



# John Baker Tales

May 16, 2022

When it comes to this forum, my philosophy has been to use it to tell you, the kids, families, staff, and administrators, all the people who form our program, about the fun, interesting, engaging, sometimes momentous, other times trivial, moments that we experience each day. Since we are people, there are also, of course, conflicts and challenges. We use these to learn, grow, and strengthen our relationships. As such, relationships form the fundamental core of this program.

When Children's Choice hired me, five years ago, I was delving into unknown territory. At heart I am strongly introverted and have struggled to make connections with people for my entire life. This job not only requires me to form such connections but to continually work on improving them; a challenge for sure.

Looking back over these years, though, I find myself grateful for having the opportunity to know each of you; to have strong, enriching relationships with you. Thank you.

I felt I needed that preamble in order to express one final, personal message:

Ariana (9 years old), I am so grateful I knew you. I miss you.

*Jim*



## Helpful Information

**Site Phone:** 227-9164   **Office Phone:** 296-2880   **Site Email:** [johnbaker@childrens-choice.org](mailto:johnbaker@childrens-choice.org)

**Financial Assistance Available:** (505) 827-7499 or 1-800-832-1321 or by email at [Child.care@state.nm.us](mailto:Child.care@state.nm.us).



## CC Vignettes

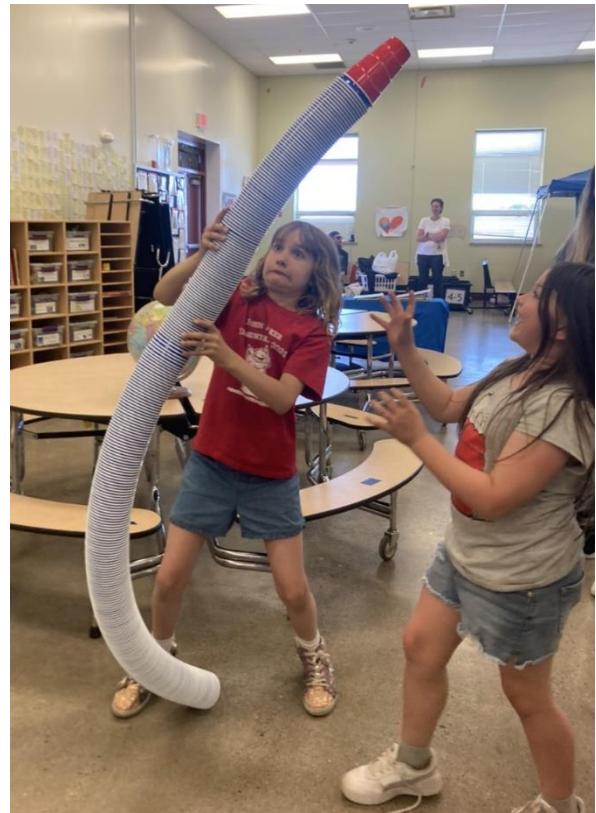
### I Scream For Ice Cream

Mini rubber band projects have been popular ever since our time at Inez for Spring Break, where they had a large kit of colorful rubber bands. Aria (6) mentioned that it would be nice if we got some at John Baker, and, thanks to a generous donation from the Sabo family, we did.

Aria has been working on making all sorts of new things. What has impressed me most about this is that these are not always easy to make, and Aria has had setbacks; usually a band breaks at some point in the process and the project is ruined. She has been upset but always comes back and tries again, eventually succeeding in her endeavor. She likes to show me what she has made (e.g. the ice cream cone in the picture) and is justifiably proud. Her persistence and positivity make her a role model in our community.



Malia's (staff) stained glass chalk art was wonderful because so many kids came out to the courtyard to participate. They took their time, planned their designs, worked together and made beautiful art.



## Silent Movie

When I saw this series of pictures of Lucy (8) and Natalie (7), it reminded me of a sequence I might see in a Buster Keaton or Charlie Chaplin movie. Their facial expressions so perfectly tell the story of a cup stacking adventure gone awry, but nonetheless ending in pure joy.



## Always Be Creating

Innovation is often evident during our program time. In this case, the kids used cones to try to catch different sized balls after bouncing them on the small incline next to the playground. They quickly figured out how hard to bounce or what angles worked best, having lots of fun in the process.



## Power Nappers

Carter (11) and Gavin (11) were just plain worn out. They stayed just like this for a solid hour, interrupted only by the occasional snore. Enjoy it while you can guys; naps are harder to come by in middle school.



## Activities

Hey kids! What activities have you enjoyed the most this year? Let us know. Volleyball with Mikaila, football with Carlos, or maybe basketball with Ralynn? How about creative art projects with Sterling or Malia, or maybe D&D with Laney? We will wrap up the last few weeks of the school year with a 'best of' collection of our activities.