



# Creative Play Place Quarterly

Newsletter

Fall 2009

## CALENDAR OF FALL EVENTS

**Sat. October 3 1-4pm Opening Day Event & Preview of Imagination**

Station: Parent Child Art 2-3pm

**Sat. October 24 10-Noon: Applicious - Special Event**

**Sat. November 14 9am-Noon – Creative Portraits Fundraiser - a chance for**

a one of a kind portrait in our creative sets & costumes for holiday cards or gifts!

Creative Play  
Place

[www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com](http://www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com)

Welcome back! The weather has turned a bit colder after our lovely September, which must be the signal for us to open back up at the Creative Play Place. I am excited for our season to start! We have some new dramatic play areas including a pizza shop, camping in MN and another castle theme area to come in Nov. You never know what will have “grown” in our space over the summer – come check it out! We also have some exciting events coming up this fall including our Creative Portraits – a unique portrait in our sets – so cute for those holiday cards! And Applicious! – a fun morning of apples! Plus we have some fun new art projects going on weekly and our NEW Imagination Station – Parent/Child Art classes on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month! I can’t wait to see you! - April Rao, CPP director

### Imagination Station! Parent – Child Art Classes

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday each Month 2-3pm at CPP



Enjoy creating work side by side with your child. You will each go home with your own works of art after spending a fun afternoon creating with our instructors, Eva Hendrickson and April Rao. Each month a different material will be explored. Sign up at CPP to reserve a spot or drop in as space allows. \$2 supplies fee per person. Class is free.



This class is made possible by a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council with funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature



### Fall Pinecone Adventure

Take your kids on a nature hike to collect a variety of pinecones. See how many you can find. Let the kids sort and organize them by size (groups or biggest to smallest), weigh them, create a collection or make a sculpture out of them by gluing them together. \*\*\*See page 3 for how this kind of exploration play is disappearing and why it is important.

### Play is Important!

It is the mission of the Creative Play Place (CPP) to foster the development of the whole child through play, movement, and the arts to promote healthy lifestyles, enhance literacy skills, and strengthen the parent-child bond.

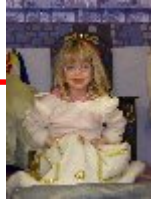
Decades of research has shown the important ties between play and cognitive development in children. Play is thought to support the development of such cognitive qualities as curiosity; exploration; divergent thinking; symbolic transformation; representation of physical, logicmathematical, and social knowledge; temporal sequencing; conservation; spatial reasoning; seriation; classification; and perspectivism.(DeVries & Kohlberg, 1987)

Parents and children of today are moving faster and doing more than ever before. Schools are obsessed with tests, outcomes, standards, and accountabilities. What happened to self-directed, imaginative play? The famous Mr. Fred Rogers stated in 1994: “Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning. At various times, play is a way to cope with life and to prepare for adulthood. Playing is a way to solve problems and to express feelings. In fact, play is the real work of childhood.”



Won't YOU join us for a day of play? Check out the new dramatic play themes and preview our New Imagination Station – Parent/Child Art Class on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month. We hope YOU (and your children) will come to PLAY! Sincerely, Lisa Browne, Creative Play Place Board Member

### **Creative Portraits November 14 9-Noon**



Looking for that one of a kind gift for grandparents or the perfect photo for your holiday card this year? Come in for a one of kind portrait of your child dressed up and photographed in one of our creative sets. Choose from princess, knights, firefighters, Christmas/sledding, and more! Professional photographers. Call to reserve a time or drop in and wait in line. 507-351-4284



### **Rubber Duck Race 2009**

It was a beautiful Saturday morning that framed this years Rubber Duck Race. Ethan, Luke and I got to the park at about 8:00 and of course there were enough other kids around to keep them occupied. My job was to set up the pavilion tent and put the foam lane dividers into the pond. I enjoyed a leisurely paddle out to the middle of the pond and dropped the anchor and the end of the rope to the bottom. This made very nice, straight lanes that stayed in place much better than last year. Soon the onlookers started arriving and before long it was time to set the little ducks loose. We even had a bit of wind this year to propel the little racers to the finish line. All in all it was a very successful and fun event! – Matt Borowy, CPP Board Member

Thanks to everyone who sold, bought or helped out with the Rubber Duck Race, tickets or 4<sup>th</sup> of July!! We raised \$2275 at the event. The grand prize of \$500 went to Jon Grinnell, who donated a portion of the prize back to CPP! There were a number of other wonderful prizes awarded and our MC, Brian Klosa, quacked everyone up! – April Rao, Director



### **Become a Member – It helps us raise funds and get grants too!**

Why is your membership so valuable to us? The Creative Play Place is a community funded non-profit organizations. This means our funding comes from grants, donations, memberships, fund raisers and in-kind donations. Many similar centers around the country charge daily, weekly or monthly admission fees – we want to avoid this! Yet, we have expenses to cover and when writing grants, foundations want to see that we are raising funds to help sustain the organization. Your contribution helps us assure grant-giving foundations that we have members who support our organization. In these tough economic times grant giving is down and more grant makers want assurances that we are doing our part to raise funds too. Please help in whatever way you can afford. CPP has individual and childcare memberships. Memberships levels range from \$25-\$100/year. Show your support by purchasing a membership today! Download a membership form online: [www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com](http://www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com) OR if a membership is not possible this year, donate a \$1, \$5... every so often when you visit. Again every dollar makes a difference!



## Pinecones, dirt, sticks! Oh My!

When you think back to your childhood what did you play with? Where did you play? Most of us recall adventures outdoors, exploring, getting dirty and having fun. Yet most kids today do not play outside and even fewer are involved in unstructured, exploratory play. Most children spend less than 4 minutes of unstructured outdoor play per day, yet the average 2 year old watches more than 2 hours of TV per day. What are kids missing by not playing and exploring outdoors? Research indicates that kids don't learn how to gauge risk – exploring, jumping, tree climbing, all let kids figure out appropriate risks and that they will actually make good choices. From a parent's view, isn't it better for them to figure out risks while climbing a small tree, rather than when they start driving? Kids also gain social skills, problem solving, creativity, and motor development. What can you do? Let kids play and explore. Make a place to dig in the backyard. Find safe trees to climb or places to jump off. Step back and watch while they explore. Take a pinecone adventure or something similar – but be willing to let them take the adventure in a new direction if they discover something of interest. And remember nature is in your backyard! It isn't hard to improve on 4 minutes a day. Make it your goal to get your kids outside more! For more information on this subject check out the book, Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv or look at the Parents Guide to Nature Play by Ken Finch at Green Hearts Institute for Nature in Childhood website [www.greenheartsinc.org](http://www.greenheartsinc.org)

### Stories, Songs & Movement

Thursdays 9:45 am  
Join us for a themed story time that also gets you up and moving! Fun books and songs!



### Grant Update

We are excited to have a grant for \$2500 from the Mankato Clinic again this year to support our fitness and nutrition programming.

We also thank the United Way for their grant of \$2000 and continued support of the play place.

And we have a new grant for \$500 from Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council for our Imagination Station Art Classes.



### Amazing Castle

We will be hosting a part of the MN Children's Museum Amazing Castle Traveling Exhibit from mid-October to mid-November. Come in and check it out!!!

### Volunteers Needed

Help out on a committee, or washing toys, or substitute when staff are ill. We can always use help with our special events and fundraisers, too! And with H1N1 we will be washing toys more often and will probably be in greater need of substitutes when a staff member is ill. Email CPP if you can help out!



### Silo or Barn ?

Do you know anyone with a silo or barn on 169 or 22, between St. Peter and Mankato, who would let us paint it? The Cambria silo inspired me to think of ways to advertise CPP. It would be a tax deduction for those donating the silo, roof or side of the barn to paint.

### Halloween Fun!

Sat. Oct. 31 1-4pm



Many have asked about Halloween because they had so much fun last year with us! Come in your costume to CPP on Halloween and play games, hear stories and have a spooky snack! It's bound to be a spooktacular time!

**Facebook:** Would you like to see us have a facebook page? We could raise awareness /spread the word, post events and photos and keep in touch. Send us your thoughts:  
[creativeplayplace@yahoo.com](mailto:creativeplayplace@yahoo.com)



### Birthday Party Rentals

Choose between renting the space for a do-your-own party or a Theme Party which includes games, crafts and more! See the website for details!

## Classes & Events

For more details or to register, check our website: [www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com](http://www.creativeplayplace.wordpress.com)

### **Supper Swap**

Tired of cooking the same old thing?  
Don't have time to cook every night?  
Try a supper swap. Come find out how to organize it with your friends to make all of your lives easier!



### **Immunizations and Your Child**

Find out what immunizations your child really needs, learn the myths and truths. This class is co-sponsored by the River's Edge Hospital & Clinic



### **Fitness & Nutrition Classes**

**Family Fitness:** Join us for family hip hop, boot camp and yoga. A fun way for the whole family to move and exercise together! \$12 per family

**Fitness Fridays – Preschool Open Gym – 9-10am Fridays** in the St. Peter Community Center Gym

**Coffee Chats:** Getting Enough Dairy in Kids' Diets  
Organics: What you need to know for your child's health

These classes are made possible by a grant from the Mankato Clinic Foundation



### **Book Groups**



**The Great Book Escape – Parent child bookgroups**  
Meet once per month to discuss books, play games or do activities relating to the book. Each month the kids select a new book to read. A great way to keep talking to your child.  
Grades 1-3 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday/mo.  
Grades 3-5 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday/mo.

**A special thanks to Anissa Sandland for all her hard work!**

**If they only came with Instructions – Parenting Bookgroup –**  
Parents select books and lead their own discussions on topics relevant to them as parents.

These bookgroups are co-sponsored by CPP and the St. Peter Library

### **Applicious!**

October 24 10am- Noon

Join us for a special apple day! Make apple sauce and apple prints, go apple bowling, try apple tasting, listen to apple stories and sing apple songs.



**CPP board members:** Jane Timmerman,  
Jean Peterson, Sarah Hartfiel, Shanon Nowell, Matt Borowy, Karen Ferrington, Lisa Browne, and Kim Musser.

**CPP Executive Director:** Arpan Rao

Contact Us: 507-351-4284

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