Play Ball!

By Kathy Fong

Our study of Balls continued through October as keiki and parents investigated these questions: What different types of balls are there? How do balls bounce? How do balls roll?

It’s been great to see how our youngest babies would “inspect” the various balls using their hands, eyes, ears, and even their mouths. They are expert scientists when it comes to using their senses to gather data! Imagine what they would say about those different types of balls if they could speak.

The toddlers have been all-in with investigating balls. Not only observing how balls bounce and roll but also how they travel through the air when thrown. What else have you observed your toddlers doing as they investigate the potential of balls?

Our preschoolers have been very intentional in their investigations of balls. They were involved in the scientific method, starting with a question of the day, making predictions, testing, and gaining more knowledge and understanding as they playfully did their research.

Who knew science, physics, math, and engineering could be so playful and fun?

Ball Investigation

By Nessa Banas

After weeks of exploring balls, our keiki started the Investigation phase of our ball study, which included exploring how balls bounce and roll, their size, and their composition.

Keiki measured the circumference of balls in our collection using string and pipe cleaners, taped them on paper, and compared who had a bigger ball. They learned that not all balls can bounce and that some balls’ weight impacts how they bounce. Keiki also used force to move balls and determine which rolled and which didn’t. They enjoyed graphing how many balls are made of plastic, wood, or rubber, and learned by cutting and studying what is inside a ball that not all balls are made of the same materials.

We also had our field trip to Aloun Farms, where ‘ohana worked together and did a scavenger hunt. They also enjoyed the different types of pumpkins and learned how they grow.
By Pua Aquino

Welina mai kākou!

Many of us can recall silly nursery rhymes and lullabies from our childhood, but may not have realized these songs and rhymes were teaching us the basics of math and literacy. Children are easily able to memorize things that are set to music, which is why music is a large part of our daily routine in preschool. In old Hawai‘i, children were taught to memorize the phases of the moon. This was taught to the children as a means of preparing them for real life, as Hawaiians organized their lives around the movements of the environment. The Hawaiian language was kept alive through the revival of hula and mele. Hawaiian was an oral language so family members were taught mele (songs) and hula (dance) without ever writing it down. One of the most important factors in creating mele or performing hula is the concept of lōkahi, or unity. The musicians who play the music for the dancer are just as important as the one who is dancing. The same idea can be applied to real life situations where we depend a lot on the performance of another. A band that plays with lōkahi produces beautifully blended music; a band without it creates an unorganized jumble of sounds.

**Homemade Laundry Soap**

By Nida Otto

With the rising cost of almost everything, here’s one way to save money: make your own laundry soap. You can also put them in containers and give them out as gifts this holiday season!

Directions:
1. Grate one bar of soap (you can use any kind of bar soap) with a cheese grater or food processor.
2. Put grated soap in a pan with 2 quarts of water and gradually heat, stirring until soap is completely dissolved.
3. Put 4.5 gallons of really hot tap water in a 5-gallon bucket.
4. Stir in 1 cup of borax and 1 cup of Washing Soda until completely dissolved.
5. Pour soap mixture from the pan into the 5-gallon bucket. Stir well.
6. Cover and leave overnight.
7. Shake or stir until smooth and pour into gallon jugs or other containers.