allow our teachers to offer more complex activities like the craft detailed below:

### Hand-dipped Taper Candles

During our all-day program Party Day, children learned the art of making their own hand-dipped taper candles. Children began by wrapping a wick around a popsicle stick at one end and tying a small hardware nut to the other end to keep the wick straight. Once all of our wax had thoroughly melted, children began dipping the wick into a mason jar of wax and then into a jar of cold water. Together we experimented with color, smell, and chemistry by coloring the wax with crayons and candle dyes and testing out various scent pellets.

Throughout this process we practiced safety and being cautious, mindfulness, patience, listening, fine motor, measuring math, visual-spatial skills, counting, and exercised creativity. Children were eager to show off their unique tapers and exhibited a sense of pride and accomplishment from a project well done.



## We are excited to introduce three new teachers to our Husky House Program.



Nikki Castro started in November of 2020 and has been fully immersed in our kindergarten program. She comes to us with 8 years of child care experience. Nikki is currently a full time nursing student in an accelerated program. Outside of studying, Nikki enjoys spending time with family, cooking and shopping. Her passion in working with children is getting them outside, active and enjoying group games.

Natasha Morsey is beginning her second week of shadowing our teachers with the 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders. She comes to us with experience as a teaching associate, peer tutor and a choir director. In her free time Natasha enjoys hiking, yoga, music, friends and family. She appreciates the joy and enthusiasm the children bring to every day.



Ashley Brown began at Husky House with the beginning of this school year. She comes to us with preschool and child care experience from her work with a local Recreation Dept. Ashley is currently getting her degree in Sociology. In her free time she enjoys hiking with her dogs, and travel. Ashley is passionate about reading to and engaging in storytelling with the kindergarteners, building language and communication skills.

Welcome, Nikki, Natasha and Ashley!

Party Days  
through May 2022

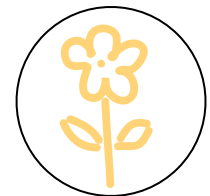
We are open 8:30-5:00



**FRIDAY,  
FEBRUARY 18**



**FRIDAY,  
MARCH 18**



**MONDAY-  
FRIDAY,  
APRIL 4-8**

Spring Break



**FRIDAY,  
MAY 27**

Please note: Party Days that do not reach minimum enrollment will be cancelled.

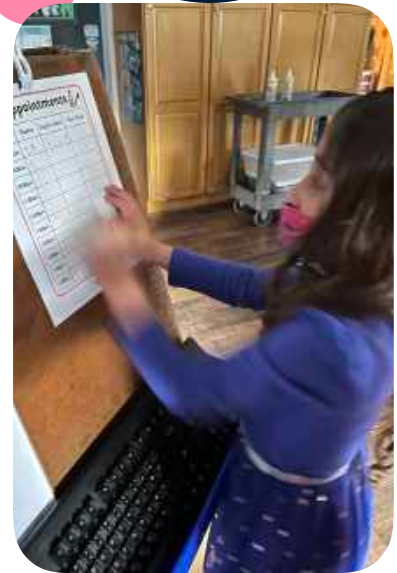
## Husky Pup "Spa Day"

The Husky Pups pretend played a day spa where children were able to practice guest services - signing in other children in for treatments, be nail technicians or hairstylists, give and receive massages, practice yoga, relax in the jacuzzi, and try different flavored waters.

We intentionally chose the SPA theme because of the way it would allow children to experiment with caring for others and paying attention to the needs and comfort of their own bodies.

Many of the children commented how much they liked the feeling of having their back rubbed, or the taste of flavored waters and chamomile tea; even the "chill out lounge" was a big hit!

We chose this theme at this time because the holidays can be joyful but also trying for children. Children are sensitive to the stress of the adults around them; their regular routines are often disrupted; and sleep and diet may be altered. Leading into the end of the year, we have been working on bodily awareness and self-regulation which were both reinforced by a Spa dramatic play.



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# “Spa Day” continued...

Massages



Dramatic Play or playing pretend is an effective tool for learning and growth in children’s development. Children taking on a roll, thinking and acting not as themselves but as someone else would act, is one of the earliest forms of displaying empathy.

Nail Care



Through dramatic play, social skills are also enhanced as children work together negotiating, cooperating, and problem solving. Pretend play allows children to explore and try on new possibilities and solutions, allowing children to practice abstract thinking.

flavored waters



Haircuts and styling



Language and literacy skills are also supported through this kind of play as children try out new vocabulary words, communicate their ideas, and practice writing.

Yoga & Stretching



Chilling in the Jacuzzi



Sometimes you can't resist taking a bite



# Pool Noodles aren't just for summer!



Active play promotes an active mind! On cold winter afternoons we like to give everyone an opportunity to get their blood pumping.

The pool noodle obstacle course invited Huskies to test their coordination, agility and other athletic skills while also practicing communication and working as a team.

Using "everyday equipment" in new creative ways also inspires curiosity and sparks new interests.





## WHY WE PLAY

**...in Many Ways!**

Just as children need to eat more than one type of vegetables to be healthy, **they need many types of play as well.** Different vegetables offer different nutritional profiles that contribute to good health, and different types of play make unique contributions to healthy development.

Sometimes play is **loud and big** -- chasing, giggling, cries of delight. Play can also be **quiet and still** -- whispers, snuggling into pillows, and looking at pictures in a book.

Sometimes play is **child-led.** Children show autonomy, decision-making, and inventiveness. Play can also be **guided by others** --responsive, scaffolded, and supported to help them practice new skills in a playful way.

Sometimes play is **creative** -- building block structures, painting masterpieces, sculpting playdough. Play can also **be appropriately destructive**--- toppling towers, tearing paper, smashing dough.

Sometimes play means **engaging with lots of other children** -- games of tag, playing house, building forts. Play **can also be solitary** – carefully examining a new discovery, moving tiny pieces, constructing an imaginary world for one.

You'll see play in many different areas and in many different forms in our classroom. **They look and sound different, but they are all valuable.** We believe in providing your child with a balanced play diet and offering all the benefits that offers.

**It's why we play.**

