

Monthly Summer Themes

July

Camping Fun

Camping is an art. How to prepare and enjoy food outdoors, sleep in a tent, and sing around a "campfire" will be part of this unit of study. Outdoor play will include tents, camping equipment, trips to the streams (for the older children), and study of National Parks and their special places of beauty. A center-wide Camping Jam-boree will be enjoyed by all, including plenty of hotdogs and water-melon!



Bubble Fun

Did you know that some scientists study bubbles (bubble-ology)? This study examines what makes bubbles hold together, how to make the biggest bubble, what mix-tures make the strongest and longest bubbles, and creative tools to use for making bubbles. This summer study will be filled with days on the Dandelion grounds practicing the art of making bubbles, measuring bubbles, timing the life of a bubble, and the distance a bubble may travel. Younger children will marvel in the experience of bubble-making while older children will gain knowledge about the science of bubbles.

Monthly Summer Themes

August

Under the Sea



What better time to focus on the beach than at the end of the summer? A study of sea life will reveal some marvels of nature (are blowfish real!?) Art creations will concentrate on underwater beauty. A special "day at the beach" will be created at Dandelion with simulated activities of surfing, sailing, snorkeling, and deep-sea fishing. Trips to the pool will help to make the beach come alive in Jefferson, Maryland.

Crazy Art

Let's end the summer with a week of wacky fun. Children will explore the world of color, shape, and size via many art mediums and experience self-expression at a new level. Have you ever painted with a spatula or a plunger? How about making a class mural using only your feet and finger-paint (or would it be foot paint)? Making sculptures out of "clean mud" is another novel experience children will enjoy. A final summer activity is to create an art museum of all the children's work. The museum will open to families at a special end-of-summer event at Dandelion.

Summer Programs at Dandelion



**Dandelion Summer
Splash 2006**

*Let's make a splash
at Dandelion this
summer!*

**With activities that
focus on enjoyment
and learning it is
sure to be a hit with
children and
families.**

**Dandelion Child Care
2538 Jefferson Pike
Jefferson, MD 21755
Phone: 301-834-9007
Fax: 301-834-6456
www.educatewithcare.com**

Daily Experiences for Children at Dandelion this summer include:

Monday-Reading Buddies

As a way to promote reading and relationships, older children will select a favorite children's book to read to a younger buddy each week. Buddies will be invited to take a "reading rug" onto the playground and snuggle in to read together. Time will also be provided for buddies to enjoy some one-on-one play together outdoors.



Tuesday-Fitness Class

Miss Nicole will continue to have age-appropriate fitness activities for children. Time outdoors will be an added dimension to this curriculum staple.

Wednesday-Wacky Wednesday

Be ready for Wednesdays each week. Wacky Days will include:

Hat Day, Inside/Out Day, Mismatch Day, Funny Hair Day and much, much more. A schedule will be provided to families and posted on the Parent Bulletin Board. Parents are invited to join in the fun – you might create a new fashion trend in the workplace!

Thursday-Music Class

Miss Janice will continue to share her musical talents with children toddler – preschool. Outdoor parades, special visitors from the school band, summer "concerts" presented by our own children will all be part of this summer fun.



Friday-Fruity Fridays

To add a little zest to our summer, we are inviting children to bring in a fruit on Fridays to be added to class fruit salads and enjoyed at snack. This a great way to encourage children to learn how to prepare nutritious snacks and expand their taste palettes with unique fruit salad combinations (grapefruit always adds an interesting flavor!).

Water Play

Each class will enjoy the warm weather with outside water play using water tables, squirt bottles, sprinklers, and more. Preschool through school-age will have scheduled times to explore our creek area. School-age will make periodic trips to nearby pools:



Mondays-Room 1

Tuesdays-Room 2

Wednesdays-Room 3

Thursdays-Room 4

Rooms 5 and 6 will have scheduled times throughout each week to visit nearby pools and enjoy the creeks.

Discovery Walks for All Ages

All ages will take advantage of our beautiful outside setting through weekly guided nature walks on our meandering pathways.



Special School-Age Activities

In addition to trips to local pools, a special summer outing to Adventure Park USA in Frederick is planned for school-age children.

Summer Events for Families

Each month, a special summer event is planned for families by our Dandelion Family Association. Be looking for a schedule and plan to join us.

Monthly Summer Themes

June

Backyard Gardens

Our littlest learners to our school-age scholars will create and maintain a summer garden complete with flowers, vegetables, and herbs. Children will learn about planting seeds, nurturing growth of new plants and harvesting. We will also have first-hand knowledge of the work it takes to grow a garden and how important it is to weed it, water it, and "talk to our plants." We hope all our hard work will yield some vegetables for a salad taken right from our gardens!



Creepy Crawlers

As a natural extension of gardening, children will explore insects found in our area and some other unusual insects located in places around the world. Classrooms will create composts for gardens and discover how much insects play a vital role in our natural environment. Art projects will include creating our own species of insects that will be placed in our "Center's Museum of Natural History" for families to view.