September

Husky Happenings

Husky House is a play-based center. Play is how children express themselves and make sense of the world. We prioritize play in our program because play is foundational to how children think, learn, and build relationships. We call our staff "teachers" because as Play Practitioners, our adults are encouraging growth and development in the language of children.

Artists play with color and space. Musicians play with sound and silence. Children play with everything they can get their hands on.

-Stephen Nachmanovitch, musician, author, educator

Conference Week has been changed by the school district from September to October 19-23. Any day your child is contracted, we will expect them at their school dismissal time at no addition charge to your tuition. More details will be included in the October newsletter.

Party Days are when school is closed but Husky House is open for a full day of fun (8:30am-5pm).. We are celebrating real (but off-beat) holidays on those days. Sign up for Party Days through the Eleyo system

upcoming Party Days:

- October 12 - National Farmers Day
- November 11 - Rainbow Revelry
- November 23, 24, 25 - Celebrate Your Unique Talent

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Structured Play vs. Free Play

Structured Play is just what it sounds like - play that follows rules or directions and typically has an end goal. Examples would be card & board games, sports, puzzles, or making models by following step-by-step instructions.

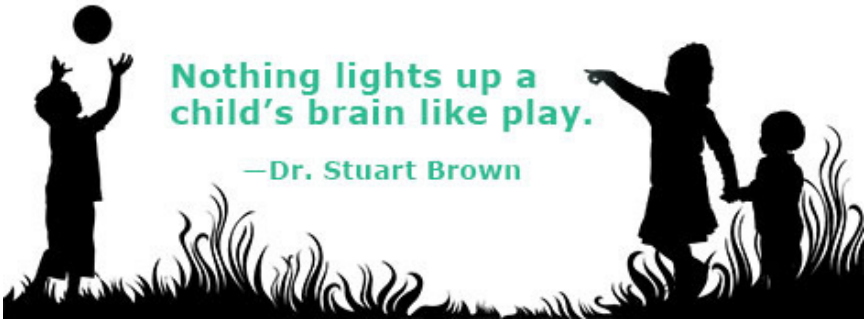
some benefits of Structured Play:

- focus & attention
- logic
- memory
- collaboration & team work
- communication
- impulse control
- delaying gratification

Free Play may sound like a whole lot of chaos, but Free Play is just as intentional as Structured Play. In Free Play, the adults may set out specific materials or "provocations." A provocation is an invitation to play that is carefully set up to encourage interaction with the environment, but also allow the child to take the lead in their own play.

some benefits of Free Play:

- imagination
- independence
- recognizing & resolving problems
- self-expression
- sharing
- self-efficacy
- agency
- stress management



We know that play is essential for children's development. Each day we offer many opportunities and varieties of play in our program to, as our mission statement says, support the individual growth of the whole child.

Examples of Pup Structured Play

playdough making

slime making

learning to throw and aim a frisbee

Examples of Pup Free Play

building with manipulatives

nature and mud play

access to paint

1st-5th Grade News

We are excited to announce that the Husky House Snack Shack will officially begin Friday, September 4th! All Huskies in 1st through 5th grade are welcome to participate.

The Snack Shack offers small, individually sized treats such as popcorn, Oreos, potato chips, Rice Krispie Treats, Hi-Chews, and more. Items will be priced between $0.25 and $0.50 each.

Students may spend up to $1.50 total, with a maximum of $1.00 allowed on sweets.
Throughout the week, our Huskies will also be working together to earn Snack Shack! Students will have opportunities to demonstrate teamwork, responsibility, positive behavior, and cooperation as they work toward earning this special Friday activity together.

Snack Shack is more than just a fun treat! It gives our Huskies an opportunity to practice important life skills, including:

- Money management and budgeting
- Math and counting skills
- Understanding the value of different amounts of money
- Making choices and decisions
- Practicing how to be a good customer

Our Top Dogs (4th and 5th grade students) will also help run the Snack Shack, giving them an opportunity to practice leadership and customer service skills.

If you prefer that your child not participate in Snack Shack, no problem at all! Please let the Husky House office staff know. As always, if your child has any food allergies, dietary restrictions, or other food-related concerns, please make sure Husky House staff are aware. We are excited to bring back this fun learning opportunity and are looking forward to an amazing school year with all of our Huskies!

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 program. **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.

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