



Earthplace Nursery School

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Moving to Music

Young children are natural dancers. And while creative movement is both enjoyable and natural, it helps children to learn many concepts. It teaches them balance and coordination through challenging moves and postures. It teaches rhythm and beat as children choreograph their moves to music. It even promotes children's ability to predict what comes next by hearing repeated musical phrases. Creative movement is also an important tool for developing children's self-esteem and body awareness.

It's easy to engage children in dance and creative movement. At Earthplace, creative movement is part of the children's music experience. Children love dancing with their families at home, too.

You can add to the experience by using props. We might use silky scarves, streamers, or rhythm sticks.

When you try creative music with your child, play different kinds of music to expand the experience. It's a wonderful way to have fun together while getting some exercise, too!

A creative movement experience will be provided at Warming Up to

Winter on Saturday Jan. 21 by Drum-N-Dance that will enable children to get up and dance to the drum circle beat.



In the Classrooms

The Seniors are painting with tape. They are also making bear masks and pretending to hibernate.

The Afternoon Seniors thank their recent Mystery Reader, Sam Rossoni's dad Caio Rossoni.

The Juniors are creating bears and bear caves as part of their focus on hibernation. Our naturalist, Miss Becky, will present a program about animals in winter.

At Lunch Club, transportation week continues. The children are making trains and boats. Will the boats float? Ask your child what happened!

Andy of our Naturalist Staff is now our animal program coordinator.

This week's animal visitor was Rosie the tarantula.

Winter Fest: Warming Up to Winter

Please join us at Warming Up to Winter at Earthplace on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Family activities include:

- ◆ a hike family with our naturalist, Miss Becky, at noon. Find out how animals survive in the cold weather, and look for animal tracks.
- ◆ a bonfire with hot chocolate and s'mores at 1 p.m.
- ◆ Drum-N-Dance at 2:30 p.m. Drums and other percussion instruments will be provided.
- ◆ A nature walk at 3:30 p.m. to learn about how plants withstand winter.

Between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., the indoor activities will include making Inuit snow goggles, a crystal snowflake, and a snowflake catcher. The Firehouse Hot Dog Cart will be available here for lunch.

There will be a charge of \$20 per family.

Parent Chats

Mrs. Hood and Mrs. Myler will each be holding a group chat for the

parents in each of their classes to be held while your child is in class. Here is the schedule:

Seniors

Tues. Jan 24, 2–3 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 25, 9–10 a.m. and 2–3 p.m.

Juniors

Thurs. Jan. 26, 2–3 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 27, 9–10 a.m. and 2–3 p.m.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

In late January or February, Mrs. Myler and Mrs. Hood will hold individual parent-teacher conferences. You'll be hearing from your child's teacher with information about signing up for a conference.

Music on Sat. Jan. 28

Our next Saturday music experience, featuring Deirdre and Sean Murtha, will be on Saturday Jan. 28 at 2:30 p.m. The Murthas will present winter music and songs.

For Fours: All About It

Tuesday afternoon nature activities for four year olds are available once a month from 4–5 p.m. The next program on Feb. 28 is Clouds. Advance registration is required.

Science Fun: K–5

Our next Science Fun topic, available to children in grades K–5, is Friction. This program is available on Feb. 10, 11 or 12 from 4–5:15 p.m. Advance registration is required.

Nature Fun: K–5

On Jan. 18, children in grades K–5

may participate in a program on the topic of Mammals. This program is available from 4–5:15 p.m. Advance registration is required.

Spring Silent Auction and Wine Tasting

Planning has begun for our spring wine tasting and silent auction event, which will be held on Saturday March 10 from 7–10 p.m. All nursery school parents will receive invitations, and we hope every family will participate. We are gathering donations to three theme baskets: a Green Basket, a Wine Basket, and A Child's Garden Basket. This is our school's major fundraiser of the year. We'll be telling you more about it in future weeks.

Yoga at Earthplace

Yoga will continue weekly in the Eco Room on Fridays from 9–10 a.m. You are welcome to join the group at any time. Please bring your own mat and any other props you might want. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per class; all donations will support Earthplace. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

Summer Camp Registration

We're thinking ahead and planning for summer camp 2012. State regulations say that children who attend summer camp must have reached their third birthday. Parents of current students will receive summer camp registration information in the mail.

In the Community

*The Westport Weston Health Dis-

trict will have a limited number of free radon testing kits available in January from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call 203-227-9571 ext. 242.

*In honor of National Tea Month, the Norwalk Public Library is hosting a Teddy Bear Tea Party on Thurs. Jan 19 from 10:30–11:45 a.m. for children from 3–5 years of age. For more information call 203-899-2790 ext. 3.

*In honor of National Tea Month, the Norwalk Public Library is hosting an American Girl Tea Party on Thursday Jan. 19 from 3:30–5 p.m. This program is for elementary school children. For more information call 203-899-2790 ext. 3.

*In order to help combat childhood obesity and to promote healthy eating habits, our nutrition consultant, Peter McKnight, is running nutrition sessions for children from 5 to 15 years of age at the Norwalk Hospital Nutrition Center. For more information, call Norwalk Hospital Nutrition Services at 203-855-3548.

* On Jan. 18 at 4 p.m., The Children's School in Stamford will conduct a talk about the value of outdoor experiences for children.

Wish List

- * winter stickers
- *thermal waterproof mittens (for lending to students outdoors)
- *stacking washer/dryer for the Animal Hall
- *bookcases for the Nursery School office

Dates to Remember

Jan. 20: Yoga 9–10 a.m.

Jan. 21: Warming Up for Winter at Earthplace, 11 a.m., to 4 p.m.

Jan. 25: Summer Camp Registration begins, more information to follow

