



Play in a Puddle on a Rainy Day

By: Meredith Burton, MA

September 2023

When the weather is rainy and uncomfortable for us as adults, it doesn't mean that our children feel that way. Rain puddles have an almost magnetic pull for children. They love to jump in them, roll through them on their trikes and feel the splashes on their legs, float things in them and much more.

1. **Puddle jumping** – As long as it is warm enough, I regularly encourage my five-year-old to put on his raincoat and boots and run outside to jump in puddles while it is raining! He likes puddles after the rain too, but his favorite is watching the rain fall into the puddles as he jumps off the front steps into them! What a fun way to develop the gross motor skills of jumping and stomping! Children also experience cause and effect and properties of water through this simple activity.

2. **Floating and Sinking** – Use a puddle as a natural water table. Let your child explore properties of floating and sinking by experimenting with different items found outside. Does a leaf float in the puddle? What about a stick? Or a rock? This can lead to other experimentation and questioning. Why do ripples form when you drop a rock into a puddle? Children learn to make predictions and explore strategies for answering their questions through this type of play.

3. **Puddle Music** – Rain has many sounds. Listening to rain on the roof and rain falling into a puddle are different experiences. A soft rain also sounds different from a hard rain. Try to replicate the sounds of rain using a pot or a wood block, a drum or a shaker. We also love to sing while we play in puddles. Songs can also lead to imaginative role playing in the puddles. Here are some songs we like to sing on puddle days.

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Please check Brightwheel (soon to be "myprocare") every day. There is important information there! Also, make sure your child always has a change of clothes and/or diapers/pull-ups, if necessary. Thank You!

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Caterpillars/Buttercup Butterflies



In September, the babies will be exposed to the first letter of their first name by using paint. We will also be trying out puzzles! All this will promote their gross and fine motor skills along with more arts and crafts as well.

For the month of September, Buttercups will continue to build their communication through baby sign and verbal speech. We will also focus on learning how to share our toys and take turns. Moreover, Buttercups will engage in a variety of activities that involve pretend play.

- Meme, Mr. Austin & Ms. Graciela

Pixie Butterflies

For the month of September, we will be learning about safety and our community helpers. We will also focus on the shape square, number 1, and the colors blue and red. The Pixies are off to a great start for our school year and are excited to learn and build our relationships!

- Ms. Andi & Ms. Megan K.



Elf Butterflies



Happy September Elf Butterfly Families! This month we will be continuing our first six week study. Throughout the month we will be focusing on who works at our school, how to make friends and be a part of a group, and the noises we hear at school. The end of the month we will pick a study based on our students interest and their votes.

- Ms. Felicity & Ms. Keyanni

Julia Butterflies

Hello! Happy September Julia Butterfly families. This month we will continue to learn about each other and build our school family. We will also work on fine motor skills such as writing with proper grip, using crayons and markers, using scissors properly, and doing puzzles.

-Ms. Joanne & Ms. Paige





**Be on the lookout for information regarding the switch from Brightwheel to MyProcare for online communication.*

Labor Day — CLOSED—September 5th
Mr. Kaliq’s Birthday—September 14th
Ms. Vanessa’s 5 Year Anniversary—September 24th
Ms. Shirley’s 21 Year Anniversary— September 25th

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Row, Row, Row your Boat
 It’s Raining, It’s Pouring
 There’s a Hole in the Bucket
 Singing in the Rain

Developing a sense of rhythm and rhyme are essential phonemic awareness skills – understanding and playing with the sounds of language. Music also plays with patterning, an early mathematical skill.

4. Puddle Soup – Children use their environment to create play experiences with very little help from adults. We just need to give them the opportunities to explore and the freedom to live out their ideas. Provide some buckets and scoops or spoons to use in puddle play. My son likes to make puddle soup. As he stirs, scoops, measures and serves his soup, he also uses rich language to describe his process and to converse with friends, real and imaginary. Children practice and build vocabulary and build confidence and self-regulation through imaginative play. Puddle soup also can incorporate measuring and fine motor development using measuring scoops and cups.

Puddles can provide endless fun and exploration. Put on your raincoat and head outside with your child on the next rainy day, and when the sun comes out, keep track of how long it takes for a puddle to evaporate! There is always something new to learn when we play in nature.

Floating Chalk Prints

Have you ever tried Floating Chalk Prints? If not, you are missing out!

Materials Needed:

- ✪ Pan of Water
- ✪ Chalk Pastels
- ✪ Knife, scissors, or popsicle stick
- ✪ Heavy art paper or cardstock, cut to fit in your pan.



Instructions:

Step 1:

Shave your chalk pastels into a pan of water, using the knife, scissors or popsicle stick.

Step 2:

Place your piece of paper onto the chalk water, lightly press the paper and around the edges but don't submerge it.

Step 3:

Lift to reveal your chalk print! That's it.

The results are amazing and the process is enticing!



Super Supper

Meatloaf w/
Mashed
Potatoes &
Green Beans
Pick-up day is
Thursday,
September
21st.

\$7.00 each

Chicken
Taquitos w/
Side Salad
Pick-up day is
Thursday,
September
28th.

\$7.00 each

Payment is due before pick-up.

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EXCELLENCE IN EARLY EDUCATION

Mission:

The Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

Vision:

The Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

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