



Director's Report

LEARNING THROUGH PLAY

At school, the teacher is the key to learning through play because the teacher facilitates that play. She is specially trained to maximize learning experiences. Our teachers:

- Provision the environment by deciding what toys, materials, and equipment to include.
- Observe as children use the toys, materials, and equipment.
- Involve themselves in the play activity.
- Listen, repeat, and ask questions at the right times.
- Extend children's observations by providing the language necessary to help children articulate what they see happening.
- Help children recognize the concepts that emerge as they grapple with the environment, make hypotheses, recognize similarities and differences, and solve problems.
- Provide social support while allowing children the opportunity to learn about and understand the world around them.

The skilled teacher uses play as the most effective vehicle for learning. It is her ability to help children connect what they see, hear, and do with new language that contributes to their learning.

- from "It's time to stop defending play" by Rosemary Burton in Exchange magazine, May/June 2011

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

During our workweek, teachers were busy with in-service staff development. Here's a sample of what we spent our time on:

- Workshop with Jacky Howell, our new curriculum consultant, "Starting Your Year off Right: Focus on Curriculum"
- IT training (storing photos in Picasa)
- Reggio Emilia – "Promoting Collaborative Learning in the Early Childhood Classroom"
- Discussion of summer reading – chapter from Nurture Shock "Can Self Control be taught?"
- Sabina - Report back on her sabbatical to preschool programs in Germany – Information, photos & experience in schools
- "Deepening anti-Bias Approaches for Children, Families and Ourselves" by Lindsay Allard



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STAFF NEWS

We have four "new" teachers in the Blue Room this year – folks who are completely new to our school or have moved from parttime positions into fulltime ones. Check out their bios in their newsletter below.

UPCOMING EVENT

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT Parents, please all plan to attend Back to School night on Tuesday the 20th 7:30-9:00.

After a brief introduction in the Bird Room here on the first floor, you will spend an hour in your child's classroom hearing about what teachers want you to know about the school year and asking questions of the teachers.

Plan your child care early (no room in the school for child care since all classrooms are being used for the event!).

Quaker House Newsletter

Dear Quaker House Families, **welcome to Quaker House!**

We are very excited to spend a second year with our returning Quaker House kids, and to get to know the new children and their families. We are looking forward to a wonderful year together! The classroom is carefully set up so your child will feel comfortable and welcome to make the necessary transition into their second year at Quaker House or into their new classroom. Even though most of the children already know each other, it will take time to get used to the new environment, routines, and practices.

To make the children feel successfully independent, we are “touring” the classroom, unwrapping each shelf like a special present. We are talking about the different activity areas and what children can do in each one of them. The different areas are purposely organized, and together we are exploring where to find and return materials, how to use and care for them, and how to make appropriate choices. We will practice to follow the daily routine and establish some signs (visual/auditory) to help us get each other’s attention and also to help us to communicate better with each other during the day.

To create a safe community we will ask the children to help develop and establish a few basic classroom rules, which we will post in the classroom and periodically review as well as update. In these first days we are especially focused on building the foundation for a classroom community in which people feel safe, help one another and see themselves as part of a group. This requires first of all learning about each individual child and their unique qualities and helping children to understand how to treat people and how they want to be treated by others. We are working in small groups, as well as pairing children up, so they have the opportunity to work with a new friend or someone they normally wouldn’t choose, and establish new friendships.

The teachers are carefully observing and facilitating the QH-kid’s play, building trusting relationships and getting a sense of each child and their interest, in order to plan the curriculum according to the interests of the children in the class.

An essential part in building our QH- community is you, the parents. We are looking forward to get to know you, and see you at the “**Back to school night**” on **Tuesday, September 20 at 7:30-9:00pm**, where you can learn more in detail about our classroom and curriculum, and meet other QH parents. We on the other hand are very interested to hear from you what you would like your child to experience/develop this year at QH, and how you could imagine to be involved and contribute to our classroom. We welcome your questions, concerns, and suggestions throughout the year, and are looking forward to a wonderful year.

Thank You! The Quaker House Teachers

Rainbow Room Newsletter

Welcome Rainbow Room Families to the new 2011-2012 school year! We understand that moving to the Rainbow Room is a big change from the children’s previous classes, but LaJuan, Jasmine, and I are here to make that

transition as smooth as possible. There will be a new schedule, rules, routines, teachers, and classmates.

The drop off routine is different this year. If you bring your child to school before 9am, their belongings come upstairs where you can sign your child in on the classroom door, and then your child stays in the Quaker House classroom until 9am from which we move upstairs. Lunchboxes can be placed in our own refrigerator in the classroom. We also have a rack specifically for hot lunches.

As parents, your participation in your child's school life is very important. Everyday a blog will be posted that describes the day's events, a particular activity, or an exciting revelation by the children. By reading the blog, you not only gain insight to your child's day, but it also assists as a conversation starter with your child on your way home, at the dinner table, or before bed. Also, on the door there is a sign up sheet to bring in fruits and vegetables to supplement our daily snacks.

LaJuan and I are looking forward to the children's exploration of the classroom areas and materials through which they will build their own meaning and understanding.

LaJuan and I are always open to communication, so please feel free to talk to us about anything regarding your child. The best time to contact us is at 2:30pm which is nap time unless there is an emergency. E-mail is also convenient. You will receive more information as well as have all of your questions answered at the Back to School Night on Tuesday September 20th.

Important reminders:

- Bring in rain jackets/boots that stay at school for rainy day play
- Two complete sets of seasonal extra clothes/ extra underwear and pull-ups are appreciated
- Make sure to clearly label all items!!!
- Sheets and blanket come in on Monday and go home for washing on Friday. If your child requires a pillow please make sure it is a small size and a soft naptime friend is welcome, but please limit it to one.
- Parents and children are required to wash hands upon entering School for Friends under accreditation requirements.

The Rainbow Room team is looking forward to a great school year.

Thank you, Makai, LaJuan, and Jasmine

Green Room Newsletter

Bridging Home and School

We all know that if a bridge is not structurally sound, it will eventually collapse. Likewise, if relationships are not built on a sturdy foundation, they too will fail. As teachers we must initiate and develop this relationship with an open, sharing approach; we can build trust. This will help us when sticky questions come up; we can talk about them without hesitation. We will keep you informed. We post pertinent information on the board outside of the classroom, blog, email as well as include it in the newsletter. We would like to

welcome everyone to the Green Room. Feel free to join us any time throughout the day. Come eat lunch with us. Drop by and tell us a story or show us something special. Or just take a break, have a sit, and enjoy the children. Clearly, ongoing interaction and support from both families and teachers make the connection between homes and school a two- way street. You can help by sharing information about your child with us. Especially during any period of change, please keep us informed. We will let you know anything out of the ordinary that we might notice in your child here at school. Only by sharing information can we build a bridge strong enough to support the children. This information comes from [Family-Friendly Communication for Early Childhood Programs](#) book.

Margaret

Alice

Jackie



Blue Room Newsletter

Welcome to the blue room! We are very excited for the upcoming school year. It is very important to us for your child to feel welcomed and comfortable in their new environment. If there is anything in particular that we can do to help you or your child with the transition into school, let us know. We want to start off the year by letting you know a little about your child's teachers.

Staci is the lead teacher and this is her first school year at School for Friends. She was born and raised in Oregon and moved to Washington D.C. 2 years ago upon graduating college. Staci went to college at The University of Oregon where she studied Sociology and Special Education. She worked as a Co-Teacher for 2 years at a child development center in D.C. before coming to School for Friends. Staci started working with children 10 years ago coaching volleyball for 8-9 year olds and working as teacher assistants throughout school. She also worked as a live-in nanny for a summer in college. Her niece and nephews are her favorite people in her family and she is the only person in her family with red hair.

Cyana is one of the assistant teachers and she previously worked at School for Friends for two years as a classroom aide. She was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and attended George Washington University where she received a B.A. in Sociology. Prior to full-time employment at School for Friends, Cyana worked at several different centers in the Washington area. She enjoys walks in the parks and her favorite flowers are sunflowers.

Tanya is an assistant teacher and this is her first year at School for Friends. She was born and raised in Washington, D.C. and attends Montgomery Community College. Prior to employment at School for Friends, Tanya was Assistant Director/Toddler Teacher at Shiloh Child Development Center. Tanya started working with kids in 1993 at D.C. Public Schools at McGogney Elementary School where she served as a special education teaching

assistant until her school closed in 2006. She also worked with Special Needs children at St. Coletta of Greater Washington for two years. Tanya enjoys spending time with her two Yorkshire Terriers, Denim & DeZigner.

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