



After Care

January 2008

Dear RMDS Parents,

I hope you had a great time with your children at Halloween and enjoyed the holiday. It has been almost two months since I have had the privilege of being in the Aftercare program at Ring Mountain, being with your sweet, precious children. I am getting to know them and make friends with them (and that is lots of fun!). It has also been nice meeting all of you great parents.

We have started a science program in the aftercare, reading books that are easy to understand, introducing different topics and challenging each other by asking "why" and "how". We have been building shuttles with blocks and sending them to the Moon or Mars, building fire engines to put out fires and building "shooters" to shoot energy (it is exactly the term they used). The children have amazing imaginations and wonderful ways of expressing themselves.

Some of the books that we have read and talked about are: *"What is the Moon like?"* We learned about space suits and our bodies needing oxygen; we learned about mountains on the Moon; we mentioned gravity; we talked about satellites and sending messages. The other book we read is *"Precious water"* and learned how precious is the water we use and that we shouldn't waste it. We read, *"We Love Fall"* and talked about the seasons. Another book we read is, *"Animals in Winter"* and we learned about "migration", "hibernation", and "storing food". We read a book about sharks and how they lose their teeth when they bite and then more teeth grow; we talked about farm animals and animals in the jungle and mentioned "mammals" and what they have in common.

All this is happening in an informal way. We provide a lot of choices in the afternoon. Some children want to read books, some want to do puzzles or games, some want to draw or color, some prefer dramatic play and some like playing with blocks. Some children like to go to the toy house and have their own quiet time.

When doing the puzzles we try to guess what pieces are missing and what do we need to match the pieces we already have? They are doing great in matching and some of them do the whole puzzle by themselves! We also get to practice the alphabet, numbers and counting and they can tell which number is bigger when comparing two numbers (thanks to their morning teachers).

We work on sorting as well. We have a fun time playing with magnets and learn which things are attracted to magnets and which things are not and why. And while doing all these fun things we learn how to share, how to use our words, how to talk one at a time, and how to wait patiently for our turn. We learn a lot!

It is definitely a joy working with your children and I am looking forward to the rest of the year.

Tina Sarabandi
Aftercare Teacher