

An article from the ICPC Council Connection, October 2006

Gems from Judy ...

At the ICPC Executive Training meeting, we were blessed to have Judy Barmann as our keynote speaker. Judy is a teacher at Fishers Pointe Cooperative Preschool and has been involved with co-op as both a parent and a teacher for a total of 13 years.

Judy reminded us all that a cooperative preschool provides our children (and us!) with the perfect learning environment...

"Young children learn best through play. Co-op provides wonderful hands-on, active learning options and lots of opportunity for uninterrupted periods of play. Learning comes from within our children, it is not something we do to them. Therefore, time for self-guided imaginary play and dramatic cooperative play is extremely important.

"Dr. James Hymes, past president of NAEYC and author, writes that play promotes significant mental capacities. It stretches attention span, increases vocabulary, develops perseverance, is an emotional equalizer, and helps children become social human beings (by working out compromises, following another's suggestions, getting someone else to follow them, listening, sharing, etc.)

"As adults, we can help child's play most by believing in the worth and importance of play. To not push for "more serious" learning, but to remember and respect how serious play is to a young child.

"Remember that childhood is not a race. It is not a competition. It is a very temporary treasure."

Thanks for the reminders, Judy!!!