

What's been happening?

Shows



Our Spanish show was a huge success! The show began with several songs taught to the children by Ms. Dora and Ms. Diane.

Next, some of the children acted in a Spanish play that took place in an emergency room. Many of these children already had experience with Ms. Diane in drama, but a play spoken in only Spanish was a first for all of them. Congratulations, everyone!

The show concluded with the dances the children learned throughout Session Three. They were adorable! The Rainbow Fish made cute cockroaches (if only real cockroaches could be that cute), the Pound Puppies really shook their stuff and the Rock 'n Rollers showcased their growth as dancers since the time Ms. Randi first started teaching them dance in summer 2009. Ms. Randi is so proud of the children for all of their hard work and for putting on a fantastic show!

Dance

What an incredible way to kick off the second half of the summer! The children, taught by Ms. Randi and volunteer/alumna Elizabeth, learned new dances set to Spanish music. Each lesson began with a warm-up followed immediately by a drink of water. Next, the children would learn several new steps, putting the steps together with previously taught choreography, until the entire dance was complete.

After practicing their piece, the children got to play some dance games, such as Freeze Dance, Huggy Bear, Hit the Floor, Make a Dance, Limbo, Cha Cha Slide, Macarena, Hands Up and the Chicken Dance. The crowd favorites included Freeze Dance, Make a Dance and the Chicken Dance.

Each class concluded with a cool down, designed to help the children relax and calm down after an exciting 35 minutes of dancing and games. It encouraged the children to learn self-discipline. At first, many children found the cool down to be silly. Eventually, they looked forward to it because it provided them the opportunity to lie down and relax for a minute.

The dances were also taught using a piece of tape on the floor, allowing the children to find their place in space and to develop independence (the children came to learn that entering dance class meant removing their slippers and coming to the line of tape and waiting for warm-up, rather than being prompted by the teacher).

It is evident to the teachers that these two weeks of dance provided fun, as well as being educational and developmentally appropriate for the children. They enjoyed music, learned how to move their bodies and how to control themselves.

Announcements

**The Seed will be
CLOSED
August 30 through
September 6**



August Birthdays

**Sophia
Matthew G.
Rachel P.**

ART

By the end of July, the children were all prepared for their big art show that would take place at the end of camp, so this month was a chance to create their own work, explore different types of art, and prepare for the dance show as well as their trip “around the world in 10 days.” We also spent time creating birthday cards and thank you cards for our fabulous volunteers!

Following the daily calendar, the children made cute animal puppets out of paper bags, painted and decorated handprint butterflies, designed a class flag and colored it. On blueberry day, the children painted with different shades of blue, which were “blue” additions to the blue Jell-o and blueberry muffins they had for snack.

Tie-dye shirt day was a great event. The children brought a white T-shirt and dyed it with bright colors. Many were so thrilled at having made their own T-shirt that they wore it the next day to camp.

The children had a great time decorating their own cookies. Applying vanilla and chocolate frosting, as well as rainbow or chocolate sprinklers, they made each of their cookies a work of art. Of course, eating them for snack was the expected reward.

Session Four culminated, as anticipated, with the art museum. The children had a hard time waiting for the moment to show their families around and explain how they had created each original work of art. The room was filled with color for the finale of the summer camp. We hope you enjoyed it!

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THANK YOU

To Mark, Corey and David, our summer volunteers in the Sunshine Room. They played sports and other games with the children, making summer camp more fun, and were a big help to the teachers.

To Elizabeth, who came during the dance session to contribute with her knowledge of dance, to play with the children and to help out the teachers.

And to Sydney, who came during the dance session to demonstrate Irish dancing to the children, dressed in the traditional costume.

All of you made summer camp that much more special.

Sports, Games, and Other Activities



During the first half of August, the children continued developing their big muscles in different ways. They practiced coordination when learning to jump rope. On pajama day, the teacher let the children wear their slippers outside (how exciting!) to play with the parachute. Kicking a ball and running at the same time seem easy when one watches a soccer match, but it took the children practice to be able to do it. The right position for holding a bat is basic to being able to hit the baseball, and the children learned it very well. After a while, the teacher did not need to remind the children how to stand. To play basketball, children need to bounce the ball and run at the same time and, once they got the hang of it, they had a great game. On obstacle course day, the teacher prepared an obstacle course which the children ran several times, employing great skills of coordination. They had a lot of fun.

The second half of August was devoted to cooperative games. The children played games such as Elbow Tag, Zoo (which helped them to review/learn letter sounds), Ball Relay (standing in a line and passing the ball to each other between their feet and then over their head), Red Light Green Light, What Time is it Mr. Fox, Pizza Shop, Duck Duck Goose, Four Corners and Mother May I? Though some of these games require a small amount of competition, it has proven beneficial to the children to learn to take their turn, accept their losses (however small), and to develop listening skills.

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Spanish Show



“Sala de Emergencias”



Songs in Spanish



Latin Dancing

Around the World in Ten Days

During Summer Camp Session Four, the children were able to “travel” to countries around the world. First, of course, they needed to have a passport.

The first day was spent talking about what a passport is, why you need it and where you need it. Then, the children were able to create their very own passports! Each page in the passport had a country that the children were able to visit during the ten days. The countries visited were Sweden, Egypt, China, India, Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Niger, Australia and Germany. We made sure to choose countries from all the continents. For each country that they visited, they received a stamp in their passports. Each day that they visited a new country, they learned about where in the world it is, how many people live there, and what the flag looks like. They played a game or engaged in a craft from that country. They were also able to apply some of their knowledge from the scavenger hunts that took place in Session Two.

Using a globe, the teacher showed the children where they live; then she showed the children where the country that they would learn about is. In this way, the children also learned the names of the continents and oceans. This gave them a better idea of the world we live in, opened them up to different cultures and how people are different according to the places in which they live.