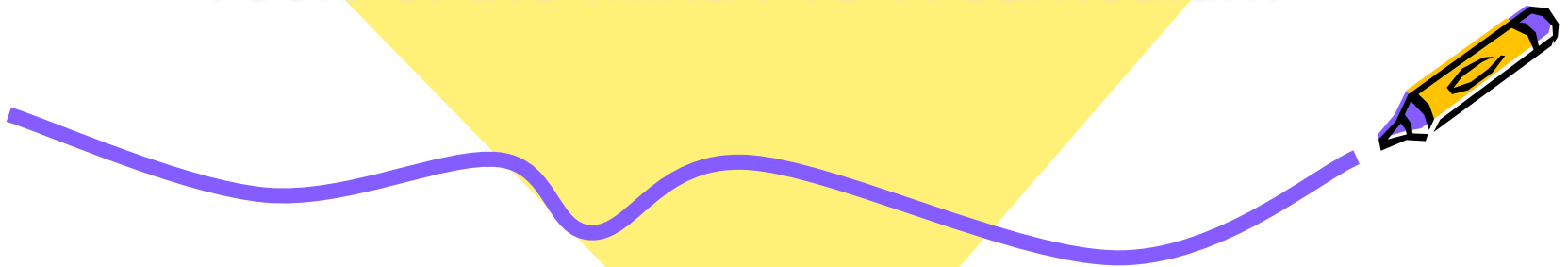




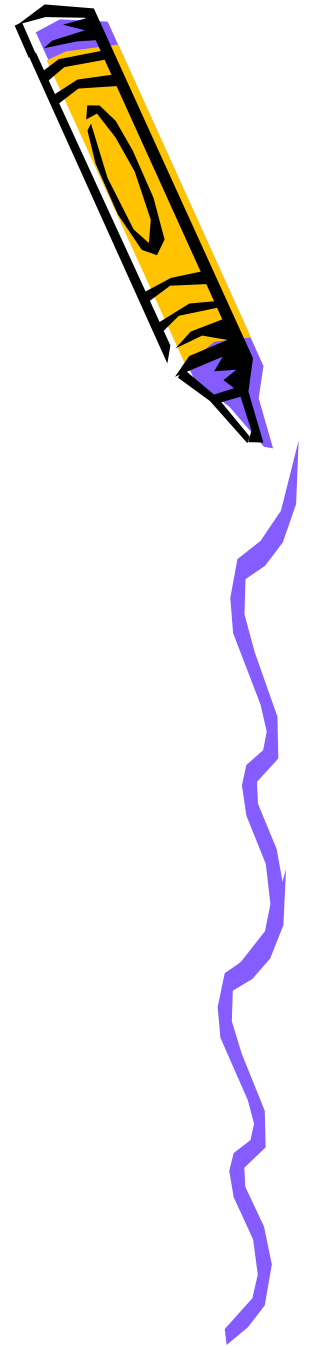
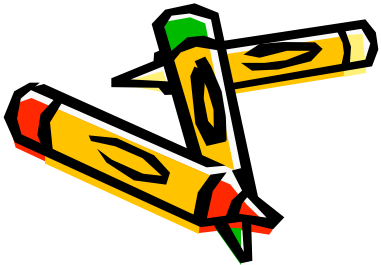
# Parent overview

Tools of the Mind Pre-K curriculum



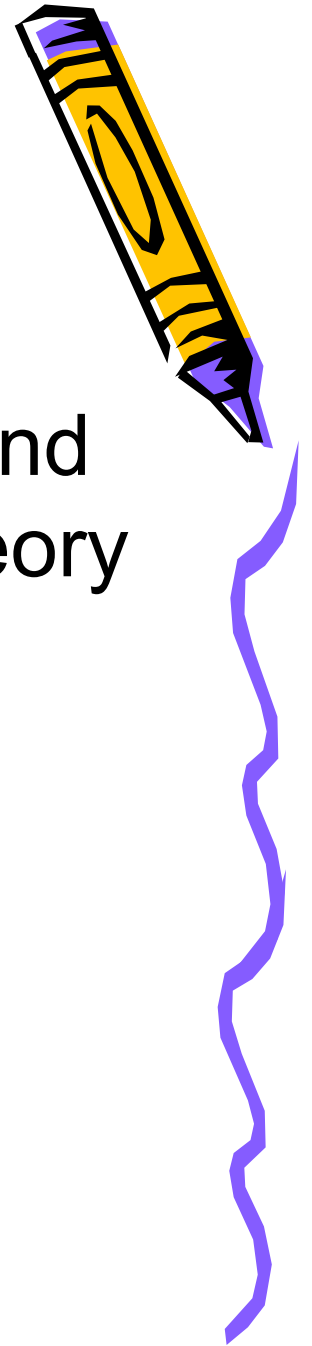
# Agenda

- Tools of the Mind Curriculum
- A Day in the Life of Your Preschool Child
- What you can do to help
- Questions/comments



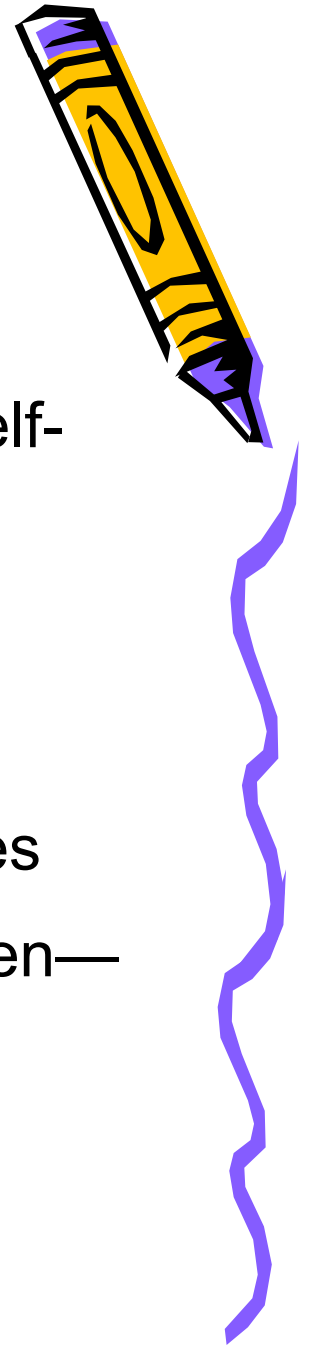
# Overview

- Developed by Dr. Deborah Leong, and Dr. Elena Bodrova, based on the theory of child development of Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky.



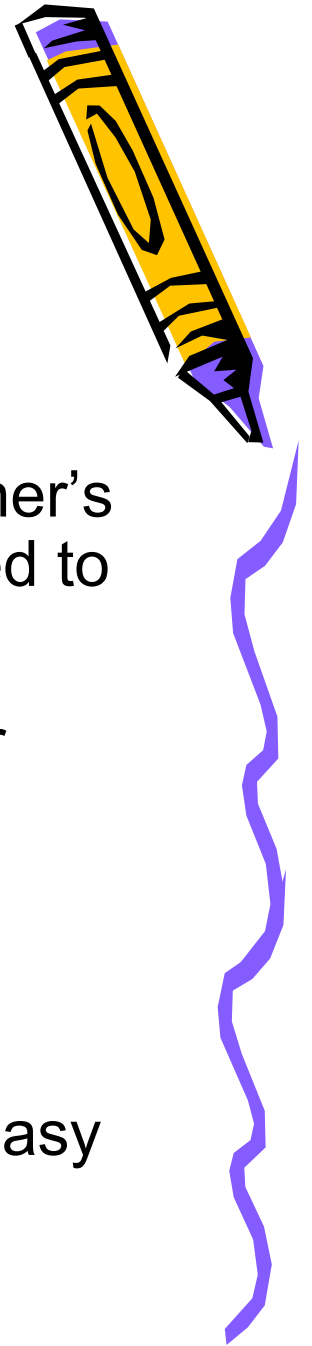
# Main goals

- To develop underlying cognitive skills such as self-regulation, deliberate memory, and focused attention.
  - Being able to think ahead, plan and follow directions
  - Pay attention during stories and other activities
  - Remember things that the teacher tells children—directions, information, facts



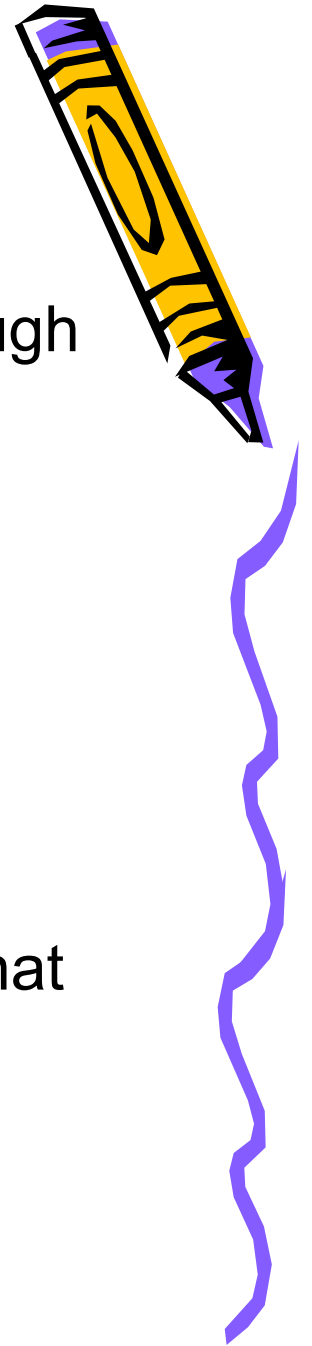
# Main goals

- To develop social-emotional school readiness: emotional and behavioral self-control, take another's perspective, resolve disagreements, be motivated to learn.
  - Not lose your temper when you don't get your way
  - Being kind to and respectful of others
  - Solving disagreements in a positive way
  - Wanting to learn and persisting when it isn't easy



# Main goals

- Build foundation for later academic learning through specific skill development: symbolic thinking and early literacy/numeracy.
  - Knowing the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they represent
  - Being able to write your name
  - Being able to recognize familiar words
  - Knowing that numbers stand for quantities, what geometric shapes are, how to sort by different dimensions (color, shape)



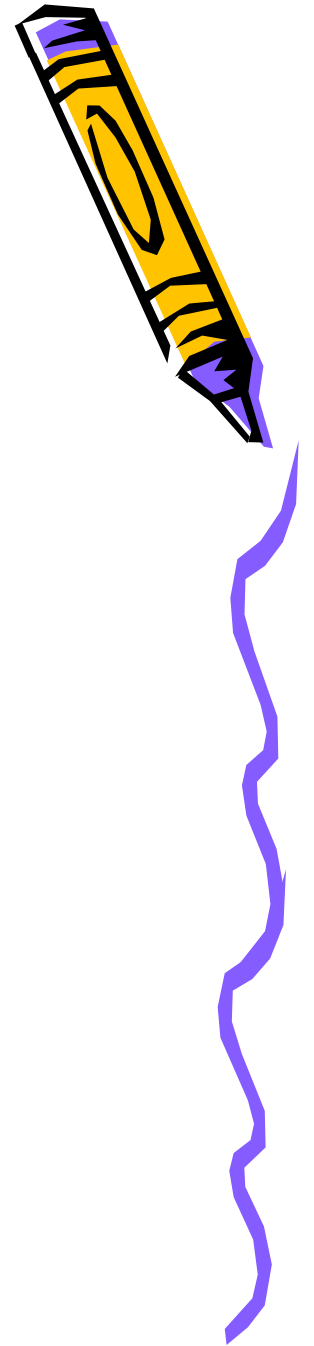
# A day in the life...

- Mystery Games
- Morning Opening Activities
  - Weather, Timeline Calendar, Share the News, Message of the Day
- Play and play planning
- Movement activities
- Literacy activities and Read Aloud
- Math/Science activities



# Mystery Games

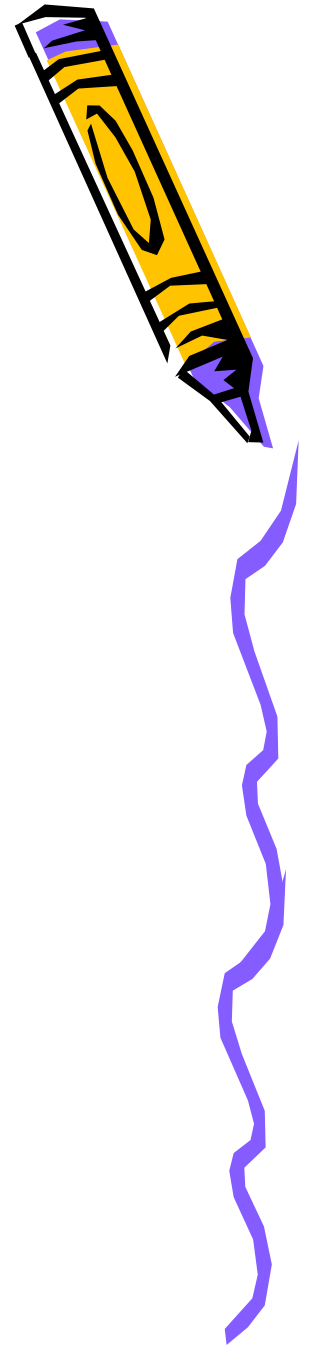
- Children find their names and solve a “mystery”





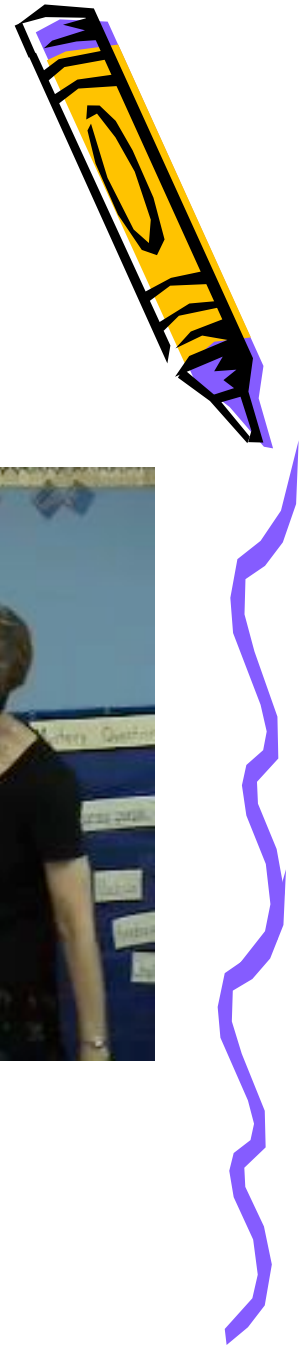
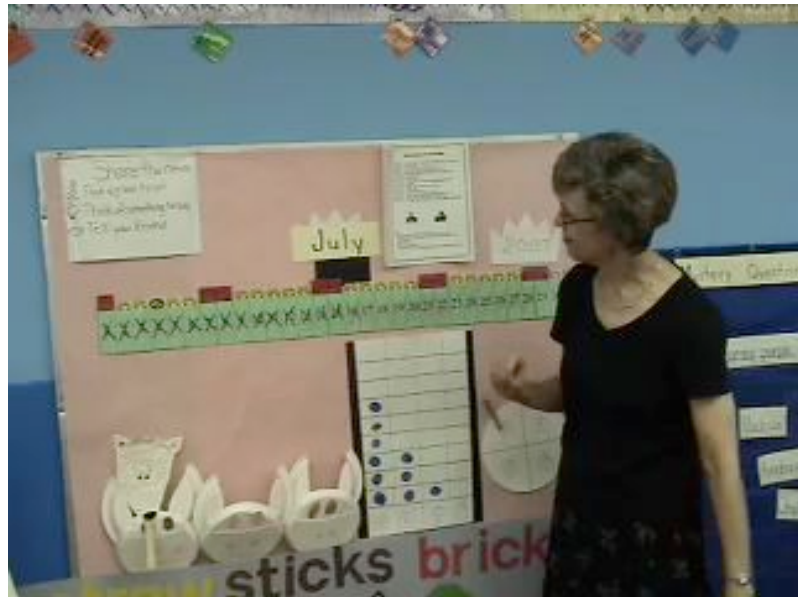
# Mystery Game

- The “mystery” involves any number of skills
  - Reading an icon
  - Determining two words that begin with the same sound
  - Identifying numbers and letters



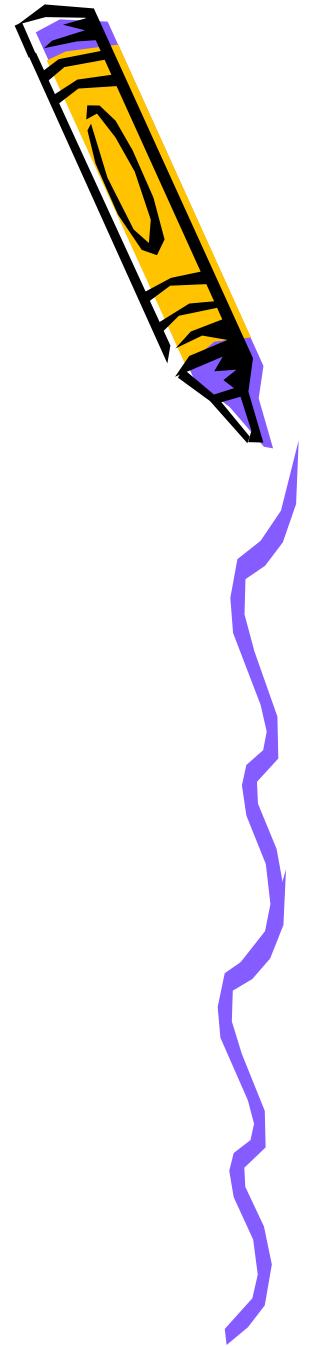
# Morning Opening

- Calendar, weather and literacy activities
- Designed to give children practice in Self-Regulation



# Morning Opening

- Children are exposed to many math and science concepts
- Introduced to literacy concepts that they will use in their own writing



# A day in the life

- Play and Play Planning
  - Play is the leading activity in preschool, the activity in which children grow and learn the most
  - Teachers scaffold children to achieve intentional make believe play

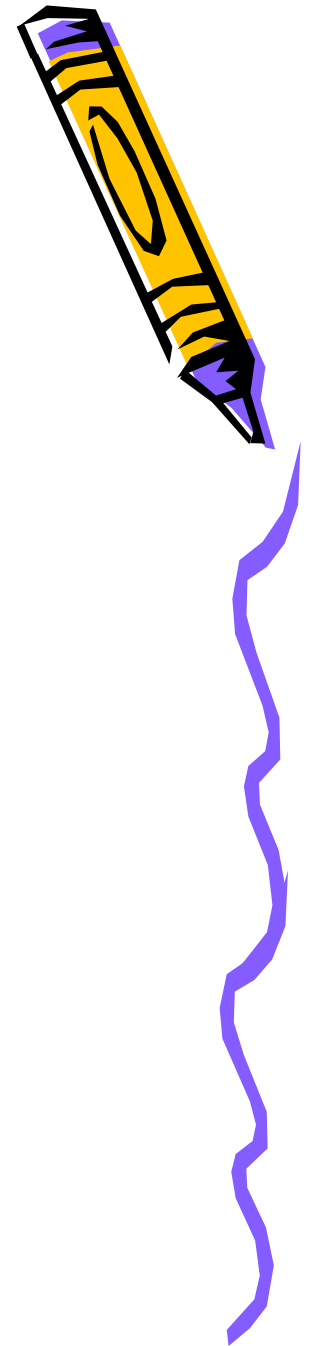


# A day in the life

- Play and Play Planning
  - Children play everyday but the themes change as teachers see that children need more of a challenge
  - Children take on roles and use props and language that are associated with those roles.



# Play and Play Planning



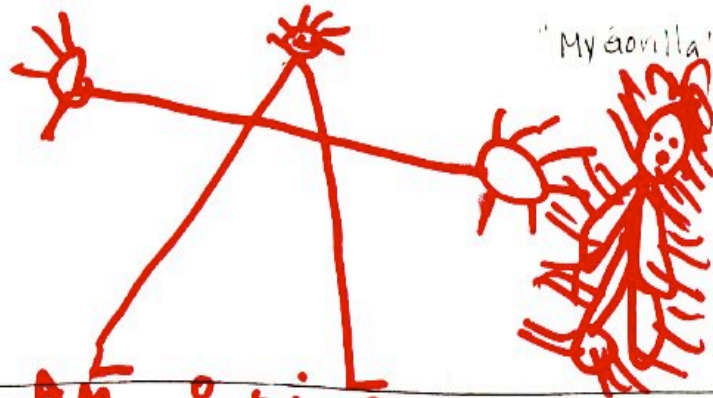
# A day in the life

- Play and Play Planning
  - Before the children play each day, they write a play plan that says what they will do in their center
  - “I am going to be the mommy”
  - The picture that children draw is the first step in the writing process



# Play Planning

DIMPIO 2008



I AM GOING  
TO MRK

P PNL K RPKA.

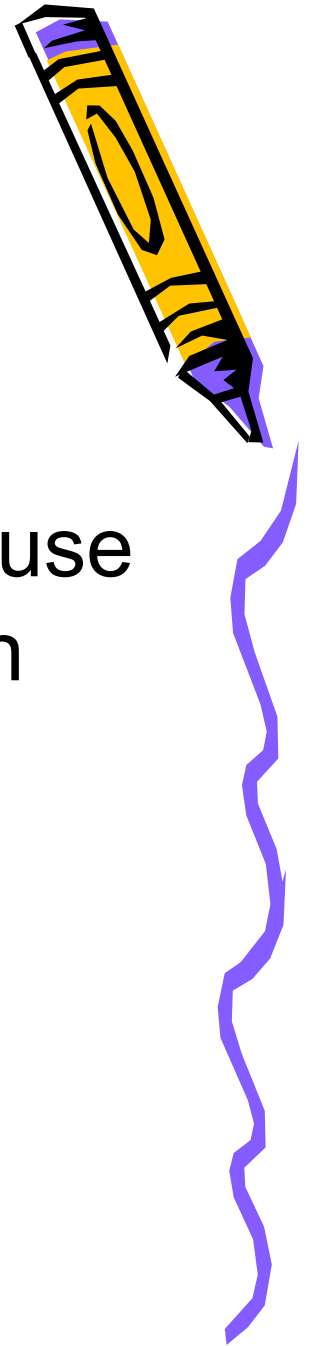
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# Play Planning

- Children's plans are important in the development of Self-regulation because they practice making a plan and then following through with that plan.



# Play Planning

- Tools of the Mind believes that writing is a tool that helps us remember and helps us communicate a message with another person



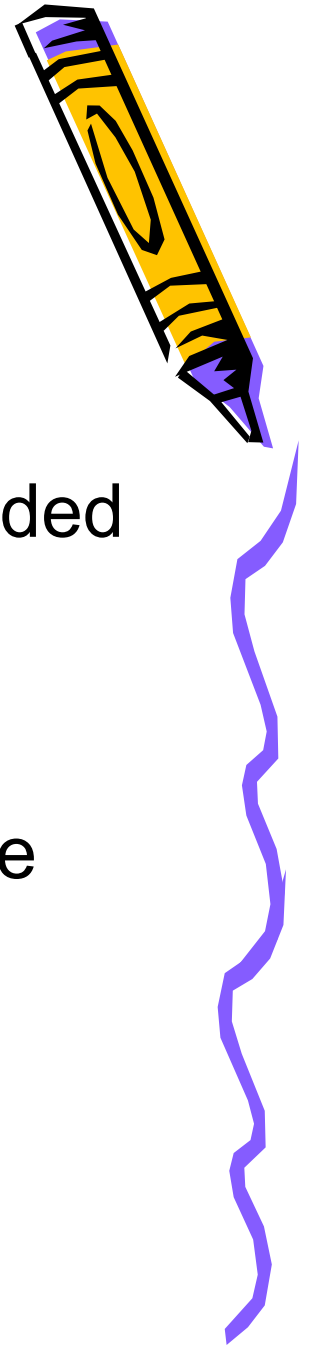
# Play Planning

- Drawing is the first step in the writing process
  - Children are able to look back on it another day and remember what they said
  - Other people are able to look at it and see what the child said



# Play and Play Planning

- As children's drawings become more representational, they begin using Scaffolded Writing to write their message
- You will begin to see teachers lines and words earlier, but when children begin drawing their own lines they make one line for each word

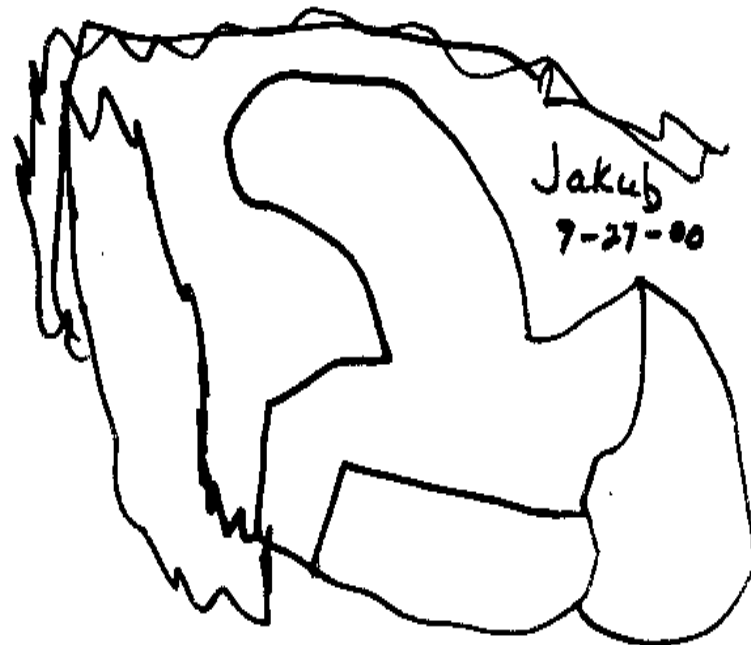


# Play and Play Planning

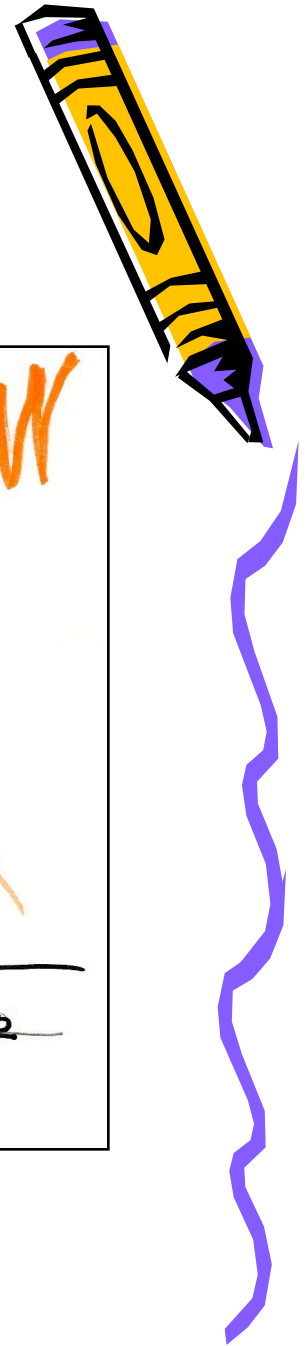
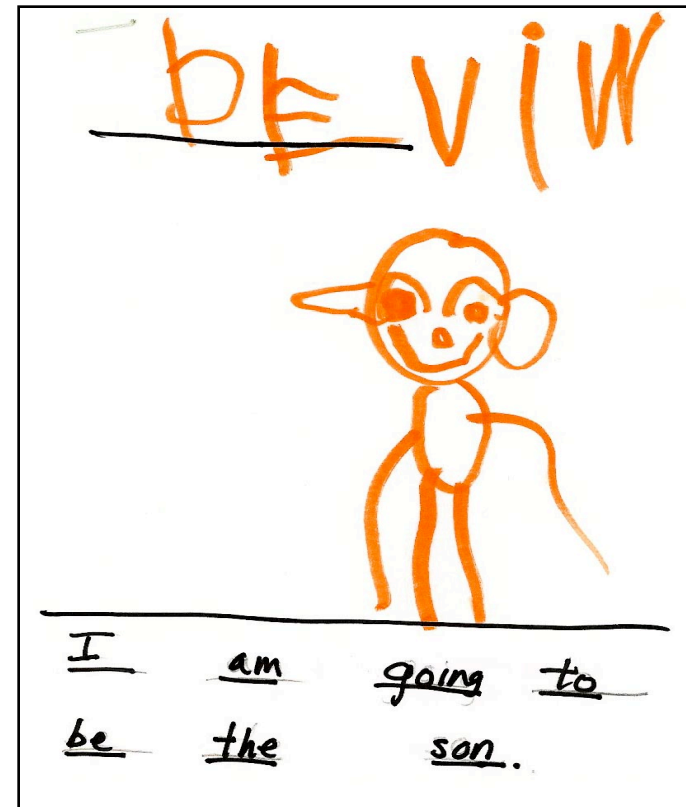
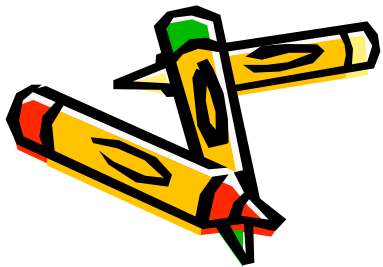
- The lines help them remember what they want to write and soon the children will begin writing sounds for the words in their messages
  - Children write words the way they hear them, not the way adults do, so words will be misspelled



These are typical examples of what play plans look like in the fall.

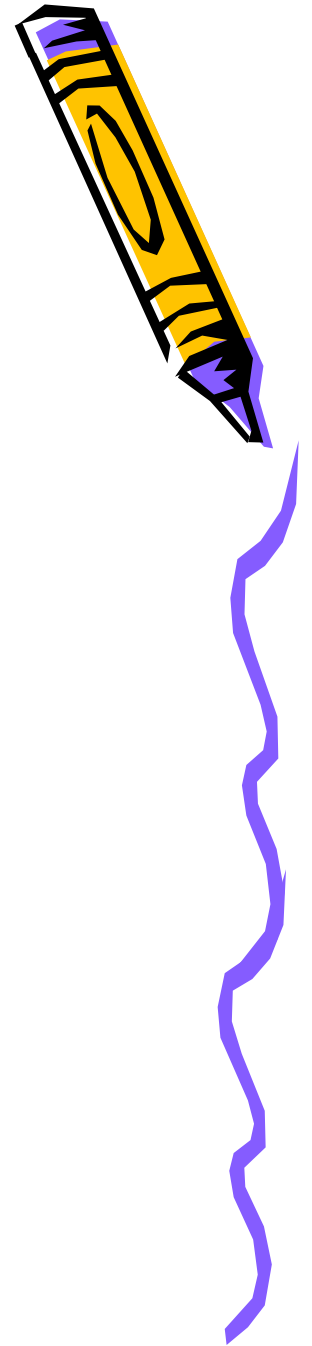


Draw a monster



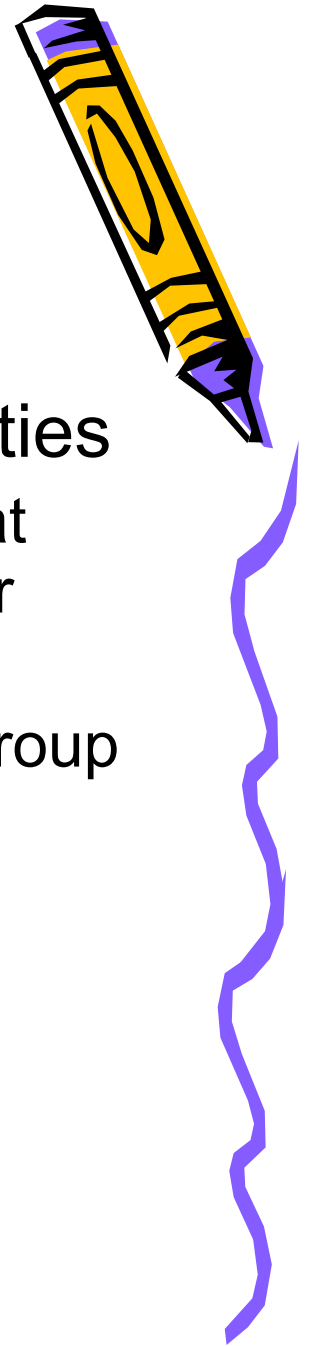
# Movement games

- Many of these fun songs and games use the large muscles and support the development of Self-Regulation
- Physical self-regulation precedes social-emotional and cognitive self-regulation



# A day in the life

- Literacy activities and math/science activities
  - Children practice a variety of literacy skills that become increasingly more difficult as the year progresses
  - Many of these activities are done in a small group so that teachers can work more closely with individual children at their own level





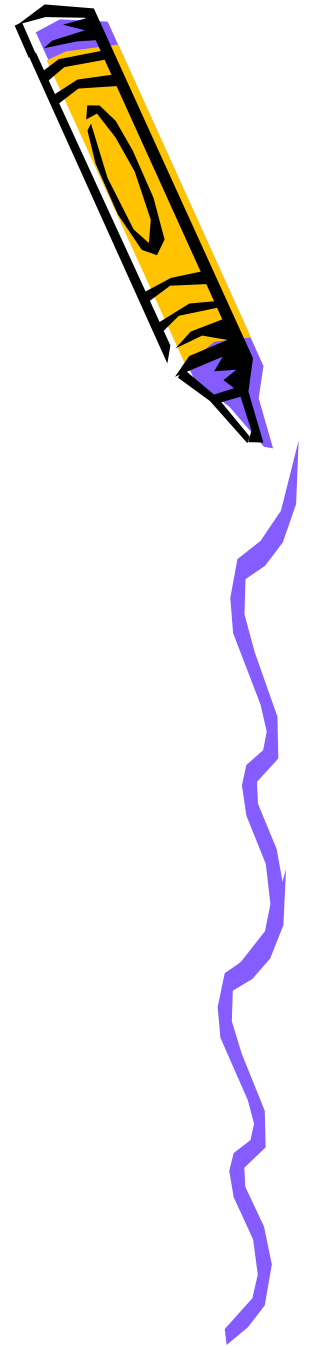
# Small group experiences

- Tools of the Mind has many small group experiences that teach children specific content skills as well as help to develop their self-regulation.



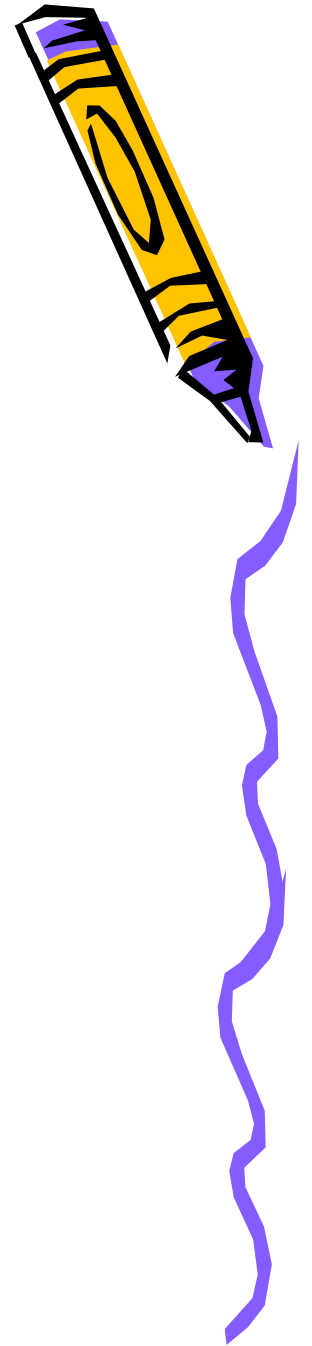
# Literacy activities

- Buddy Reading
  - Children practice Self-regulation
  - Book handling skills
  - Concepts of print
    - Left to right, top to bottom
    - Reading on the words (not the picture)



# Literacy Activities

- Graphics Practice
  - Children practice self-regulation
  - Children practice 3 point grasp when holding writing tools
  - Children practice pre-writing skills and shapes



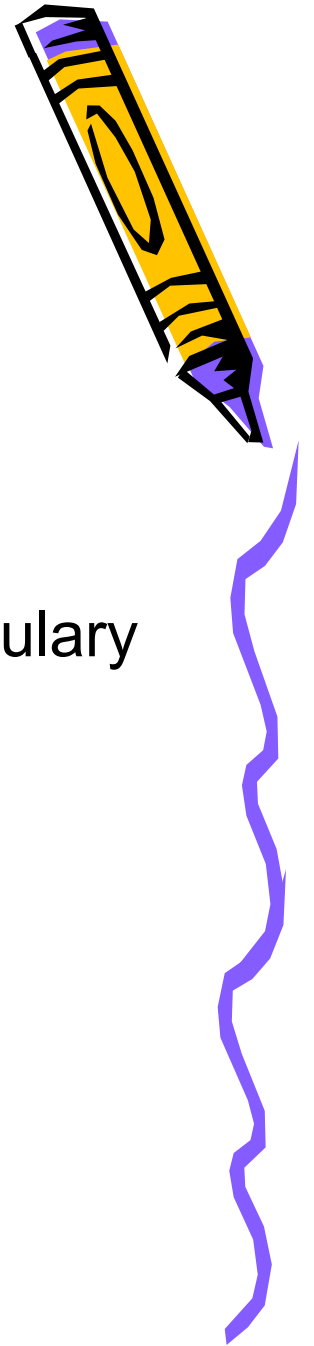
# Literacy Activities

- Small group literacy games
  - Children practice self-regulation
  - Children practice listening comprehension
  - Children learn how to participate in a discussion about a topic



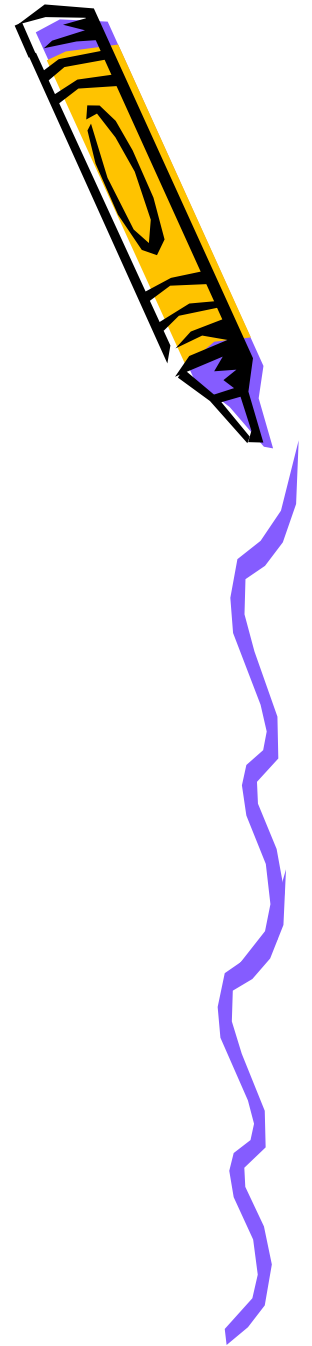
# Read aloud

- Children are exposed to high-quality children's literature
- Children use oral language skills and new vocabulary
- Children practice literacy skills including
  - listening comprehension
  - story grammar
  - concepts of print



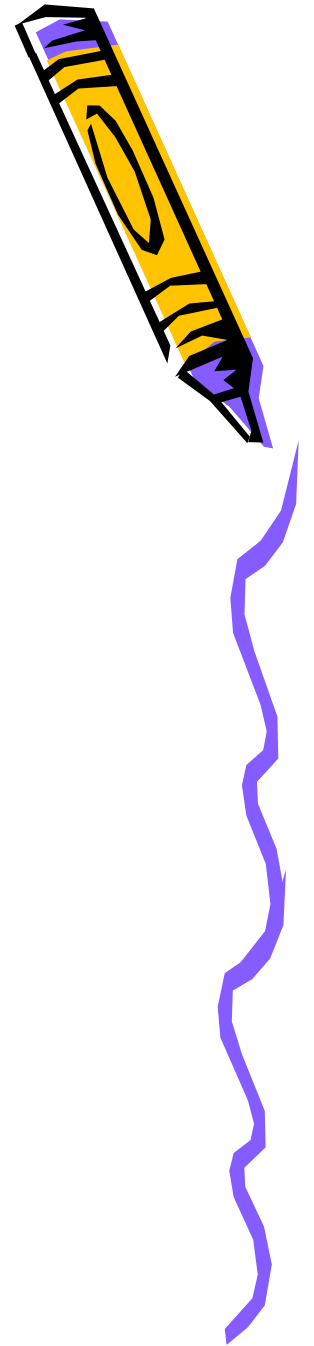
# Math/Science Activities

- Children practice Self-regulation
- Children practice counting and one-to-one correspondence



# Math/Science Activities

- Children practice patterns
- Children practice numeral recognition



# Math/Science Activities

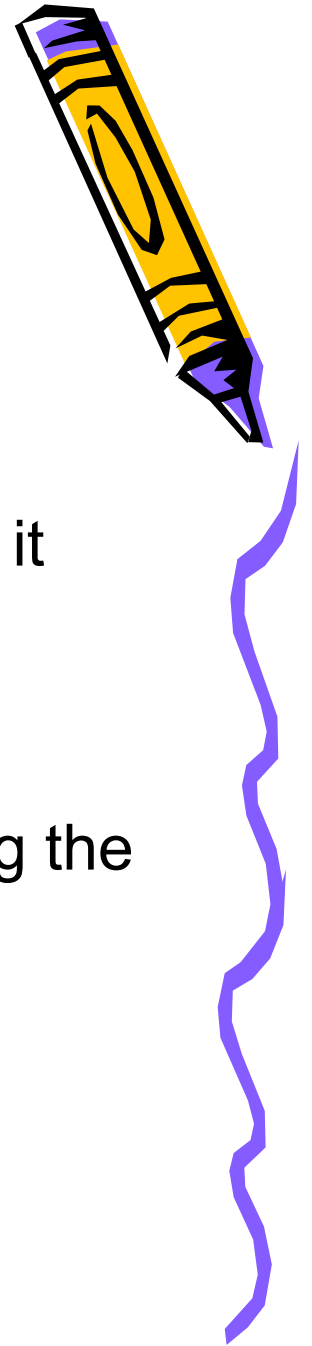
- Small group science games
  - Children practice observing and recording data
  - Children practice analyzing data
  - Elements of the scientific method





# What you can do to help

- Read to your children
  - Read a book, discuss it, have the child “read” it back (not all on the same day)
- Talk to your children
  - Talk about things you see, how you feel, using the senses, plans for the day



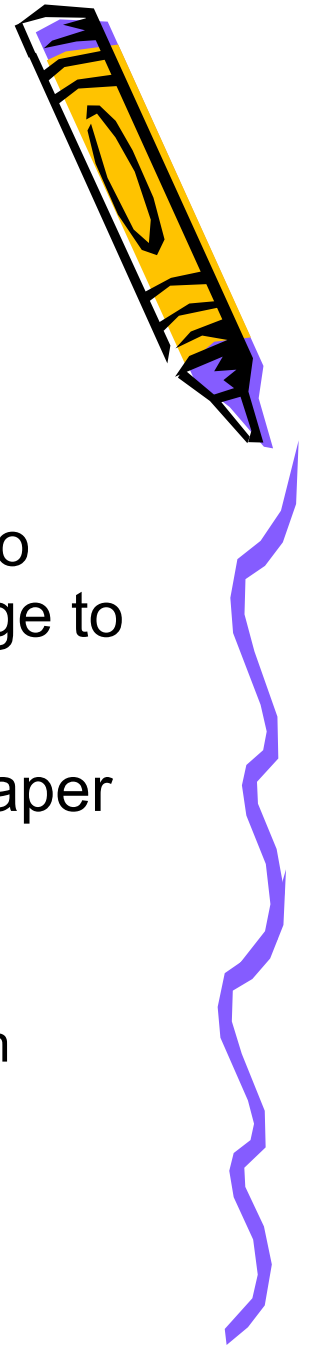
# What you can do to help

- Play plans and Play
  - Ask your child what he/she did at school- use the play plans as a way to talk to your child - what center, what did you do there, who did you play with, etc...
  - Give your child time to engage in Make Believe Play with other children. It is ideal if children can be of mixed ages.



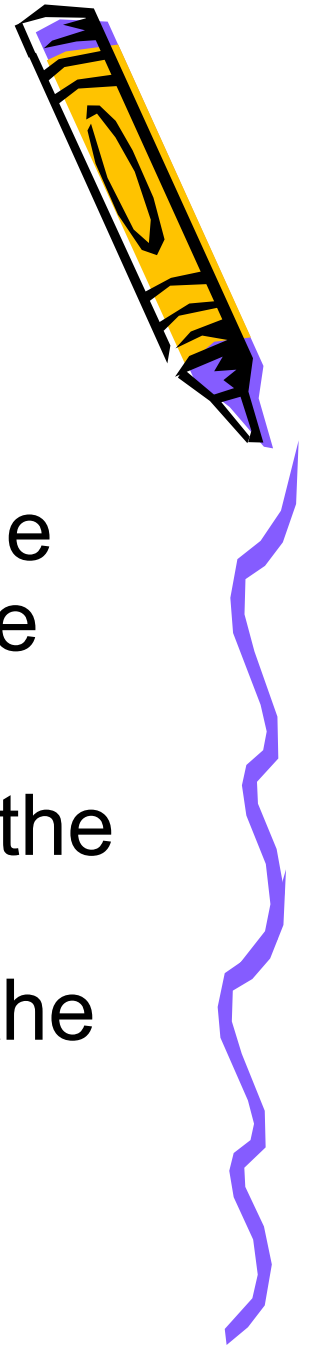
# What you can do to help

- Opportunities to read, write and draw
  - Model that grown ups using writing as a tool to help them remember and to convey a message to someone else
  - Using a variety of writing tools and types of paper are great
    - Pens, pencils, markers, crayons, dry erase etc
    - Notebook paper, construction paper, the back of an envelope!



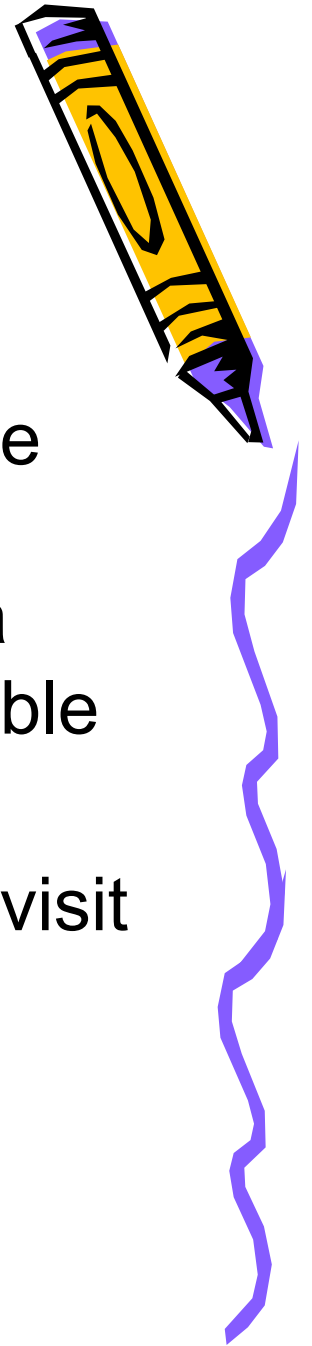
# An added note

- Tools of the Mind “rolls out” the curriculum in 4 chunks throughout the year to match the development of the children
- The structure of the pre-k day stays the same but the activities the children engage in become more difficult as the year progresses



# Questions?

- For parents interested in learning more the book *Tools of the Mind: A Vygotskian Approach to Early Education* by Dr. Elena Bodrova and Dr. Deborah Leong is available through any major bookstore.
- In addition we welcome you to come and visit your child's class and see what we do in action



# Questions?

- Our Website is filled with free information you can read and download.

[www.toolsofthemind.org](http://www.toolsofthemind.org)

