



KCSC Family News

Kennedy Child Study Center: Where Every Child Matters | Summer 2017



Common Core and Play

From Executive Director Jeanne Alter

The Prekindergarten Foundation for the Common Core is a set of learning expectations adopted by New York State to help each child take their first steps toward becoming a student. Our classrooms integrate the Common Core’s “Approaches to Learning” – or how children become involved in learning and acquire knowledge. Approaches to Learning focuses on foundational skills like Engagement, Persistence, Creativity, Curiosity and Initiative.



How do children “learn” these skills? Through play! Equipment like water tables, sprinklers and sand, and activities like outdoor playtime and playground time, capture children’s attention and allow **language and social skills to flourish**. What looks like play is really a series of foundational sensory experiences that teach children the skills they need to succeed.

Adults should also engage in play. This summer, find time to “**Just Be**” with your child. Enjoy a moment with your toes in the water, feel the breeze on a park bench, or take a walk without a specific destination. **The positive energy** when you are relaxed and enjoying yourself is contagious. Children love when we focus our attention on them. By engaging in a shared experience, you make learning possible.

KCSC will forever be part of the foundation of each child. We have all worked together to instill a love of learning that has the potential to spread far beyond the time measured in one school year. **Good Luck to our graduates....and Happy Summer to all!**

Summer Craft: Ice Cube Painting

This fun craft lets your child practice naming colors and mixing shades while staying cool on a hot summer day.

Materials

- Ice cube tray • Small bowls • Plastic spoons • Food coloring • Craft sticks or disposable ice cream spoons

Instructions

- To make the colored water, add at least 5 drops of food coloring to about ¼ cup of water. Mix well.
- Spoon in the colors into the sections of the ice cube tray. In addition to red, blue and yellow, mix new colors with your child, like orange (yellow + red), green (yellow + blue), and purple (blue + red).
- Put the tray inside the freezer for 30 – 45 minutes. When the colored water is half-frozen, stick a craft stick handle into the center of each ice cube.
- Put the ice tray back in the freezer until frozen solid.
- Take the ice cube tray from the freezer and allow it to stand at room temperature for a few minutes before removing.
- Give your child paper and let them paint away!



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Summer Activities in Manhattan and the Bronx

The Art Farm in the City (419 East 91st Street between First and York Avenues)

Whether you love animals or are just looking to avoid the summer heat, your child will love visiting the animals at The Art Farm, while also enjoying art projects and a large playroom. Open play is Monday-Thursday from 12:30-3:30pm and costs \$20 per child. Children can also help feed the animals on Saturday or Sunday mornings from 8-10AM (\$15 for kids, \$5 for adults). Ages 6 months and up.



Bronx Park

Home to the Bronx Zoo and New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park also boasts several playground with equipment for children of all ages and abilities – as well as bicycle paths, baseball diamonds, tennis and basketball courts and football and soccer fields. Several of the playground also have spray showers that can help you and your family cool down on those hot summer days.

Slide Hill on Governor's Island

Slide Hill opened on Governor's Island last year and features 4 metal slides, one of which, at 57 feet long, is the longest slide in New York City. The ferry to Governor's Island is free on weekends before 11:30AM and just \$2 roundtrip for adults on weekdays and weekend afternoons (children younger than 12 always ride free). Pack sunscreen, a blanket and a picnic lunch for a fun and inexpensive day in the sun!



Madison Square Park Concerts for Kids — Thursday, June 8 - Thursday, July 28

Beginning June 8, families can catch a different interactive performance every Thursday morning at 10am for eight weeks. After the kids tire themselves out dancing on the lawn, hit the park's popular playground. FREE

Summer Recipe: Frozen Yogurt Pops

This is an easy and healthy way to help your kids cool off on a hot summer day.

Ingredients

- Yogurt
- Fresh diced fruit like strawberries, mango or kiwi
- Popsicle sticks
- Small paper cups (you could also use an ice cube tray)

Instructions

1. Dice the fruit into small pieces and layer fruit in the bottom of each paper cup. Fill the rest of the cups with yogurt.
2. Put the cups into the freezer and wait 20 – 45 minutes. Insert one popsicle stick into each cup.
3. Return the cups to the freezer and leave until completely frozen.
4. Remove the paper cups and enjoy!



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