



Early Learning in the SD64 Gulf Islands

A monthly newsletter for caregivers, educators, and families

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Spotlight on Early Learning: Mathematical Joy @ Fulford Elementary

by Lynn Thorwaldsen, ECE

Two 6-year-olds were immersed in the serious work of faithfully representing the rays of the sun on the asphalt outside the ELF classroom today. I noticed the hard work of making each line and the patience it took to make a pattern of colours too.



To be with children in wonder as they look deeply at the world is a way into the mathematical universe that is literally everywhere. It starts with looking, questioning, and being astonished!

No one was directing them to do this. It was play. I said, "Oh this makes me feel happy— this sun. They are so many rays here; I wonder how many." One child said a number that many children say when they mean a lot, "ten-twenty-thousand" she assured me. I nodded in wonder, fully appreciating her estimate.

Later, I walked through the little forested area where the students at Fulford play. I noticed many multiples in the woods. Ferns, berries, rocks, sticks. Everything was beautiful, complex and patterned and also random. Everything had a shape, a mass, a structure. I walked back to the parking lot and the sun came through the clouds and I squinted at it and sure enough, it had ten-twenty-thousand rays.



To learn more about Early Learning in SD64:



Learning Together: Conversation & Collaboration

What are Early Years Educators learning about?



In November, Early Years Educators (ECEs, care providers, and primary teachers from SD64) gathered to discuss their strategies for supporting social and emotional wellness in various contexts. The event provided a fantastic opportunity for participants to connect, share their expertise, and engage in guided discussions based on Stuart Shanker's research and the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP).

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Attendees took home valuable tools such as breathing boards, worry stone-making clay, feelings scales, and Indigenous Teaching Animal Cards based on the SD64 Enhancement Agreement.

The SD64 Early Learning Team is looking forward to two additional sessions for early years' educators in the new year.



Monthly Math Moment: What is Subitizing?

Subitizing is the ability to tell how many objects are in a set without having to count the objects one by one. Counting one-by-one is really important too, but, subitizing allows us to see groupings, and those groupings are foundational as children start to do operations like add, subtract, multiply, and divide.



ROLL A SNOWMAN



Materials needed:

- dice
- crayons/markers
- paper with a snowman outline drawn on it, 1 for each partner.



To Play:

- Player 1 rolls a die, and draws the corresponding item on their snowman.
- Player 2 takes a turn.
- Play continues until one player has a complete snowman.
- Play again!



Dice games are a great way to begin practicing subitizing. Try the "Roll a Snowman" game! All you need is dot dice, a piece of paper and something to draw with.



GAMES ARE GREAT FOR BUILDING NUMBER SENSE!

Check out these other dice games for preschoolers!

[CLICK HERE](#)

For more advanced diced games,

[CLICK HERE](#)