

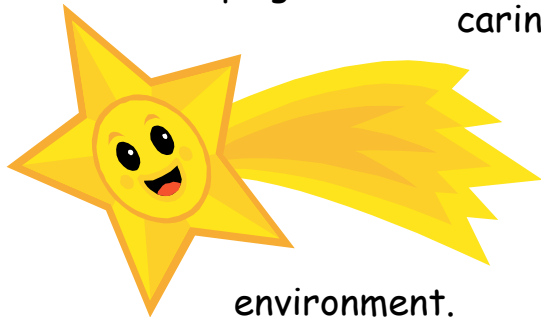


Village News

March, 2009

Stars and More Stars!!

Creative Village is very proud to announce that our North Carolina Star rating has recently increased to the highest **Five Stars!** Our Center and our "star" Villagers have made a great impression. Everyone is flourishing and developing in a safe and caring



environment.

morning before bringing them to the Village. We will apply more during the day, but don't bring aerosol cans.

And...Warm Weather Means Germs Will Be Disappearing!!

We Shine 5 Stars Bright !
And we continue to grow with all of your referrals.

Spring Is Almost Here !
As the weather starts to get warmer and sunny, we ask parents to apply sun screen to your little ones in the

SUMMER PLANS



We're hoping to have a **Sensory Garden Table** for our younger Villagers. This is a great idea for stimulating all of the five senses outdoors:

touching soil, sand, stones and plants, feeling a leaf tickle your nose, smell the flowers, hear rocks, stones, and shells clicking together and water splashing, taste mint or oregano, and see the colors of flowers.

We're planning on doing some **landscaping** around our parking lot and mail box for more "curb appeal". Thanks for your suggestions. Some flowers and shrubs will help to make us look cool and beautiful.

In April we will have the Villagers **Plant a Garden**.

Great Resources For NatureFriendly Families



The **Children & Nature Network** is encouraging parents to form their own **Nature Clubs For Families**, and to persuade parents and

other important adults to help reconnect children and nature. Great Tool Kits are available to download on line. Included are materials and helpful hints on hikes, camping, starting a neighborhood garden, exploring a local park for rocks, pine cones, feathers, animal tracks, birds and butterflies, all with the little ones.

Go to www.cnaturenet.org



National Arbor Day Foundation has developed the **Nature Explore Club**, with **Home Edition Materials** that you can order on line (for approx. \$25).

The clubs are designed to engage children in nature through all seasons, making nature a part of their everyday lives. Activities are developed for children working with adults, and include stories, outdoor adventure activities and explore tools - for children ages 3-8. Go to www.arborday.org

Recommended Reading

The Power Of Play

By David Elkind

The importance of play in a child's learning process is discussed, and at all developmental levels. Emphasis is on unstructured, self-initiated activities. The author defends this wonderful and fun aspect of childhood. He

calls for society to bring back long recesses, encourage imagination, and let children develop their minds at their own pace. Implications for formal education include discussions of Early Education models, Montessori Schools and Rudolf Steiner's Waldorf Schools, among others.

Roxaboxen, by Alice McLerran
*Illustrated by Barbara Cooney,
Caldecott Medal winner*

This is a great children's book about a group of kids who, through their adventurous spirit and free time together, created a village out of rocks and boxes. They make a special place through the magic of imagination, one that they all remember in adulthood. And, the illustrations are so fun.

*Find these books in our Village
Library soon!*

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