



Great Bay Kids' Company, Inc.

Quality, Licensed  
Child Care with an  
Educational Focus

Spring 2011  
Bi-Annual Newsletter  
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89 Portsmouth Ave  
Stratham, NH  
03885

# The Connection

## U.S. Troops Care Packages

Last year on Veteran's Day the children and staff worked together to make cards for the veterans. I delivered them to the American Legion in Newmarket where they were hung up for those soldiers who were celebrating their day. This past Veteran's Day we made cards again but I wanted to do more. After researching online I found an organization, U.S Troop Care Package that gave a detailed list of items needed by our soldiers. I put out a box with the list at Main Street School for the donations from our School Age Program families and we collected 20 pounds worth of

items and some monetary donations to send to this organization! Once we sent the box filled with toiletries, playing cards, snack food and some really cute cards from the children, we did not expect to get anything in return which was fine. A few weeks later however, we got a certificate from U.S Troops Care Package and a letter from the organization letting us know that our donations were greatly appreciated especially the personalized cards. The children were so excited

when I showed them the certificate. I would love to continue this activity with the children in the years to come.

Erin Foran



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## Growth at Pease

On January 27, 2011, the Pease Center celebrated its One Year Anniversary! The newest addition to Great Bay Kids' Company family opened in January of 2010 with just 23 children enrolled! On this year's anniversary, the center boasted over 140 children. We began with five classrooms - one for each age group and we now have thirteen including four Infant Rooms, three Young Toddler Rooms, three

Toddler Rooms, one Nursery, one Pre K and one full day Kindergarten. The enrollments at the Pease Center have doubled the number of families that the agency provides care for and we currently welcome nearly 400 families into our agency's programs each day.



## Calendar of Events

- **Closed May 27, 2011**  
Program Development Day
- **Closed May 31, 2011**  
Memorial Day
- **June 4, 2011**  
Great Bay Kids'  
*Family Picnic*  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Stratham Hill Park
- **June 20, 2011**  
Great Bay Kids'  
**Annual Meeting**  
7:00pm Pease Center
- **Closed July 4, 2011**  
Independence Day
- **October 14, 2011**  
Great Bay Kids'  
**"Great Escape"**  
Rockingham Ballroom  
Newmarket, NH

## National Partnership for After School Science

After school programs have begun to explore with Science outside of their school curriculum. Kathleen Morneau, the School Age Program Director, was asked about a year ago to participate in a program funded through grants by the National Science Foundation called National Partnership for After School Science. This project is in its



second year and is called NPASS2. There are eight states that are currently gathering information on science and engineering in after school programs. In New Hampshire, UNH Cooperative Extension has had the pleasure of facilitating this program to local after school programs. Great Bay Kids' Company is fortunate to be one of them. During the facilitations, a room of local after school providers from area agencies participate hands on with the projects. All supplies are provided through the grant so that the science and engineering projects can take place at the afterschool programs. The children in the after school programs have enjoyed "Tracks and Balls", "Gliders", and

have begun to work on "Wiring a House". There are other trainings that have been provided that will be facilitated at another time, such as "Trebuchets".



## Winter Festival



On January 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our First Annual Winter Festival at our Pease Center in Portsmouth. Our goal was to provide fun Winter Activities for children allowing parents time to socialize and network with other families. The children enjoyed activities such as Snowflake Decorating, Snow Man Toss, Snow Scavenger Hunt, Marshmallow Sculpting, Snow Cones and face painting. The morning ended with creative music and movement with Jody Gourlay. The event was a huge success.

We look forward to next year's Winter Festival and hope to make it an Annual Event.



## Pease Tenants Association

Great Bay Kids' Company recently co-hosted the Tenants Association at Pease (TAP) meeting at our newest child care center located on the Pease Tradeport. We co-hosted the meeting with the Richie McFarland Children's Center, a program that provides developmental and support services for children with special needs. RMCC has programming space within our center at Pease.

Incorporated in October, 1999, TAP was formed to create an organized body of

people, all of whom work on the Pease International Tradeport, to ensure that business can be conducted safely and effectively and to identify and resolve issues that affect the quality of life and business on the Tradeport. Over time, the organization has grown to include networking, social, athletic and philanthropic events and causes. More than 25 local business leaders attended the meeting to hear more about the programs and services provided by Great

Bay Kids' Company and Richie McFarland, to network with one another and to have a tour of our child care center.



## Creative Curriculum Team Meetings

During the month of March we held team meetings for the Kindergarten, Toddler and Preschool teachers. Teachers were asked before each meeting to list the strengths and challenges that they have faced while working with the Creative Curriculum. After reviewing their answers, an agenda was created that addressed their challenges, and offered an opportunity for the teachers to exchange information with each other and share

their strengths. We revamped some of the forms we were using and clarified some points about the curriculum. Observation is a key component of the Creative Curriculum; teachers plan activities based on their observations of the children at play. Lesson plans are loosely structured, with plenty of room for flexibility according to the needs and interests of the children. We discussed the difference between product-based activities and

process-based activities. Our curriculum stresses the importance of allowing children to thoroughly explore things that interest them, at their own pace and level of development. The highlight of the meetings was the discussion among teachers, sharing helpful ideas and activities. We will continue to hold curriculum team meetings throughout the year in order to build on staff knowledge of the Creative Curriculum.

## Festival of Trees



Each year Great Bay Kids' Company purchases a tree as part of a Silent Auction to benefit the Chamber Children's Fund. The Chamber Children's Fund is a 501 (c) 3 charitable non-profit organization where money raised goes to provide warm winter clothing and bedding for the children in need up to 18 years of age. In years past the CCF granted

\$51,765.00 worth of aid to recipient families.

Every year the staff of Great Bay Kids' decides on a theme for the tree and the children make hand-made ornaments that coincide with the theme. Last year (2010) our agency theme was Dr. Seuss. All the classrooms selected a different Dr. Seuss book that would be used as the inspiration for the ornaments. Our Agency Administrative Staff take the ornaments to the town hall and decorate the tree the day before the Festival.

A large part of the money raised for the Chamber Children's Fund is through "Kids Helping Kids" activities. Great Bay Kids' Company also holds a penny drive to raise money for the Chamber Children's Fund. Once the money is raised then we take

some children to the press conference at the Exeter Town Hall and present the money to the Chamber Children's Fund. This year we raised \$225.00 for the fund. The staff, children and families look forward to these two events every year. We hope that every year we can raise more money to help benefit the Chamber Children's Fund.



## Pathways to Cultural Competency

The Child Development Bureau and the National Association for the Education of Young Children have joined together as one to introduce a nationwide pilot program called Pathways to Cultural Competency. Great Bay Kids' Company is fortunate to be one of 18 Early Childhood Centers in New Hampshire chosen to participate. The Newmarket Center will be the pilot center for Great Bay Kids' Company. The Newmarket Center Staff will spend the

next 15 months dedicating themselves to identifying shared goals among families and staff. We will find the best way to incorporate cultural traditions and history in all of our classrooms as well as ensuring that decisions made and policies created respect all the cultural values, attitudes and beliefs towards learning of all the families we serve. Our staff will use intentional teaching to counter stereotypes and bias throughout the

center. It is our goal that once the Newmarket Center completes the pilot program we will then share our knowledge and resources in this area with the other Centers in our Agency. We are excited about this project and look forward to the outcomes that will only strengthen our programs for the future.

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Homemade Playdough

Ingredients:

2 cups flour      2 cups warm water      1 cup salt  
2 Tbsp vegetable oil      1 Tbsp cream of tartar

Add: Food coloring (liquid, powder, or unsweetened drink mix) or Scented oils

Mix all of the ingredients together, and stir over low heat.

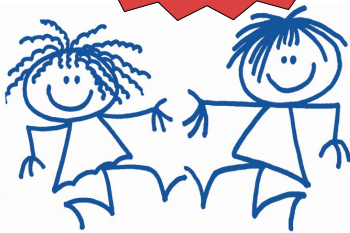
The dough will begin to thicken until it resembles mashed potatoes.

When the dough pulls away from the sides and clumps in the center remove the pan from heat and allow the dough to cool enough to handle.

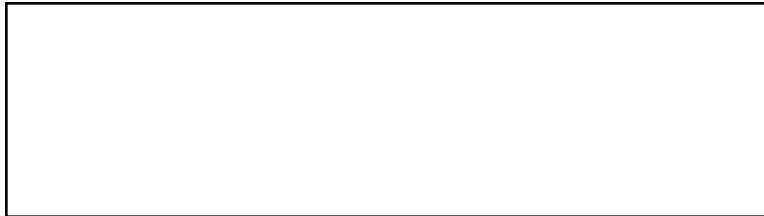
**If your dough is still sticky, cook it a little longer!**

Keep stirring and cooking until the dough is dry and feels like playdough.

[www.GreatBayKids.org](http://www.GreatBayKids.org)



**Did you know** that the Department of Health and Human Services offers a Child Care Scholarship Program to low income families involved in employment, training or job search activities. If you would like more information, contact your local DHHS Office. They are there to help families in need!



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