

Creating a Community Where Every Voice is Heard

I noticed that several kids were playing too rough with the stuffed animals. We brought the concern to a circle to decide on a solution together.

What have you noticed in the environment today?

I noticed people are running.

I noticed people are jumping on the beanbags.

I see hitting and getting too close.

Many noticed that the stuffed animals were being thrown and pulled so we consented to adding “Be kind to our equipment and materials” to the constitution to clarify the “Respect the environment” rule.

We also did a brainstorming round on ideas for a consequence.

Sit down for 5 minutes.

Think about it and write.

The final proposal was “If we are being rough with the materials (equipment, aka stuff) we need to sit down for 5 minutes and write about the choices that we will make playing with the materials.” Everyone consented to try it out for one week.

Writing looked different for everyone. Some drew pictures when this was easier for them, some just drew a picture without context, some drew a picture of themselves with the materials, and others wrote a note saying that they were being rough.

We will meet again to decide whether the consequence helped solve the problem, and if it was a logical consequence, meaning that it is respectful, related to the action, and reasonable for the individual.

I thought it was good for the kids to decide what is a fair rule and consequence. I look forward to the kids sharing their experiences of whether their choices change after experiencing this consequence.





Bree

I noticed that Kaylee was digging in some dirt and getting rocks from the ground. She asked for a cup to fill with water. Little Jonah asked Kaylee, "What are you doing?"

Kaylee- I'm making a volcano so I can explode it!

I plan to provide art materials such as tape, construction paper, and empty plastic cups to form the volcano. Kaylee suggested that we make our volcanoes and do a science experiment to make them explode. We need baking soda, vinegar, and red food coloring to create a reaction to cause the volcano to erupt.

Kaylee also suggested using paint to make them our own colors using our science animals to be part of the background.

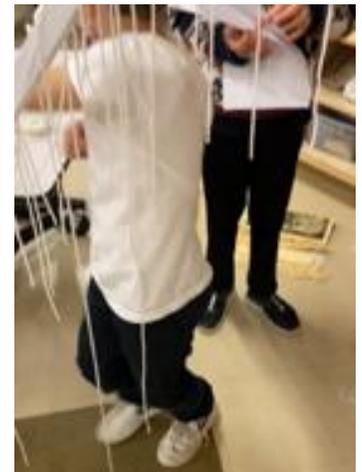


Christy

Logan was playing in the art area, building a slope with construction paper. He asked for some marbles. He and some other kids had put a stuffed eel at the top of the art cabinet. They used yarn to decorate it on the way down. Logan explained, "This is the eel drop! It goes down all the way so it stops and the marble will land in the bowl. Kaidyn added, "I'm making this into an eel slime spit! Logan continued, "We're going to see how this actually works when we make this drum.



What I would like to do is find different materials like pool noodles and duct tape, or pipe insulation to tape to the wall so the kids can create twists and turns to send the marbles.



Jonah

Josh wanted to come up with a new game. Josh was excited to show off his master piece so I want them to create something that can show off their talents and creativity. He stacked cones in the basket. He said they were challenging themselves to stack the cones inside the basket and then throw a football into the cones. I saw this as a creative, new way to use the equipment. I want to challenge the kids further by helping them create games using the equipment in a way that it is intended.

A few days later, Hector and Josh were playing and I heard them say to each other when they were shooting baskets, "I can throw farther!" This got me thinking of ways to facilitate their challenging one another.

I can't wait to see what kinds of new games and twist on old games they can create and teach each other.



Romeo

I asked Romeo what kinds of things he likes to do.

Romeo: I like to relax at home and play Fort Night and Rocket League. I like to have macaroni and cheese for dinner and hot chocolate. I like to go outside, but we don't really get to do that as much as I want. When we go outside here, it is good because we know it's safe. I know how to be safe when we go outside. We watch our surroundings or when I used to go for a run with my dad we watched for cougars.

So when you go outside at Children's Choice, what do you like to do?

I like to do the bug catching, but its hard right now, because it's cold and all of the bugs are gone until spring.

Romeo also showed interest in cards. He has a goal of learning how to play a wide variety of card games so he can have more things to do when he is at Children's Choice.





Helpful Information
 Site Phone: 730-2411 Office Phone: 296-2880
 Site Email: ea@childrens-choice.org

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





Announcements

Look for registration information for winter break in your email. We will be at Inez Elementary from December 22nd – 30th from 7am-6pm. We will then operate at Explore Academy from January 3rd- 7th from 7am-6pm. Please be sure to pack a lunch that does not need to be refrigerated or heated.



Remember, you will need to register separately for these days and you will be financially responsible for the days you register.

Here's What's Happening This Week!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Twisted Sports w/ Jonah 	Volcanoes w/ Bree 	Marble Runs w/ Christy 	Holiday Decorations 	Potions Club w/ Amelia 

Donations

We are looking for loose parts! What is that?

Loose parts are any collection of natural or manmade objects that can be used to extend and further ideas in children's play. They are open-ended materials that can be moved, combined, taken apart, redesigned, lined-up and more! There is no pre-determined use or function. Loose parts are open to a child's interpretation and creative thinking! A loose part can become anything! Loose parts can be thought of as the way for children of all ages to unlock the cognitive and creative mindset that allows them to build, deconstruct, persist, create, and work together to unleash the power of creativity that we all contain.

This week, send anything white!