

Just Stories from Little Rainbow Day Care

One of the many reasons why working with young children is so tremendously rewarding is that every single thing you do or say is absorbed into those little minds and there are endless opportunities to turn every day moments into learning experiences And not just for the children either.

THE LAMP

In the shopping center where our preschool is located is also the home of Castroville Center Animal Hospital and the veterinarian's assistant was walking a dog with a rather large cone-collar. Terri told the kids, "Look at that dog." When Chris saw it he exclaimed, "Why he looks like a lamp?"

GOING NOWHERE

We were sitting around one day and the Dylan told me that he wouldn't be here tomorrow, then Gabriel told me he wouldn't be here all next week cause he was going to stay with his Grandma, then Presley said she would go home early tomorrow cause she was going to the Mystery Spot, and the kids went on and on. Not to be outdone Collin announced, "Gaby I'm not gonna be here today!"

I tried telling Collin that now was today and that he was here right now and, "Maybe you will not be here tomorrow?", I asked.

"No, I'm not gonna be here today," Collin insisted. Finally I asked Collin where he was going to be, to which he answered, "Nowhere!"

I HAVE TO SHOW MY MOM!

When I came down from the office after nap time I decided to stop in and check on the kids going potty after nap to make sure everyone was cleaning up properly and washing hands.

Mackenzie came bursting into the bathroom shouting, "Gaby, Gaby! Can I show my mom the testicles?" I was completely caught off guard, "The testicles? What testicles?" Mackenzie pointed to the shelf above the sinks where today we were displaying a jar with pond water and a few tadpoles swimming in it. Relieved I told Mackenzie to go bring her mom.

THE FINGER

We were already sitting at the table getting ready to eat lunch when I noticed Anabelle was getting ready to put her finger up into her nose when I stopped her and told her that she had to go wash her hands again. Like all 4 year olds she asked, "WHY?" I said, "Because you had your finger in your nose." Not ALL of it!" she protested.

CHILD OF TODAY

Our playground is in kind of a woodsy area not far from the Slough so we come across all kinds of wild life around our day care. We've seen owls, cotton tail rabbits, all kind of birds, there are a pair of red tail hawks nesting nearby once we even saw several wild turkeys making their way across our parking lot.

Anyway on this day we found part of a bird next to the fence. It was the head only with a few feathers strewn around. The kids started asking me what happened to the bird and because I wanted the kids to try and see if they could figure it out on their own and come up with an explanation I said I didn't know and what do you think? Tatiana shrugged her shoulder and gave me this look like: get with the times, and told me to, "So just Google it"

THE BOSS

Presley: "I'm the boss!"

Tati: "No, you're not. Gaby's the boss."

Presley: " Well, I'm the boss at my house.

Teacher Terri: " You're the boss? You're too small to be the boss."

Presley: " Well, I am the boss."

Tati: "No, you can't be. My dad says you can't be boss unless you pay the bills."

GETTING A DO

The girls were playing hair salon and it was my turn to get my hair done. The children are always fascinated by my white hair. I think that until I let them touch it they expect it to be not real.

Anyway, I was getting a shampoo and then a cut and Leah was working on me. After a while Leah asked me why my hair was white and I explained to her that I was getting old. She thought about that for a while and then when she had it all figured out she informed me, "Yeah, I know. First you get old and then your hair gets white and then you die."

Until that moment I had no idea I had such little time left.

LUNCH CONVERSATION

During lunchtime we practice good table manners, staying seated at the table till excused, saying please and thank you, and also how to make conversation because after all meals should also be a pleasant social time.

During this lunch Teacher Azucena was talking with the children at her table where the different foods came from. Like apples grow on trees, tortillas come from the bakery, broccoli grows in the fields, milk comes from cows... at this Kiyari interrupts and asks, "and who put the milk in the cow?"

BAGLES

Fresh vegetables and fruits are a part of each meal we serve and it is a lot easier to get kids to eat all kinds of fruits but not so the vegetables so I try very hard to get my kids excited about vegetables. Today we have sopita, bagles with cream cheese, green beans and apples for lunch.

To make green beans exciting I decided to tell this story in my most dramatic voice:

"Do you know what I did yesterday when I got home? No? I went out in my garden where I have ginourmously tall green bean poles and I crawled around in them and I picked all those green beans and then I had to stand on my tip-toes to get all the high ones too. Christina cleaned them and cooked them just for you so I want everyone to try at least one green bean." Tatiana listened to the whole story and then with eyes wide she asked, "did you pick the bagels too?"

DING – DONG

The day after Halloween when the kids came to school in the morning I was asking everyone, “Did you go knocking on doors last night asking Trick or Treat, like Teacher Terri showed you?”

“No,” said Zackary, “I didn’t.” I asked him why not and he showed me: Poking his finger out in front of him ... “I pushed the ring-thingy... you know... ding-dong!”

“Ahhh,” I said, “that’s called ringing a doorbell.”

PEANUTS

The other morning Tati came in early and sat with me at the puzzle table. After she studied me for a while she finally asked me, “Why are you not a peanut today?”

“A peanut?” I asked back puzzled, “why should I be a peanut today?” I had absolutely no idea where this was going ...

Tati shrugged her shoulders and reminded me, “Well, yesterday you said I was making you nuts.”