

PDN working through COVID-19

Pasadena Day Nursery for Child Development Est. 1910

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Social Emotional Connections

We will continue to build social emotional connections, through verbal and physical engagement. We may not be at your child's eye level at all times, but we will continue to engage and support each child through meeting their individual social emotional needs.

Staff

We closed our doors on March 23, 2020 due to the stay at home order but continued to work on further educating ourselves on ways to best support the children and families when they returned.

Staff worked from home for 30 days before the majority were furloughed. During those 30 days, staff attended daily webinars on staff development, offered by multiple child development agencies, they worked on lesson plans and attended staff Zoom meetings.



Activity description: This a child directed activity. Children will get to use mega blocks that have ice inside of them to paint onto butcher paper.

Mega Block Ice Painting

Materials Needed for activity:
Mega Blocks, Food Coloring
Water, Butcher Paper and Tape

Is the activity appropriate for the age group depicted in the image? Yes the activity is

appropriate for the age group depicted in the image because children have the motor skills and attention maintenance and curiosity to paint with the ice mega blocks.

Identify the age this activity can be used with at PDN:

At PDN this activity can be incorporated with both the Infant program as well as the Preschool program.

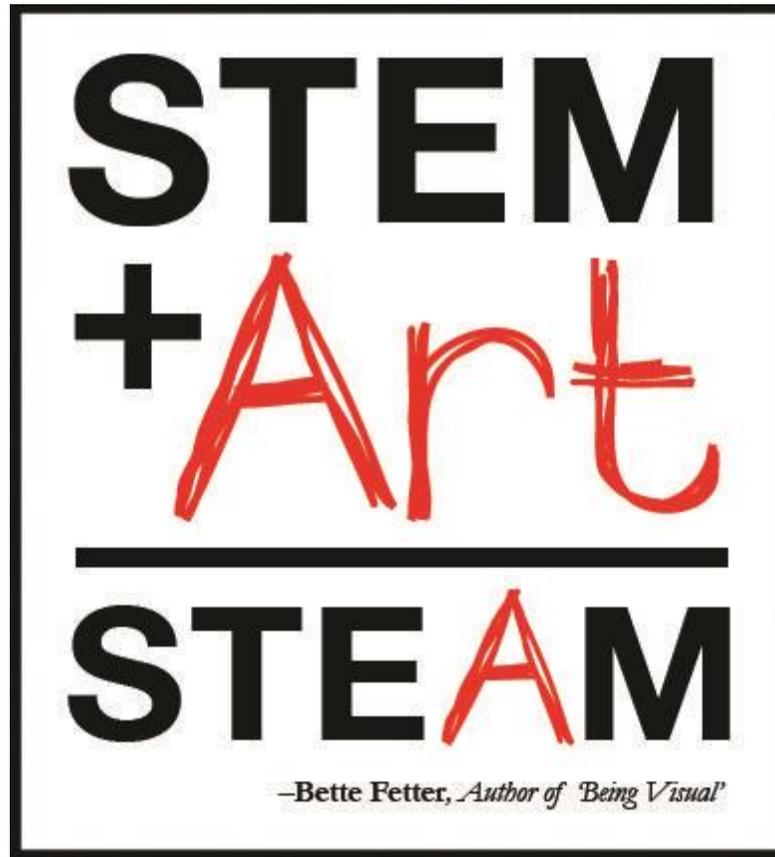
Is this activity appropriate for all children in the age group you identified? Why or why not? This activity is appropriate for both infants and preschool as the mega blocks are an easier grip to paint with.

How can you make this activity inclusive for all: n/a

Define the purpose of the activity: The purpose of the activity is Curiosity and Initiative in Learning as children will learn to use Mega Blocks in another way than just building with.

Identify the developmental domain of the activity: Approaches to Learning (Attention Maintenance & Curiosity and Initiative in Learning)

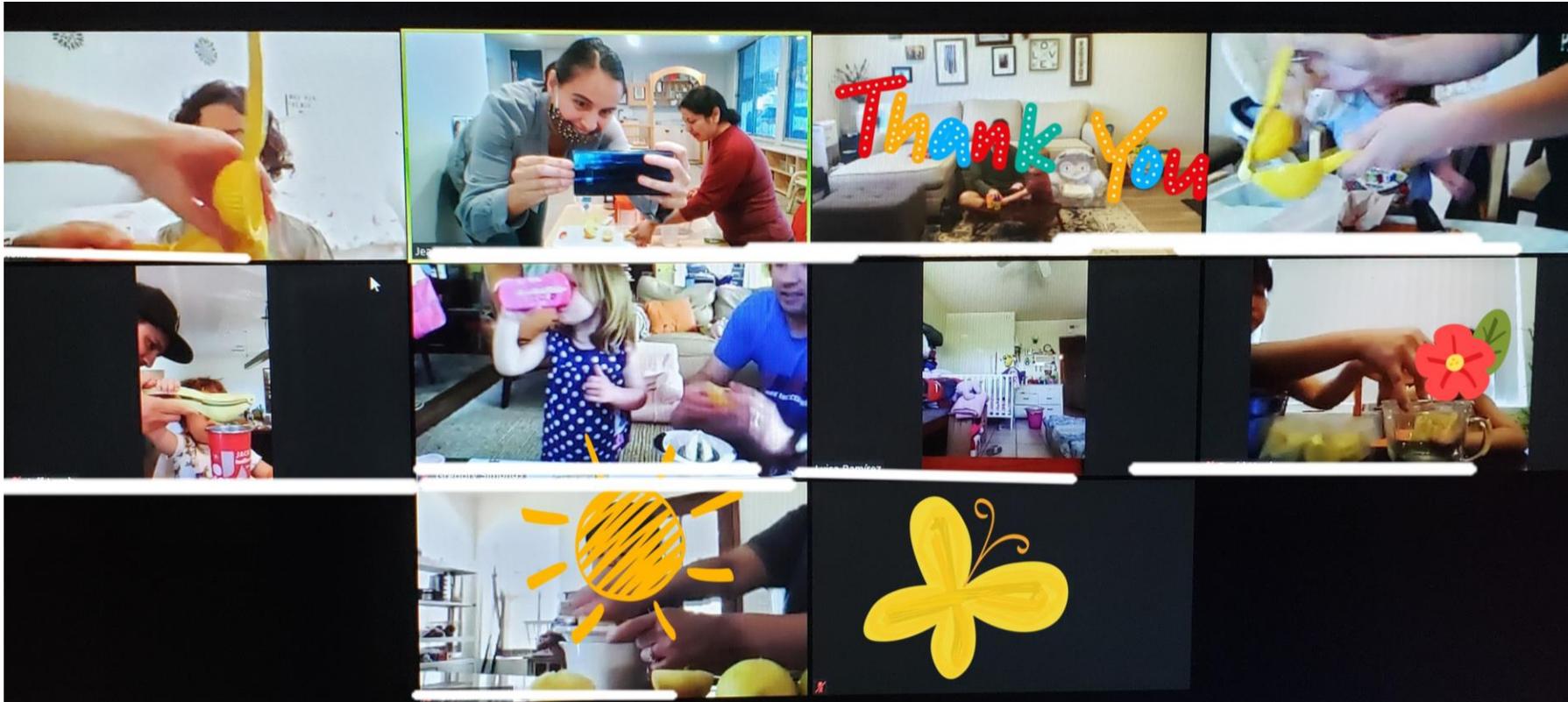
Define the developmental domain you noted above: Approaches to Learning and Self-Regulation. These areas have been combined into one domain because of the strong connections between them. The Approaches to Learning skills include attention maintenance, engagement and persistence, and curiosity and initiative. The Self-Regulation skills include self-comforting, self-control of feelings and behavior, imitation, and shared use of space and materials. (DRDP, 2015)



STEAM Activities

Many of the lesson plans incorporated STEAM-based activities. Which in addition to social emotional development, is at the fore front of many Early Education/Child Development Centers.

These activities were designed to meet the needs of every class, every developmental age, and every child.



Family Connections During COVID-19

Seeing as family connection and routine is important, we have sustained family connections by holding M-Th zoom class and parent meetings throughout the Stay at Home Order. We have enjoyed singing songs, reading books and engaging in activities that enhance the development of skills required for more advanced skills. We have loved seeing the children & parents smile as they work together.

Parents Working at Home Alongside Children

We understand we couldn't have done this alone. Parents on zoom have played a virtual role in the continued practice of routine and development of their children.

We purposefully incorporated hands-on activities that often required a partner, as this is essential to promote social and emotional skills needed by children.

Participating, modeling and working alongside your child has allowed for continued learning, building of relationships and memories.

Thank you



On May 19th, many staff returned back to PDN!

Our teachers were excited to come back to the center and work on cleaning, disinfecting and beautifying the school after being home for 4 weeks of the Stay at Home order.

- ▶ For 1 week after returning the teachers were provided trainings specific to

- CDC guidance for Schools

- Community Care Licensing Updated guidance's

- COVID-19 health & safety procedures

- Providing Responsive Infant/Toddler Care in the Time of COVID-19

- Working with parents to combat their children's stress and anxiety related to COVID-19

- How to provide emotional support for children with challenging behaviors

- Strategies for reading aloud to young children

- Communication and language in the early years

- Responding, reflection and managing of self stress

For 2 ½ weeks, the teachers and Executive Director (ED Jeannette) worked together to prepare the school for reopening

- ▶ We cleaned, reorganized, and reviewed new protocols

As we prepared for reopening we focused on mindfulness, What makes us feel calm and the importance of co-regulation



The teachers have been working alongside Jeannette discussing things that make them feel calm and relaxed. In hopes of reducing anxiety and fears, we have also talked about our anxieties and worries to better prepare us for our reopening with COVID 19.

Teachers have engaged in deep breath exercise, journal writing and physical exercise all to prepare us for positive energy around the children. When the adults around them feel anxious the children feel anxious. At PDN, children participate in weekly yoga with their teachers and with Miss Denise, this has been true for online zoom class. During this time, it's important for all of us to take in deep breathes and know or find what makes us feel calm to support co-regulation

Safer at PDN

We have worked extensively to create a safe space for the children to stay healthy and continue their learning.

Our classrooms are ready to be filled with children! We are eager to continue our mission & vision.

OUR MISSION IS TO NURTURE A COMMUNITY OF CURIOUS MINDS, THRIVING BODIES AND CONSIDERATE HEARTS.

OUR VISION:

Early childhood is a critical time of development and we believe a childhood filled with joy, play, discovery and curiosity can impact an entire lifetime. We strive to foster the growth of healthy, happy people because we recognize that our children can make the world a better place.

OUR VALUES:

WE NURTURE -

We invest time and passion into the development of each member of our community. We create a safe and secure place for children, parents and staff to thrive.

WE EXPLORE -

We believe that children learn best when actively exploring the environment around them. We facilitate learning through purposeful play and believe that fostering curiosity and discovery are critical in early childhood. The outdoor classroom is an extension of indoors and equal in importance.

WE GROW -

We support the social-emotional, physical and cognitive growth that will prepare children, parents and staff for future success. We nourish the bodies and minds of each member of our community.

WE CARE -

We care about each member of our community. Children and adults are respected as individuals, each with unique needs and abilities. We create a loving environment where each individual is inspired to be his or her best self.

Opening with COVID-19

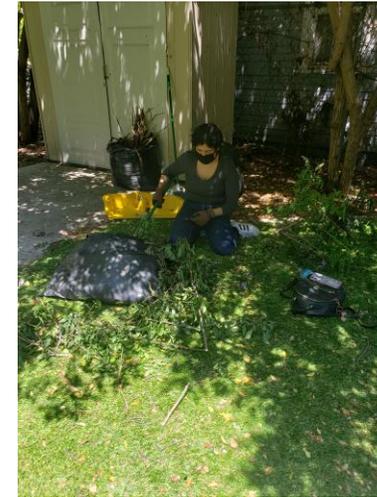
- ▶ Jeannette provided a presentation detailing all the new expectations and procedures for our reopening in accordance with guidelines and requirements set forth by licensing, local and state public health authorities, and the CDC on May 13, 2020.
- ▶ The mandatory zoom town hall hosted by Jeannette was held to provide information and answer any questions and concerns families may have. The webinar had over 32 of our families attend.
 - ▶ Policies remain as previously noted during May 13, 2020 town hall
 - ▶ School shoes only on site, temp of less than 99.5, no COVID-19 symptoms, drop off and pick up at infant gate as per group schedule
 - ▶ UPDATE: Parents are to provide ready to serve lunch including beverage with plastic utensils if required for the meal. PDN will continue to provide snacks. Menus will be updated and distributed. Please keep them as they will remain on rotation until further written notice.

What is different? What is the same?



First and for most our philosophy,
mission and vision remain the
same... It's my job to make our
extreme effort appear effortless

Our dedicated staff, their knowledge of child development and best practices helps guide us in making the environment conducive for feeling secure and continuing to focus on development, while implementing the many new guidance's set forth by our governing agencies.



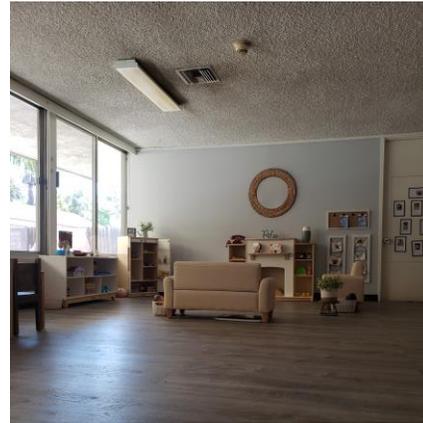
Deep Cleaning & Disinfecting

We cleaned & disinfected when we closed but have re-cleaned, washed and disinfected all materials that will be in use at PDN including our artificial grass.



Changes to PDN

We have been busy preparing the school for the children's return. We took advantage of this time to complete previously planned improvements. With help of PDN staff.



Changes to the Indoor & Outdoor Classroom

Spaces at PDN have been modified to follow the safe distancing guidelines. For example, each child is assigned a shelf and in addition every preschool child a sensory bin. Every child will also have their own materials both indoors and outdoors. The teachers have separated and stored additional individual materials for rotation during the day.

These changes have required us
to purchase additional materials
and easy to disinfect containers

(Floors had been purchased 6 months ago)



Child Friendly Physical Distancing

We have found creative ways to create distance for children of all ages at PDN.

The activities and materials are the same, but now the space communicates to the children and staff that they each have their individual space and material to work with.



Infant Classroom

Our infant space was a little more challenging. How do we help guide non mobile infants towards materials intended just for them? One of many implemented strategies was providing obvious cozy areas. Not all infants will require this; but for those who will, we are ready.



▶ Infants can continue to engage in indoor parallel play while practicing physical separation through a one sided plexi barrier.

Welcome Back!

On June 8th, PDN opened its doors to infant & preschool children of essential workers. The children and teachers have worked together to establish the new procedures and routines. Our first few days have been a success and we look forward to seeing more families.





► **Distance** = an amount of space between two things or people





The children who returned have confirmed, that our curriculum and learning will look much like it has in the past

With the purchase of individual items, much effort and intentionality on the staffs behalf



Music

Musical instruments have allowed the children to make a connection between sound and action. At PDN we do this through Music and Movement. Teachers model and provide opportunities for use of instruments such as shakers & rhythm sticks. Children will continue to explore movement during music and use of instruments with rhythm & rhyme indoors & outdoors.



The Sense of Touch

The children are learning to identify things in the environment that are soft, hard, bumpy, and smooth. We encourage children to use these vocabulary words to identify things in the environment based on texture. We will continue to construct knowledge about our world through the sense of touch.



The Balance Beams

The children practice balancing by walking along a plastic or foam balance beam. They use their gross motor skills to distribute their weight from one side to another, in order to stay on the balance beam. Although some children struggle to maintain their balance they try again. As they become more successful we add obstacles to further develop this and many other skills such as special relations. We will work hard to encourage use of beams by 1 child at a time with disinfecting in-between use.



Sort & Pattern

Children at PDN often engage in mathematical thinking by exploring math concepts in their day to day activities. Using man made & natural materials like puzzles, leaves, bark, twigs and rocks is another great way to incorporate math into indoor/outdoor play time. We use vocabulary to instill this concept since infancy.

Sorting Leaves

This activity was introduced by Mrs. Vanessa for the children to practice their sorting skills. Using this activity enhances their fine motor skills and color or pattern recognition. Children then looked at the natural world around them and discovered the many wonderful things nature provides to sort and classify. The natural environment will continue to be part of our curriculum.





Exploring Cause & Effect Through Color Mixing

There are many ways children can learn and discover through the concept of cause and effect. One of these ways is through color mixing. “What happens when you mix two colors together?” This is also great for tactile sensory integration. Children will continue to mix colors but with a little more space.



Exploring Weight Distribution Between Two Objects

Children at PDN explore the concept of weight distribution by placing objects that are unequal in weight on a balance scale

This is true for identification of weight distribution between two objects in their hands.
Example: water buckets, which is heavier? etc.



Fractions

Children show interest and enjoy cutting or pulling apart our fraction fruit. These experiences support understanding of part to whole ratios. Which is why we also use fraction terminology when conducting cooking activities. Measurement will *****



What is a Shadow?

A dark area or shape produced by a body coming between rays of light and a surface.

We introduce light and shadow during outside time. Children are naturally curious, they notice shadows on a surface, such as the pavement. Often the children use their bodies to make their shadows move. Teachers take such opportunities to expand on their natural curiosity.



Water Play

Water play presents multiple learning opportunities for young children. The children explore concepts of sink or float, volume, friction, temperature differentials, gardening and so much more. Although they often engage together at the water table, they will now have individual water bins and materials to continue exploring these amazing concepts.



Making Lemonade

Children get to use the lemons from our lemon tree to make lemonade and slushies. What a fun treat, filled with sensory, math, technology & science. Liquide to solid, sour and sweet, $1+2=3$, use of technology tools for pressing... We can go on and on ;)



Pouring

Although we will not have family style meals nor self serving of milk for snack or lunch, children will continue to work on pouring through use of individual pitchers and cups. Pouring assist in the development of visual motor skills (and **visual motor integration**) needed for coordinating the hands, legs, and the rest of the body's movements with what the eyes perceive. Visual motor skills are essential to coordinated and efficient use of the hands and eyes.



Chalk Art

Children at PDN use chalk to create works of art and games. Chalk allows them to be creative and imaginative.



As you can see from the many images taken prior to closure. We have and will continue to implement these and many other activities that support the development of life long adaptive skills. Just with a few extra precautions and support from additional staff.



Young Infants

Early childhood experiences and brain development

Children are born ready to learn. They depend on parents and caregivers as their first teachers to develop the skills needed to become independent and lead successful lives. The brain is affected by the child's experiences with other people and the world.

Nurturing care is critical for brain growth. Children grow and learn best in a safe environment where they are protected with plenty of opportunities to play and explore in an environment free of and extreme or chronic stress

Teachers will continue to respond to young infants in a

1. predictable way
2. With warmth and sensitivity
3. We will have routines and school rules
4. We will continue to talk with infants
5. Share stories and
6. Support their development, health and safety



Space

We have always worked with children on giving others space. For young infant we define that space with an individual blanket. We remind older infant that, that area belong to _____.

We work hard but know we will need to work harder. We also know our identifiable marker will need to be larger to ensure guidelines for physical distancing. All infants can still observe and engage just a little further.

Stress & Trauma

For many families COVID-19 has caused stress and possibly trauma. As educators we know that both can have long-term negative consequences for the child's brain. The staff has attended several trainings and have prior experience in implementing best practices, for trauma informed care in a child development setting. We are committed as early childhood educators to providing a safe, stable, nurturing, and stimulating environment when the children return to PDN.

When children are at risk, tracking children's development and making sure they reach developmental milestones can help ensure that any problems are detected early and children can receive the intervention they may need. We will continue to use screening tools and share concerns with parents who can request additional support. We can help guide if needed.

What will be obviously different to parents?

Daily temperature checks

PPE

Lunch from home

Closed parking lot to maintain the safety of families as they wait

Hours of operation

Infant bottles to be prepared and labeled at home

Physical separators

Drop off and pick up at gate
and Increase in tuition

What's not so obvious to parents?

All the guidance's: Such as daily disinfecting of all PDN only shoes by staff at the close of day

Reduced class size in every classroom

Reduced child to teacher ratios

Additional required staff in each room

Increase in operational cost

Extra precautions including but not limited to purchases by PDN of work only attire, mask, goggles, individual soaps & disinfectant sprays for staff etc.

The guidance's we have been given and list of extra precautions we have taken to do as best we can to maintain the health and safety of all is long.

But with your help and joint support we can all meet this moment together!