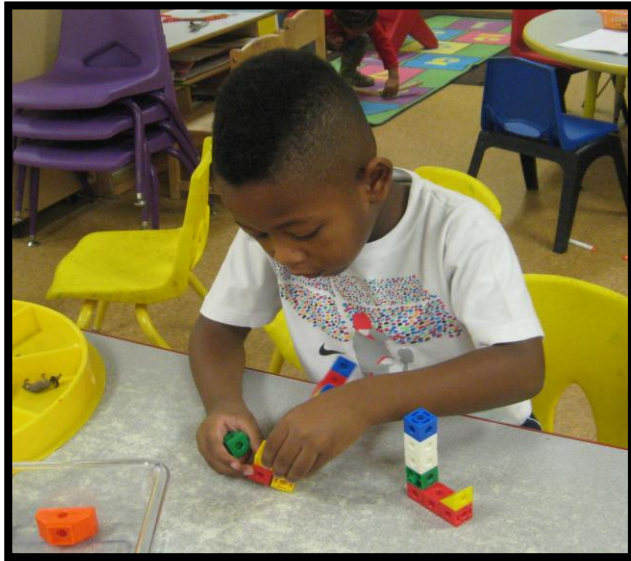


# Creative Curriculum - Hands on Learning & Exploration

## January 2011 Bel Pre Post



**Time to Play!**

**Cooking Teaches Mathematics**

Cooking provides children with opportunities to develop and use mathematical skills in meaningful ways. Through cooking children are able to see the connection between mathematics and everyday life experiences. Mathematics, especially number and measurement concepts, can be taught through cooking experiences. Children learn more when they do more. The experiences become real and vivid when the children have pictures and word recipes as well as the opportunity to do their own measuring, counting, pouring and mixing. Interaction is the key in reinforcing mathematical concepts. When cooking with children, talk with them about similarities and differences. For example, have them compare the size and taste of oranges, tangerines, and clementines. Call their attention to the shapes of fruits and vegetables and the patterns that occur naturally in foods. As cooking preparation moves along, children should be encouraged to predict how many apples it will take to make a cup of applesauce or half a cup of apple juice. Mathematical processing is further verified when the children test their predictions and have to explain why a recipe did not turn out as planned.

*Let's talk about it*

**Number and Operations**

"How many seeds did you find in the apple?"

"How many tablespoons of flour does the recipe call for? Count aloud as you add each one"

"Each person will need a cup of juice and a bowl for snack mix. How many cups will we need altogether?"

"How many strawberries do you think are in the basket?"

**Geometry and Spatial Sense**

"If we slice the carrot crosswise, what shape do you think the slices will be?"

"How will you cut your cheese so that it fits the cracker?"

"A slice of pizza has three sides and three points. What shape is the pizza slice?"

## Measurement

“We need a bowl that will hold the batter for everyone’s muffins. Can you find a bowl that will be big enough?”

“Fill each cup so that it is half full.”

“Which pitcher will hold more juice?”

### What Children Learn Through Cooking

- Counting – putting one piece of cheese on each of three crackers
- Understands spatial relationships – describe strawberries by saying the seeds are on the outside, not the inside
- Understands shapes – use shape cutters to cut sandwiches and identify shape

### Think About This

Preschool children are interested in measuring and begin to develop understandings about important measurement concepts during ages 3-5.

Preschool children can learn significant ideas about measuring. They can arrange objects side by side to compare lengths. They can hold one object in each hand to compare their weights if the weights are significantly different. They can lay one leaf on top of another to see which has the greater area if the smaller shape fits with the boundary of the larger leaf.

## A Good Read



Reading to children is their first step to the discovery of language, which then translates to the written word. The focus in this newsletter is the concept area of Mathematics and children can explore math through different picture book titles. Challenge your child to take you on a “picture walk” of a story; before reading the story to them, show them the pictures and have them tell you a story based on those pictures. The following are some titles that will provide you and your children some fun exploration; all the books can be found at the local library.

Counting on Calico by Phyllis Limbacher Tildes

Counting is fun for all ages when you count on a calico cat and her seven kittens. Why does a cat rub its face against you? How old can a cat live to be? From twitching tails to washcloth tongues, these cats are full of surprises

Sam Johnson and the Blue Ribbon Quilt by Lisa Campbell Ernst

While mending the awning over the pig pen, Sam discovers that he enjoys sewing the various patches together but meets with scorn and ridicule when he asks his wife if he could join her quilting club

Two Ways to Count to Ten by Ruby Dee

A retelling of a traditional Liberian tale in which King Leopard invites all the animals to a spear-throwing contest whose winner will marry his daughter and succeed him as king.

Morning, Noon and Night by Jean Craighead George

Celebrate the cycle of the day, as the earth turns to and then away from the sun, and meet a wide array of animals from America's east coast to the west as they work and rest, eat and play, just as humans do.

Telling Time with Big Mama Cat, by Dan Harper

A cat describes her activities at various times throughout the day from morning to night. Features a clock with movable hands.

Alexander, Who Used to be Rich Last Sunday by Judith Viorst

Last Sunday, Alexander's grandparents gave him a dollar -- and he was rich. There were so many things that he could do with all of that money! He could buy as much gum as he wanted, or even a walkie-talkie, if he saved enough. But somehow the money began to disappear...





Welcome to our new Sunshines &  
Froggie Friends!

## Sunshines

Ryon Myaing

Sunaina Karthik

Neel Smith

## Froggies

John Le

Nhat Le

