

HUSKY JOURNAL

A PAWS-ITIVE PUBLICATION - OCTOBER 2021

Party Days at Husky House

Many days when school is closed for holidays or staff development days, Husky is open for what we call "Party Days". With plenty of planned activities, based on themes or children's special interests, these are fun days! There may be special visitors or extra enrichment opportunities planned to make the Party Day extra special. We operate Party Days from 8:30 am - 5:00.



It's been a challenging year. We're so grateful for you and excited to continue serving the children and families of Happy Valley. In fact, we're growing our diverse team and need your help!

We're hiring for both full-time and part-time, flexible jobs.

We are looking for energetic, responsible people who enjoy working with children and are passionate about making an impact in the community. If you know of recent graduates, college students, retirees or people who are simply interested in making a difference in kids' lives, please encourage them to contact us.

Upcoming Party Days

We are open 8:30-5:00.



**MONDAY,
NOVEMBER 1**



**THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 11**



**FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 12**



**MONDAY-
WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER
22 - 24**

Wednesday, November 24
has special hours of
operation of 8:30-3:30.



WWW.HUSKYHOUSEFORKIDS.ORG

YARN MONSTERS!!

A successful crafting project from September was making yarn monsters from some simple crafting materials. Many children throughout our program joined in this project. Children expanded the activity to create “families” of monsters. Children even came up with names and personalities for their creatures.



Play with miniature figurines and objects is called “small world play” and facilitates learning and development through acting out social scenarios. All small world play experiences are different and will become more complex as children grow and develop.



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@HUSKYHOUSECHILDCARE

At Husky House, we focus on social emotional development. Children's social and emotional development also influences all other areas of growth. We have noticed children having challenges managing anxieties , expressing emotions, and maintaining positive relationships. We ask questions like these not just for entertaining answers, but the questions below hit on two important aspects of social emotional learning: SELF-AWARENESS and SELF-MANAGEMENT.

**CHILDREN WERE ASKED:
IF YOU WOKE UP TOMORROW AS A AN ANIMAL,
WHAT ANIMAL WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO BE AND WHY?**

"Owl because they are my favorite and are very good at surviving"
- S.R..

"Monkey because I can hang on trees"
- L.K.

"Kangaroo because I like hopping"
- L.F.

"Tiger because I like furious animals.."
- A.C..

"Unicorn because they have magic"
- M.A.

"Cat. If I fall down, I never get hurt. I won't have any bad luck. I get loved a lot since cats are cute."
- A.L.

"A tall giraffe so I can be taller than my family"
- B.S.

"Tiger cause they roar so loud, and I want to scare my brother"
- K. N.

"Dog because I would get all the attention, people would take care of me and I wouldn't have to do it myself"
- A.S.

"Seahorse because they have a curly tail"
- H.S.

**WHEN YOU ARE USED OR IN A BAD MOOD,
WHAT HELPS YOU FEEL BETTER??**

"I drink water"
-T.C.

"Taking a nap"
-D.S.

"Cuddling with my mommy or daddy"
- M.A.

"Dad tickling me "
- K.N.

"Well, I usually like to just run around and kick a tree"
- E.G.

"When my dad watches a show with me and cuddles"
- L.F.

"When someone plays with me"
- R.R.

"Laying down a little bit longer"
- T.J.

"Putting my head under a pillow and screaming"
- L.K.

"When I stick some headphones on and listen to good music"
- A.L.

"Treats. Lots & lots of treats"
- S.R.

Husky Pup Block Play

One of the most rewarding aspects of working with children is witnessing their growth over time.

We have been documenting a series of block-building projects as they become more intricate and collaborative.



August 20



September 3



August 26



September 7



September 13



September 13



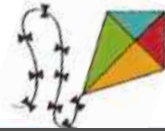
September 14



September 14



October 13



WHY WE PLAY

...with Blocks!

Wooden building blocks may be one of the most universally recognizable tools in our classroom. These classic early childhood toys have been around for over 100 years, but **don't underestimate their simple nature.**

When children play with **construction toys** (unit blocks, as well as other open-ended building toys like Legos, magnet tiles, bristle blocks, etc.) they get **hands-on experience** that simply can't be replaced by virtual imitations. Early **geometry and spatial reasoning** skills are built as they rotate and fit pieces together as are the **motor skills** used to manipulate and precisely place each one.

Concepts of **physics** come into play as structures grow and inevitably topple. *Where is the tipping point? What size and shape makes the most stable base?* As children problem-solve and explore different ways to accomplish their design, they are engaged in the **essence of engineering**. Even **planning and project management experience** is woven into the seemingly simple task of building.

When children build together, **social and language skills** get a workout as they negotiate and plan with others. In fact, research shows that building with peers isn't the only way to supercharge this play activity. In a study done by Dr. Dimitri Christakis, **children who engaged regularly with their parents in block play activities scored significantly higher on measures of language development than their peers who did not engage in such play.**

This finding is consistent with a study published in 2016, showing that children and parents had **richer language interactions** when given simple toys (building blocks as one example) than when children were given high-tech toys --- EVEN when those high-tech toys were designed and marketed for language development.

Shape recognition, language, motor skills, abstract thinking, engineering, social problem-solving, creative expression and more --- all can be practiced with a simple set of wooden blocks.

These classic toys may be simple, but they are packed full of potential. It's another powerful way we play!

