



Preschool Newsletter

8/28/17~9/1/17



Everyone is different...

As we begin to think about how we take care of others, it is important to notice our similarities and our differences. We started with the most tangible, what we look like. This can give context to understanding that people have different needs, different strengths and different abilities. Beginning to recognize these differences helps to build empathy. We created a portrait center in the art area. The children were shown self-portraits by famous artists and encouraged to look in the mirror and make their own. At circle time, we compared the color of our skin and realized we were all slightly different shades of brown. We mixed colors to create various skin tones and the children painted paper plates to represent their faces. They looked in the mirror at their features adding button eyes and colored yarn. It is surprising how identifiable these faces are! We played a "Guess who" game and the children were able to name all of their friends!





Partner plates

The children were given partners that they look very different from. They then had to study their partner's face and create a paper plate face for their friend. This was interesting as the children used the same techniques that they had used for their own faces. For example, if yarn had been used for the mouth on their own face, they used yarn for their friend's mouth too. If they had made ears on their self-portrait, ears became a feature on their friend's portrait.



Madelyn and Jenna begin thinking about each other's skin tone.

Initially, children even tried to paint their plates the same color that they had used for their own face. This activity demonstrates how hard it can be for children to look outside of themselves...even with something as tangible as how we look. As adults, we often ask children to take on others perspectives, "How does he feel?" or "How would you like it if that happened to you?" and these are challenging concepts for children. With repeated experiences, modeling and practice, young children are capable of learning empathy, and understanding how we are all different is the first step.



Partner Games

The children were paired up with partners whom they typically do not play with during our circle time games. We played patty-cake with egg-shakers; did "row your boat" fast and slow with a partner; and played games passing scarves and heavy balls. We hope to build comradery between children and help them look outside their immediate relationships for friendships. Often, we notice that children who have been paired up for circle activities continue to spend time together throughout the day. This is particularly helpful for children who are still learning play skills and are not yet able to enter into the play of another.



Mirror, mirror

We also played a whole group copy-cat game. One child thinks of an action and the other children copy them. This activity can also assist in building play skills as the children observe each other and do the same thing...a great way to enter into the play of others! Next week, we will continue this game as a partner game.

SEP
2
Sat

Family hike
9am
Waihe'e Coastal Dunes

SEP
4
Mon

Labor Day
NO SCHOOL

SEP
6
Wed

Troy the X-ray boy at 9am

SEP
13
Wed

Walking Trip to the Park

SEP

Uncle Wayne sing along

14

Thu

230pm

SEP

19

Tue

Preschool Ohana Group Meeting 330pm

SEP

20

Wed

OPEN HOUSE
5pm~6pm

SEP

27

Wed

Walking Trip TBD

SEP

28

Thu

Uncle Wayne sing along
230pm