

LOOMIS COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

The First Week Back



A few highlights from the first week back:

- On our first day back, as outside time began, the kids all made their way to the sandbox. They were digging, burying dinosaurs, and stealing one another's shovels, until someone hit something. What could it be? A pipe? But where did it lead? What was inside it? How could they get to it? We, the teachers, allowed rationed amounts of water, to soften the hard sand. They never made it deep enough to find out what was inside. But they asked great questions. The first day and they were already asking great questions, imagining, problem solving, and working as a team.
- I loved watching one little boy, sad because his mom was gone, be comforted by another little boy as they created sticker stories at the books station. They had never met before but this little boy kept peeling off stickers and handing them to the sad child. As adults we would try to reassure him that his mom would be back. We would try to distract him. We would maybe even try to trick him, by saying, "She will be here really soon." But this child did none of these things. He just stood by the sad little boy and peeled sticker after sticker after sticker. Children are brilliant.
- At circle time Teacher Stacy had them singing a song that involved saying one another's names. They got to rhythmically clap out the names, they got to whisper the names, and they got to shout the names. We were inside. We were sitting close to one another and we were shouting. The kids looked around, checking out the adults. Was it ok that they were yelling? Inside? As one little girl realized that she really could yell inside, she smiled so big. How good it feels to be allowed to be a kid. How good it feels to be surrounded by adults who say yes more often than they say no.

I love Loomis Community Preschool.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **September 16th**: Field trip to Machado's
- **September 18th**: Pizza Factory for dinner!! Come support LCP!
- **September 19th**: Friday Flicks at Vernon Street Town Square in Roseville (They will be showing *Cars*). Free Admission.
- **September 26th**: Children's Health and Safety Faire at Loomis Community Park (Let's meet up and wear our LCP t-shirts)
- **September 27th**: Thunder in the Sky Airshow at the Auburn Airport.
- **October 1st and 2nd**: Trike a thon (Let's be superheroes for a day!)
- **October 4th**: Loomis Eggplant Festival
- **October 7th**: LCP General Meeting (Important information about the LCP Carnival and Holiday Store!)
- **October 18th**: LCP Maintenance Day
- **October 25th**: LCP Carnival (at the Loomis Train Depot from 1pm-3pm)

Just a Reminder

Be sure to register your **Raley's** and **Safeway** cards so that LCP can make some money while you go grocery shopping.

And...bring in your **Labels for Education!**

A Note from our Teachers: Sharing and Taking Turns

By Robannie Evans

As we observe children at play, we witness moments of generosity and kindness, and we witness moments of impulsivity and possessiveness. These are all natural expressions of children learning how to relate to one another and be part of a group. Sharing with others naturally becomes a focal point of adult attention as we help children navigate this social journey. A true understanding of sharing, however, requires children to be able to take on the perspective of others, a cognitive task that is difficult for young children, who are naturally egocentric. When they are asked to share something, rather than understanding that they are helping another person, it is more likely that young children will see it as having to give up something they want.

Do we want children to learn how to share? Definitely. Do we want to support prosocial behavior and empathy? Absolutely. We can encourage the social behavior we desire while respecting where children are developmentally by focusing on the idea of taking turns. Taking turns respects the fact that a child is using something and allows the child to finish a project or activity. It also respects the fact that another child would like a chance to use that object and allows that child to know that at some point he/she will, indeed, get a chance to use it.

The amount of time a turn lasts is usually dependent on the scenario. On the swings, a child can wait for a turn by standing at the green pole of the swing set and (with the help of a working parent or teacher) sing a song like "Twinkle Twinkle" or ABC's two times through. (The adult can help make sure both the swinger and the child waiting understand what the plan will be.) Here's how another scenario might look:

Jen is wearing a costume in the block room. Sarah enters the block room.

Sarah: I want to wear that costume!

Adult: Okay, Jen is using it right now. Let's go talk to her about it.

(to Jen) Sarah would like a turn to use that costume. When you are done, please let her know, okay? (to Sarah) Let's look and see if there is another costume you would like to wear while you are waiting.

Along with this, we can help children develop their emerging sense of empathy by drawing attention to the way a child's actions make another person feel. "Wow, it made John feel so happy when you offered him some of the blocks you were using." Or as the adult, you can model sharing behavior: "Hey, Laura just came in to the block room. Let's see if she would like to play dinosaurs with us. There are plenty here for all of us to play with."

Waiting for a turn, or having a turn end, can sometimes be frustrating for children; if you need support redirecting a child who is feeling frustrated, the teachers are happy to help. With our patience and consistency, children will become familiar with our turn-taking routine.



Caine's Arcade:

What Will You Create for our October Carnival?

Want to be inspired? Watch the [mini documentary](#) about a kid named Caine, who created an entire arcade out of cardboard boxes and tape.

For our 2nd Annual LCP Carnival, we will be creating our own cardboard carnival games. We are challenging individual families, older siblings, alumni, and each class to create their own cardboard game. Bring it to the carnival on October 25th.

This is a community event that was a huge hit last year! So start saving your cardboard and begin your creation!

