



Imua Inclusion Preschool Newsletter

February 16~20

Risky Business



DATES TO REMEMBER

February 25

**Uncle Wayne sing along
10am**

February 27

**Open House for the
community....tell your
friends! Starts at 10am
with an Uncle Wayne sing
along**

March 2

Dr Seuss Day

March 16~24

SPRING BREAK

NO SCHOOL

March 18

**Family work day
8am-100pm**

March 21 &22

Family Conferences

March 25

**Good Friday
NO SCHOOL**

We value independence and creative thinking. In order for children to develop these traits they need the freedom to explore and experiment. Our three community rules are: We take care of ourselves, we take care of others, and we take care of the things around us. A common preschool rule is, "You may only slide down the slide." The concern is that the child going up will be hurt. We believe that as long as the children are taking care of each other, there really is no need for the "only down" rule. In fact, opportunities for negotiation and communication present themselves when two children want to use the slide in opposite ways. The same can be seen in the block area. Children may build tall towers but they must take into consideration the other people around them. Monty and Zylar figured out that in order to get their tower to reach the ceiling, one of them could climb on the shelf while the other handed blocks and kept the pathway in front of the tower clear. They worked as a team to accomplish their goal and keep everyone safe. They had a purpose in mind and were not arbitrarily climbing on furniture, so we allowed it to happen. You may notice children climbing on the equipment by the wall outside. As long as they are taking care of themselves and others, we allow them to try this. Again, they have a goal of collecting lady bugs from the tree beyond the wall. After observing them, we decided to install a few guidelines. They must keep three points touching at all times and cannot lean their bodies over on top of the wall. We do not place children on the wall, they must get there themselves and assess whether they feel stable and safe. By allowing the children to practice making continual judgements about safety, we are encouraging



the child to continually think about safety. We also encourage the child to trust themselves, and listen to their feelings. Some children were very comfortable leaping off the play structure onto a big pillow, others jumped from lower down and still others simply observed. Allowing children to take calculated risks instills a sense of self-confidence and self-awareness, so we let them climb!

Egg shakers dance around!



Uncle Wayne gifted us some of our very own egg shakers this week. The children were delighted when they discovered them. Uncle Nate played piano as we danced together with scarves and the shakers. WE ARE SO EXCITED THAT Uncle Nate can play the piano. Some children hear it and immediately think it is ballet music. Needless to say, we saw lots of pirouettes this week. At our large circle times, we used the egg shakers to sing with. The children practiced counting each shake in the coconut song and then we read “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” using the egg shakers to set the pace of the rollicking ABC book.

Uncle Wayne will be visiting again next week on Thursday as well as joining us for our Open House on Saturday. Open House is an opportunity for those in the community to learn more about our program and spend some time in the classroom, so let your friends know! It is on Saturday, February 27th starting at 10am.



Guinea-pig playgrounds

Emma brought her guinea-pigs, Curtie and Jelly-Bean for a visit this week. Jelly-Bean is Popcorn and Butter’s offspring. We built a large enclosure for them to play in. By building playgrounds for the

guinea-pig, the children have to solve problems such as ensuring that they cannot get out. They also use engineering skills to design ramps and tunnels for the guinea-pigs to explore. They experiment with food to see if it entices the animals up the ramps and practice their skills of observation.