



Gem State News




GSDC Had a Great Summer!

We got the most out of summer! Our summer was fun and filled with an assortment of unique, wonderful, and engaging activities. These activities were incorporated into each person's day and adapted to each person's skill level and interest. This was a fun way to promote and facilitate sensory and motor development, social interaction and emotional development, learning and self-direction. We made it fun. We laughed a lot. We strived towards common goals and objectives; strengthened strengths; and shared in one another's successes.

We made a difference. But, just as importantly, it was FUN!


We're ready to put the sunscreen, barbeques, and water balloons away and prime ourselves for an awesome autumn. We're full of great expectations as we look forward to the Fall and new opportunities to make a difference. These expectations are, in part, a response to the wonderful things that we've already done and our high aspirations for the future. We're really excited to see what we'll be able to do in this next season!

Thank you for being a part of our past, present, and future.




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Upcoming Events:

- Hockey Night—Oct 16th 7pm, CenturyLink Arena
 - Boo at the Zoo—Oct 31st
 - TVCRC Share The Day — Nov 19th
 - Festival of Trees — Nov 24th—Nov 30th
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Summer Fun



The Children's program scheduled and did some amazing things in the last 6 months. Throughout the whole year we take pleasure in finding new things for the children to experience and learn from. They get lots of sensory input and lots of opportunities to socialize with others. Not only do these activities meet the needs of these children, but they have a lot of fun doing them.



Mariachi Band and the Tooth Fairy

Some of our favorite activities have been the Mariachi Band and the tooth fairy.

Thanks to one of our own staff, Karina Villafana, for arranging to have her band, Mariachi Tleyotltzin, come and play for the children at the Nampa center for Valentine's Day. It was great to see the kids enjoy themselves by getting up and dancing to the music. Some of the children had not heard of a Mariachi Band until that day. The band members really enjoyed visiting with the children. Two of the band members (Neridia Rodriguez and Kaley Madrigal) also worked at the center during the summer program this year.



Smiles 4 Kids Dentist office sent over the tooth fairy and her helper Tommy the tooth. They taught the kids through activities and games how to properly brush their teeth as well as how often they should brush. Some games even had the kids volunteer to dress up as teeth while others brushed them. The children were full of laughter and smiles throughout these games. We are looking forward to having more of these types of activities for the children.

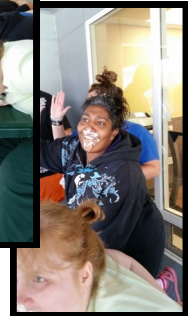
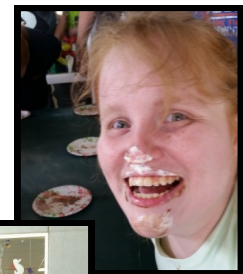


GSDC's Sizzlin' Summer...

GSDC didn't have a shortage of fun and interactive events this summer for the participants. It was one full of fun, excitement, laughter, friendships, memories, and of course **learning!**

SPECIAL OLYMPIC'S UNIFIED RELAY TORCH RUN

Several participants spent an early Sunday morning carrying the torch that made its way through Idaho, toward its destination to the L.A. Special Olympics World Games in July 2015.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL EATING CONTEST

What's not to love about a good ol' fashion ice cream eating contest amongst staff and clients. We call it the GSDC initiation for new participants and staff. We had lots of laughter!



GSDC'S SUMMER APPRECIATION BBQ

Another fun summer to say thank you to staff, participants, and family for another great year with our annual appreciation barbeque.

Of Sensational Activities...

ADA 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) hallmarked its 25th anniversary with having people unite around the Boise Capitol. Gem State represented well.



GSDC'S 'GOT TALENT' TALENT SHOW

Lights, Camera, Action! America's Got Talent has nothing on Gem State's "GOT TALENT?" Show. Always a fun annual event to showcase the variety of amazing talents from our very own participants; from singing, dancing, telling jokes, and juggling bottles. Great job everyone!



GEM STATE FAIR COFFEEHOUSE

Participants always enjoy an opportunity to go to a fair, and what not a better choice than Gem State's very own annual summer fair with lots of fun games and activities, and, of course, prizes!

And Loads of Fun!

CORBIN MAXEY WILDLIFE ANIMAL SHOW

Celebrity wildlife expert Corbin Maxey showed off his knowledge and collection of exotic animals. These included a python, turtles and lizards. Participants got to touch and hold them, making it definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all to enjoy!



GSDC'S BOWLING LEAGUE

This summer GSDC started a bowling league to try to encourage more participants to bowl for the fun of it. Who knew so many amazing bowlers would 'strike' it rich with bonus bucks (for strikes and spares).



By Jessica Lowry

GSDC PARTICIPANTS' POETRY

S
A
T
U
R
D
A
Y

S S is for "Slime Time"
The TV's messiest half hour game show of 1988

A A is for absent
In which a person who's being tardy or late

T T is for time machine
A machine that takes us back to the past

U U is for universe
A galaxy of stars and planets which were built to last

R R is for reruns
The episodes of TV shows you might watch them again

D D is for decade
A period of 10 years that occur every now and then

A A is for alarm clock
A device that rings or buzzes at the top of the hour

Y Y is for "You're So Vain"
A song that I sing and listen to when I take a shower

Gwendolynn

LOYALOO

To be strong yourself.
To be who I am.
To understand
your mind soul.
Always count your
family hope and dream.
When you reach some-
heart you feeling
butterfly- a
stronger- a
person

by stefanie L.
christensen

LOYALOO

Managing Your Child's Minecraft Obsession

"Minecraft is addictive. That's a fact. And kids with ADHD seem to hyperfocus particularly hard on building the game's creative, pixelated worlds. Which is all fine and good, until it's time to stop — and the tantrums and defiance begin." "One More Block! Managing Your Child's Minecraft Addiction", published on ADDitudeMag.com is a survival guide for parents.

Minecraft is an extension of watching television, playing computer games, and playing with LEGOs, all things ADHD kids love. It helps build focus and planning skills. When playing Minecraft, the ability to focus, is very important. This consequently builds up the attention muscle, allowing kids to have better focus at school and while doing homework. At school, kids are often asked to plan a project or plan what they're going to do for homework. They can be very disorganized and struggle through all the planning steps. Minecraft also asks kids to plan intensely to build some big, cool project. They have to watch a video and gather and craft all the different items that they're going to need to build it. They start at the ground level and then build in stages. This type of planning is much more fun and is an engaging way for them to learn this skill.

However, like anything, too much of a good thing can be dangerous. The most important thing that kids can do is exercise and be engaged in social kinds of activities. But in today's world, digital play is a part of what they do; that's a reality. The best thing to do is encourage a balance where kids are engaging in different kinds of play on a regular basis. A healthy play diet will vary based on a child's age and interests. But the constant is that it must be modeled by the parents. They've got to exercise. They've got to read. They've got to have a hobby. They've got to make non-digital play more attractive by putting some energy and some money into that. They've got to make that happen. The whole idea is having balance.

"One More Block! Managing Your Child's Minecraft Addiction" gives some best strategies for keeping video-game use to a safe, healthy level everyone can live with.

For more information at setting limits on gaming, helping kids transition away from games, choosing healthy games, and breaking a Minecraft addiction, check out the ADDitude eBook, "Video Games and the ADHD Brain."

Works Cited

Kulman, Randy Ph.D. and Daley, James. "One More Block! Managing Your Child's Minecraft Obsession." www.ADDitudeMag.com. New Hope Media LLC. 1998-2015

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