



03. 17. 2023

B I - W E E K L Y

CONNECTION

Child Care E-Newsletter

A Message From The Director

2023 NAEYC Public Policy Forum

It was an honor to be invited to represent N.H. at the 2023 National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C.

This year's forum brought together over 400 early childhood education advocates from across the country.

N.H. was represented by a delegation of 5 people.



Although I was a first-timer to this forum, I was welcomed with open arms as we made the leap from educators and providers to advocates. Forums like this one provide rich learning and networking opportunities that advance our capacity to better serve families and children.

The first two days of the forum provided sessions on advocacy, early childhood educators' compensation, building and galvanizing one's networking, and engaging with policymakers. Additionally, attendees had the opportunity to advocate for child care issues directly to our congressional representatives.

I am happy to share more specifics of the forum, just give me a call or visit.

Leanna Larden
Director of Children's Programs

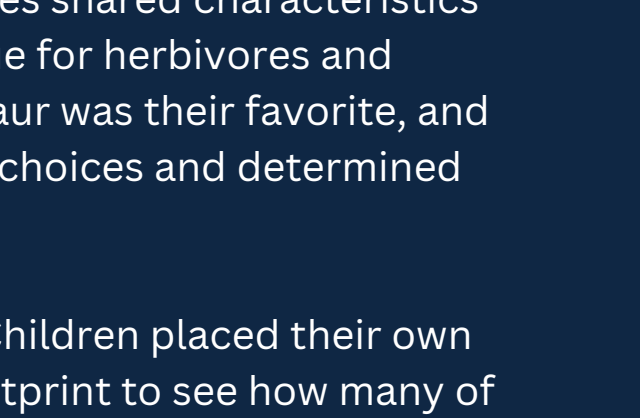
Classroom Corner

Dinosaurs Are Back in the Pre-K Classroom

The Pre-K classroom loved learning about dinosaurs so much that they included another fun dino-themed day in the curriculum. Children took turns visiting 4 new dinosaur activities that explored characteristics of the extinct reptiles with a focus on strengthening different skills and meeting developmental milestones.



The Dino Graphing activity taught each child the difference between herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores. With an emphasis on social and cognitive development, every child was shown images of dinosaurs in all three categories and asked to compare.



The children quickly recognized that carnivores shared characteristics with other carnivores, and the same holds true for herbivores and omnivores. Teachers then asked which dinosaur was their favorite, and the children then tallied up their classmates' choices and determined which was the most popular.

The next activity was the Dino Feet activity. Children placed their own shoe imprints inside the outline of a T-rex footprint to see how many of their own shoe imprints would fit. This activity put into perspective how gargantuan dinosaurs were and strengthened the understanding of spatial recognition between different objects.

The Painting & Washing Dinos activity worked together in concert as each child painted their dino action figures and then washed them off in the sink. Painting dinosaurs is a great way for children to express their creativity and be proud of something they made. Washing off their toys is a way to instill the importance of taking care of one's belongings while also encouraging accountability for cleaning their own messes.

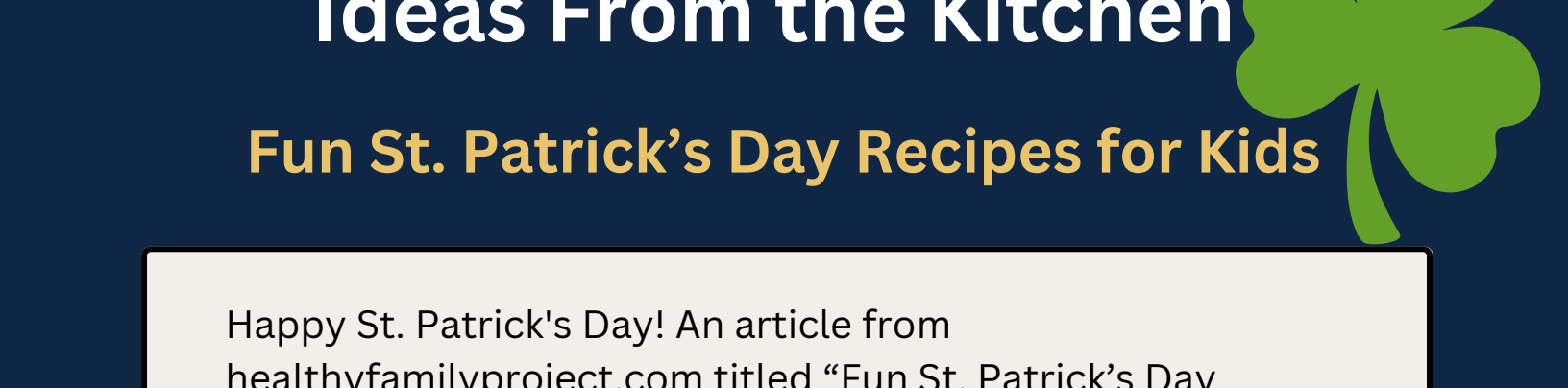
Extended Education Program

Messy Play

Has your child ever made such a big mess that you didn't even know where to start when cleaning it up? As adults, many of us see a mess as a stressor that is just another thing we need to clean up, but for children, messy play is part of their everyday life and a huge skill building opportunity. During school vacation last week, the Extended Education children explored colored shaving cream and definitely made a mess! They mixed, squeezed, spread, slapped, smeared, and more!

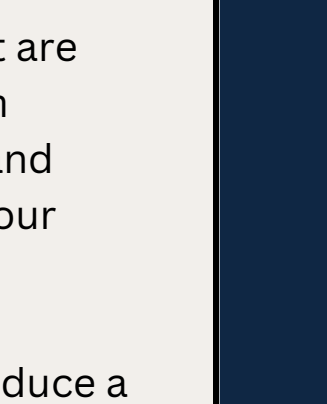
Messy play allows children the opportunity to explore their creativity, because there is no "right" way to make a mess. It also helps them discover their senses, take risks, and develop motor skills. The clean-up process is also a great opportunity for problem solving and coordination development.

Allison Saltmarsh
Director of the Extended Education Program



Ideas From the Kitchen

Fun St. Patrick's Day Recipes for Kids



Happy St. Patrick's Day! An article from healthyfamilyproject.com titled "Fun St. Patrick's Day Recipes for Kids" provides fun and festive recipes that are great not only for the kids but the whole family. From shamrock chips and green foods, to rainbow parfaits and traditional Irish dishes, these recipes are sure to get your whole family full of the spirit of St. Patrick's Day.

This holiday, encourage your family to eat green. Introduce a fun twist inspired by Dr. Seuss by making green eggs and ham! To quote Seuss himself, "You do not like them, so you say. Try them! Try them! And you may!"



[Read Here](#)

Michaela Dunn
Kitchen Manager

Classroom Pod Newsletters

Infant & Toddler

Preschool & Pre-K

Staff Highlights

Kaitlyn Carey

Kaitlyn is originally from Northfield, NH and moved to Henniker a few years ago. She has been working at White Birch while she furthers her education for Radiation Therapy.

In her free time she enjoys spending time with her friends and family. Kaitlyn spends most of her time at White Birch within the Infant and Toddler Pod but has spent time within every classroom and program at WBC.

Her flexibility and eagerness to learn are just a few of the things that make her such a wonderful part of our team. Kaitlyn brings smiles and laughter into every classroom she enters. She's not afraid to be silly and play with the children and is all about making children feel loved, safe, and happy!

