

## Kindergarten Update - October 30, 2009

We've got quite a few budding architects and artists in our Kindergarten class, judging from the Lego creations and drawing designs that the children construct every day! It's fascinating to watch them solve problems, invent new designs, and add painstaking details to their pictures.

This week in math we learned some dice games. Dice are a wonderful math tool; they teach counting skills, addition, and a skill called "subitizing." Subitizing is the ability to look at a bunch of items, or dots, and know how many there are without counting. So on a die, you can look at the side with six dots and know instantly that there are six. At this stage of development, most children can subitize to 3 dots, and after that they have to count. As they gain more skill, their ability to know without counting improves, and they can look at the 5 or 6 dot side and know how many there are without counting. Later, in upper grades, they will be able to look at two dice and know the sum without counting. The Kindergartners are getting better and better at subitizing, and some can already do it with 6 dots. Playing board games that involve dice is a great way to build math skills. Try Monopoly Junior, Sorry!, or Trouble. With board games, children learn not only some math skills, but also important social skills like taking turns, playing by the rules, and how to be a good winner and a good loser.

UNICEF BOXES went home on Thursday. I hope people will take them out trick-or-treating tomorrow; you can send them back in on Monday or Tuesday. I always keep my change jar by the door in case our neighborhood trick-or-treaters bring their UNICEF boxes.

Have a safe and fun Halloween!

*Ellie Garvey*

P.S. The leaf prints that went home will keep indefinitely if you don't wash them. You could frame it, or sew it into a quilt (that's what I did with my daughter's leaf print from her Kindergarten year - and she's now in 9th grade and it's still clear and bright!)