



Ashley's Angel Gram

August 2008

Playground

When you visit, you will see important learning taking place. In this issue of *Ashley's Angel Gram*, we feature the **Playground**.

At first observation the playground is buzzing with activity, most of which seems chaotic and random.

Children are running this way and that; voices are raised; speeding trikes seem to be accidents waiting to happen. Off to one side, two or three children huddle and whisper. One child wanders aimlessly. Ashley is move about talking, assisting, and interacting with the children. In addition to the development of physical skills on the playground, social skills are practiced as children make up games, change rules, negotiate roles, and play out experiences from their lives.

Large muscles are developed as they climb, run, pedal, slide, and swing. Safety is always a priority as children are encouraged to take risks within limits to climb to the top and slide down the pole with Ashley close by. Grand feelings of accomplishment and selfworth arise when a challenge is met.

Beyond the seeming chaos, a world of learning is in progress.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Announcements

Home Connection

You can support your child at home by creating a schedule that includes outdoor time each day.

Take daily walks.

Walk in different ways (fast, slow, etc.). Make sure you join in the fun by participating with your child. While on your walk' play of game of observation. Look for birds, street signs, color of cars, how any different color flowers can you find, etc.

What a fun way to spend time outdoors with your child.

Ashley's Angel Gram



FunnyFace Carrot Salad

Ingredients:

2 carrots
1 small can crushed pineapple
1/2 c. vanilla yogurt
raisins

Peel carrots. Have your child roll up a few long shavings, and save them for "hair" on a final salad. Grate carrots with a grater. Be careful of your fingers. Drain can of crushed pineapples in a strainer, using a spoon to push out the juice. Toss pineapple with carrots, then add vanilla yogurt. Spoon some salad onto a plate. Make a smiling face with raisins. Style carrot "hair," and serve with a smile.

Enjoy!

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie

By Laura J. Numeroff

This hilarious story describes a demanding and mischievous mouse who, like many four year- olds, isn't quite ready for bedtime. This little guy will ask for anything and everything to stall for time! Each item requested by the wide-awake mouse relates to the next item, so it's exciting for children to predict what the mouse may need in the following pages!

Look for this book, or a similar one, at your local public library.

Meaningful Math

Try some of these fun counting games with your child while you are doing things around the house or just to burn off some extra energy.

- Count the number of stairs you go up and down. Can you count backwards too?
- Count how many times you can jump rope.
- How many skips does it take to get across the room? How many to the mailbox?
- Bounce a ball once, then twice, then three times, then four times – how high can you go?
- Throw a beanbag to a friend – how many times can you throw it back and forth without dropping it?

In a darkened room, make a "spotlight" on the wall with a flashlight, and let your child cast a shadow balancing on one foot, standing on tip-toe, holding out a leg or arm, flapping like a bird, or doing ballet. Count how long they can balance.

Help your child make "body shapes" by bending into the letter "C" or "O." What other shapes can your body become? Create some shapes standing and some shapes lying on the floor.