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Number of children: 106

Number of teachers: 16

The Long Beach City College Child Development Center, Pacific Coast Campus (CDC-PCC) is a campus based program and lab school in Long Beach, CA. The college has two campuses and NAEYC Accredited CDC's on each campus. The CDC's were started to provide a lab school environment for students in the Child Development Department and over the years, a full-day preschool program was added. CDC-PCC is currently in the process of creating an infant care program to start in Fall 2007. In September 2006 a brand new CDC was built with a CA. Bond initiative, sending a powerful message that young children are valued in our city and in our community. This new CDC currently has 5 open classrooms serving children ages 2-5 years old. The CDC features a computer observation lab where students and parents can observe the children via camera in their classroom environment. Two programs are offered at the college: a Parent Participation program that is similar to a Co-Op and a traditional preschool program. We serve a diverse community from all over the city of Long Beach, including full-time students, families from the surrounding neighborhood, as well as stay-at-home parents.

Best Practice Idea:

LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE!



Inspired by Richard Louv's book, Last Child in the Woods, the teachers at CDC-PCC made a conscious effort to spend more time outdoors in nature and focusing on our outdoor classrooms, formerly known as the playground. More focus was placed on outdoor play and an emergent curriculum project involving water play quickly evolved.

An outdoor reading area was created and guest readers were invited to stop by and share a favorite story. Some of our honored guests have included the Superintendent and President of the college, the Dean, the campus librarian, faculty, staff, police officers, grandparents, parents and older siblings, some of whom are CDC alumni! This was a great tie in to the Raising A Reader program that we started in March 2007.



Dramatic play items were brought outside and soon a pirate ship emerged on the climbing structure, along with pirates! Treasure was buried in the sandbox and child-directed short skits were soon being acted out.



This year's Week of the Young Child celebration will focus on our Best Practice idea. Take home activities will be suggested for after school in hopes that families will be encouraged to turn off the TV and take their children outside. A book fair will also be held this week, featuring the Last Child in the Woods book, along with a parent/family discussion on the topic.

*"Teaching Children about the natural world should be treated
as one of the most important events in their lives."*

~Thomas Berry, Dream of the Earth