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An Early Childhood Education Program

Fall 1996

## **Hello Petaluma!**

### **A Warm Welcome to Our New Children & Families**

#### **New Beginnings**

On September 4<sup>th</sup> Shining Star opened its doors with **Name Hidden** entering as our first student. She arrived bright and early with a big smile and a wonderful hug. Her parents, **Name Hidden** had waited a long time for this day: they had been lobbying for my program to relocate for some time.

It wasn't long before **Name** had company. A neighbor of hers, **Name Name Hidden** soon joined us. **Name** backyard fence is next to **Name** side yard and **Name** often would call out hello through a small hole, so the families came to know each other. **Name** brother **Name** has also spent time with us on a couple of occasions.

By mid-month our enrollment doubled with the addition of twin brothers **Names and Hidden**. As September was coming to a close, **Name Hidden** was the next child to join us. By mid-October we rounded out our current roster with sisters, **Name** and **Name Hidden**. **Name** is our oldest pupil: she is 3 years 9 months old. On the other end of the spectrum is **Name** who is the youngest at 1 year 2 months.

As of 1<sup>st</sup> of October, **Heather Campbell** began working with me. It has been a marvelous start for all. Most often, even at the earliest hour, our day begins with the children arriving with a big smile. There is so much joy and enthusiasm; it is so rewarding!



This photo is a composite shot of our group. In reality, it is made up from a number of different frames of video footage integrated together with the use of a computer.

**Please plan to join us for our  
Traditional  
Thanksgiving Luncheon**



**Wednesday, November 27**

**12:00**

Joining the Shining Star staff:  
**Heather Campbell**



I had the good fortune to have Heather lined up even before our opening in September. She came highly recommended and was quite interested in our program. She has worked with infants and toddlers in a center based program as well as had experience with preschoolers in a couple of child care settings.

Heather participated in a Sonoma County training program for students involved in occupations with children. She achieved the highest marks in their evaluation of her skills. They suggested that she "should be cloned" to guarantee success for their program.

Another bonus for our program: Heather knew two of the families prior to working with Shining Star. The children,

Childrens Names Hidden all had a bond with Heather that made everyone's transition that much easier. They were all so excited when Heather began working. Heather's smile says it all! She loves the children and they love her.



**Computer  
Corner**

Computer Corner is a regular feature in our newsletter. The children use the computer just about daily and I like to keep you informed of our activities as well as some of our new programs. We have close to three dozen children's programs and continue to build our library. Here are just a few of our most recent additions.

Name Hidden has regularly requested that we



Two of  
Mercer  
Mayers' books

run The Berenstain Bears Get In a Fight CD. Name recently discovered Reader Rabbit's Ready for Letters and really enjoyed the activities. With Halloween, Harry and the Haunted House has been fun for the group. Many of the programs are books that can be read to the children or they can interact within the "pages."



If you are interested in any recommendations for programs that are appropriate for your child, I would be glad to help you evaluate your options. I am also always on the lookout for new programs. If you know of other good programs, please let me know.

## ...so many activities

If you ask your child, "What did you do today?", do you hear "play" or "I can't remember." I remember those exact words coming from my own child many years ago. Some things just don't change!

Each day is filled with so many activities it is often hard to isolate just one or two. Not a day goes by when the children don't do some art work. Most often they will draw with pens, crayons or pencils. Currently, they seem to choose to recycle their pictures and just reuse some paper over and over. (I try to send some of their work home, but I don't force the issue.)



Everyday Heather and I read an average of six books each. It may be just one on one with a child or with the whole group. There are times when we will choose the book, but often it will be one requested by a child or the group. When we are working on a theme, there are many books that we will use. Halloween is a recent example. I have a couple of dozen books that we only have out for the season and they will be quite popular. Some of those we read many times over!

Attention spans vary within the group, even for each child. There are times where we read a number of books in succession and a group can stay focused. Other times, it's a short lived activity.

Even our youngest, **Name**, really enjoys books. She especially likes to turn the pages (even if we weren't finished reading the one we were on). One day I was reading Dr. Seuss' One Fish, Two Fish which has rhyming words that I was reading with a cadence. Hanna just bounced on my lap keeping time. Needless to say, she enjoys music as well.



**Playing the Piano**

Music is an integral part of our day. We have scores of audio tapes and records as well as a few videos with music. We use them both as a focus, as well as, playing them in the background. We sing and dance, do finger plays, action songs and use instruments. The instruments include the piano, a keyboard, a guitar and an accordion. I also have a number of rhythm instruments that the kids will get to use (once I can dig them out of a box somewhere in the garage!).

Another date  
to mark down  
on your calendar



11 am until ...

**Our Annual  
Christmas Party**

...also we welcome to  
**Name Hidden**



Name joined us mid October (after I had already written the first part of the newsletter. She is 21 months old (she's a valentine's baby).

A high 5 good-bye is Dad's send off long before the sun is up! Name is the first arrival 3 days a week and just about always has a big smile to greet me. If we all could start off our day that way, wouldn't that be grand.

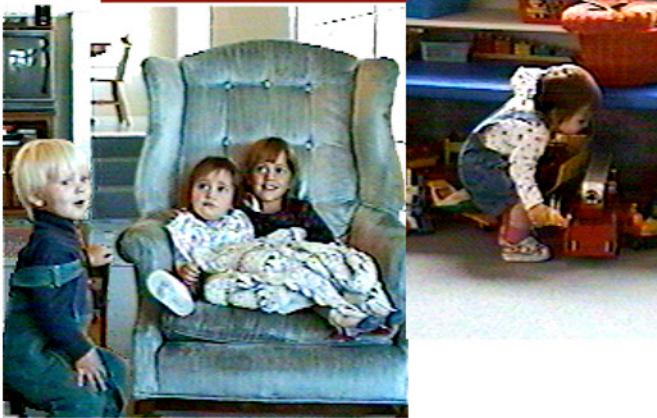


Name is another early bird. She often would rather go back to sleep. That's just fine too



Name and Name at the piano

Name enjoys taking a picture while being taped



Name along with Name and Name snuggling up while watching a story book on the computer.

# **1996 - 1997**

## **HOLIDAY and VACATION**

### **SCHEDULE**

**Thanksgiving Luncheon**  
**Wednesday, November 27th - 12:00**

**Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend**  
**Thursday and Friday, November 28th & 29th**

**Annual Christmas Party**  
**Sunday, December 15th: 11 am - until ...**

**Winter Vacation**  
**Monday, December 23rd - Wednesday, January 1st**

**Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**  
**Monday, January 20th**

**Presidents' Day**  
**Monday, February 17th**

**Spring Vacation**  
**Monday, March 31st - Friday, April 4th**

**Memorial Day**  
**Monday, May 26th**

**Independence Day**  
**Friday, July 4th**

**Summer Vacation**  
**1 week - to be announced**

**Labor Day**  
**Monday, September Staples**