Carkeek West
AM Class Newsletter
October 9th to 13th

This week:

- Our pups were super flexible navigating new teaching teams and changing schedules. We stuck to books and obstacle course to start the day and transitioned to circle at 8:45 before breaking off into our small groups to do activities around caring for our classroom and the people and things inside it. At Circle we talked as a group about the small group topics in addition to singing songs and playing some whole group games. They contributed great points and ideas to our discussions and stayed focused!

- The pups did some real social thinking. They are learning about how friendships work and navigating having multiple friendships. ‘you’re not my friend’ became ‘we’re still friends, I just want to play with my other friend right now because I’ve been playing with you a lot and I haven’t played with them in a long time.’ With that came learning what to do when someone doesn’t want to play with you ‘ok, I’ll play with someone else, let me know when you want to play with me again.’ see below for the Tiny Trees approach to conflict resolution.

- *Emergent theme from spontaneous interests* Exploring lever systems: We used our beams to try and lift a heavy stump and see what’s under it, we got very close and I suspect we’ll be finding out what’s under there shortly.
  - See the lever in action:
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7X3bFvbe0iGd0lqbnNNR1V1R2c/view?usp=sharing

- We had fun exploring our senses on hearing, sight, and touch hikes. For our sight hike, we introduced the pups to some scientific instruments to handle with care: lighted magnifying glasses and tape measures. The pups got acquainted with the tools in small groups and during work time before taking them on a short but investigative hike to the climbing trees in the picnic area just outside of our classroom.
  - Instrument exploration in action:
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7X3bFvbe0iGNnpTZ0IRb1UyODA/view?usp=sharing,
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7X3bFvbe0iGQVU5b1V1V3FGVkk/view?usp=sharing,
    https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7X3bFvbe0iGQVU5b1V1V3FGVkk/view?usp=sharing
**Tiny Trees Conflict Resolution:**

Approach calmly, stopping any hurtful actions.

1. Acknowledge children’s feelings.
2. Gather information. Let them tell their sides even if you saw the whole thing.
3. Restate the problem.
4. Ask for solutions and choose one together.
5. Give follow-up support as needed.
In the conflict above where we had a pup telling another pup they were not their friend, it was important to put any shock or anger out of my voice and be patient and calm while gathering information (step 2). When helping the children to resolve a conflict it is important that they are allowed to do most of the talking and say what they need to say even if it is hard to hear. “She’s not my friend” and “we’re not friends” were repeated over and over again as I asked “why?” “ok, but why not?” “she wants to know why, she’s confused (step 1)” just as many times. It is important to give them the time and space to figure out why they are saying what they’re saying and feeling the way they do without putting too much of our own thoughts in the mix. Being patient yet persistent is also key as you wait for them to formulate their answer. Let them know that this “problem” needs to be “solved” so just saying that you’re not friends because you’re not friends is not enough. Asking the child to say why they are saying that while giving observed facts (you guys were just playing with each other) and asking what changed/what happened gives space for more information to come out. By allowing them both to have whatever feelings they were having and asking questions, we eventually got to the bottom of it. The issue was their understanding of friendships and their belief that if you are not playing with someone it means you aren’t friends. Making sure that your tone is neutral and curious as opposed to admonishing, punitive, or shocked will help them stay engaged.

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<tr>
<th>Classroom Temperatures and Weather</th>
<th>Classroom Volunteers and Visitors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Because much of our classroom is shaded for most of the morning, and we are by the water, we suggest taking 5 degrees off of the weather forecast when dressing your pups.</td>
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<td>Be sure to pack extra layers if they do not wear them to school. Hats and gloves are never a bad idea, and now that they have their suits, it would be a good idea to send them along if they are not wearing rain gear on arrival.</td>
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<td>Even though the weather report said rain in the afternoon, we got rain (and wind) on Friday morning and many of our pups were very chilly. Some didn’t have waterproof layers, and some had waterproof layers but inadequate base layers.</td>
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<td>Our volunteer coordinator Corbin Muck has been hard at work recruiting helping hands for our classroom. Expect to see some new faces at drop off and pick up. Many of the volunteers will be University of Washington Early Childhood students and will be returning weekly throughout their semester. This week we were joined by Marcella and Sonia.</td>
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<td>We also had a visit from our Seattle Preschool Program Pathways coach Michael Figueroa. Michael will be with us regularly to observe and support us as we move towards licensure.</td>
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<td>Anyone who would like to volunteer in the</td>
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Keep in mind that the rain suits are not a warm layer in and of themselves, they are a waterproof layer that ideally is waterproofing warmer layers underneath them.

Gear tip: Please put the Grunden pants overall straps over everything except the coat, as the LAST thing, so your pup can bathroom easily and independently.

classroom should fill out a background check (follow this link: https://tinytrees.org/takeaction/background-check/) and reach out to Corbin (corbin@tinytrees.org) so he can approve you and provide you with some resources.

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<th>Winter Wear</th>
<th>Discounts &amp; Deals</th>
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<td>Discounts on Outdoor Gear: Tiny Trees has partnered with the following retailers to offer discounts for our families.</td>
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**Polarn O. Pyret:** 20% Discount
Use this link: [Outdoor School Discount](#)

**Oakiwear:** 10% Discount
Code: oaskischool

**Puddlegear:** 10% Discount
Code: Forestschool10%

In addition to discounts through Tiny Trees, we highly recommend checking out Costco’s winter wear sale! Suggestions include: side-zip gloves (voted easiest to put on last year), base layers and handwarmers.

If you discover deals during your winter wear search or would like to co-purchase bulk items, please share via our facebook group or email list!

**Bringing home what you brought in**
Please label your child’s belongings to the best of your ability and check the wagon (down to the bottom) at pick up for shedded layers. We will be moving Lost and Found from the top of the Knaack box to the sign in table for your convenience. We are doing our best to have them do a thorough pack up job, but by checking the wagon and lost and found you will have a better chance of leaving with everything you came with. Rain suits will have a number assigned. A cheat sheet is coming but you can also note your number once your suit has been labeled (near the collar of the jackets and in back of the bibs by the overall straps).

**No School: Friday, October 27th**
due to the Tiny Trees Luncheon. All staff will be attending and providing child care at the event. Consider using your class Facebook group or email list to coordinate a swap or care coverage if needed.